Welcome to 360 on line. 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.

Football Fallout. Without a stadium, Aztecs football could fade into history.


Storytime Scholars. Children’s literature grows up.
The first goal of higher education is to advance human growth and development; a major part of that mission is promoting mutual understanding among peoples and nations. Toward that end, San Diego State University places a high priority on international initiatives. These efforts include academic exchanges, research partnerships and an outstanding international business curriculum that includes the nation’s best study-abroad program, as ranked by the Institute of International Education.

SDSU also is home to the American Language Institute, the nation’s largest university-based English as a Second Language (ESL) program, and the Fred J. Hansen Institute for World Peace, sponsor of innovative economic development projects in the Middle East, India and Pakistan.

September 11, 2001 focused our attention on the specter of international terrorism. True to our university’s 106-year history of community engagement, the men and women of San Diego State once again responded with energy, intelligence and dedication to meet the evolving needs of our nation and our region. In a very short time, we have developed a broad range of homeland security efforts, some contributing to the national imperative for increased vigilance and some focused specifically on regional concerns.

Among those leading this important work are Dolores Wozniak, dean of the College of Health and Human Services, and Barry Janow, director of sponsored research project management for the SDSU Foundation, who are helping prepare health-care providers and other first responders for disaster assistance; Dave Warner, adjunct professor of sciences, and Eric Frost, professor of geological sciences, who are breaking new ground in visual monitoring and communications technology; Mirat Guro, professor of engineering, who is developing safe and effective anthrax decontamination techniques; and John Carpenter, director of public safety, whose work with local and federal law enforcement agencies helps protect our region, as well as our campus.

360 Magazine strives to reflect SDSU’s outward perspective and synergistic involvement with our surrounding community. There is perhaps no more compelling example of our engaged university at work than the homeland security efforts described in the following pages. I hope you share my pride in San Diego State University as we labor together to meet the challenges of this time and place in history.

Stephen L. Weber, president
San Diego State University
Features

14 Football Fallout
Will the Chargers get that new stadium they want so badly? And will they really leave town if they don’t? The future of Aztecs football hinges on the outcome.
By Sandra Millers Younger

18 Homeland Security
The new national imperative becomes a regional mission with San Diego State at the forefront. And Washington is watching.
By Coleen L. Geraghty

24 Storytime Scholars
Children’s literature is hot, even among grown-ups. San Diego State’s English faculty saw the trend coming—even before Harry Potter.
By Coleen L. Geraghty
The Aztec Greets Future Students

Uprooted for a year by trolley construction, "The Aztec" has finally found a new home. The impressive one-ton Donal Hord sculpture, better known as "Montezuma," now commands a central spot directly under the striking glass pyramid entrance of the university’s new Prospective Student Center. Tucked into the existing student services complex, the center allows admission counselors to meet with future students and their parents in style and comfort. The 1,700-square-foot building, designed by Tucker Sadler Noble Castro, was built by Midwest General Contractors, a firm owned by SDSU alumnus Steve Nelson.

"The sculpture embodies the pride, strength and spirit of the Aztec culture and represents an important aspect of the university to prospective students," said Nasha Kraft, center manager. "It’s a perfect fit within this glass enclosure, where it will be visible yet protected.”

This was not the first move for "Montezuma." Unveiled in May 1937, it was originally located near the freshmen quad, then relocated to the south entrance of campus in 1984. It was placed into storage in 2001 when trolley construction began.

Alabama Legend Takes Interim Athletics Post

Gene Barrow, a former athletics director at the University of Alabama at Birmingham, who helped transform a school with no intercollegiate sports program into a Conference USA power, will serve as San Diego State University’s interim AD from July through September.

Barrow, a widely respected figure in college sports as an administrator and basketball coach, spent 25 years as the first athletics director at UAB. He built the program from its birth into one that boasted 17 intercollegiate teams and an $8 million annual budget when he retired in 2000. The Birmingham News voted him as one of the top 10 most influential figures in Alabama sports over the last century.

He replaces Rick Bay, who resigned as athletics director two weeks after a California State University auditor released a report containing serious allegations of improper activities and mismanagement within the department. SDSU will implement the auditor’s recommendations for addressing these issues by the end of 2003.


CLASS ACTS

The real American icons come to SDSU, either Cox Arena or the Open Air Theatre. Here’s a partial list of artists who have performed on campus:

Transform 500 acres of surplus federal property into an outdoor classroom. That was the idea in 1966 behind San Diego State’s Fortuna Mountain Field Station, one of four “living laboratories” dedicated to environmental research and education.

But, over time, Fortuna Mountain didn’t really work as a field station. Although conveniently close to campus, its location within popular Mission Trails Regional Park (MTRP) left sensitive experiments vulnerable to public access. And building restrictions prevented construction of lab, classroom or overnight facilities.

So when Sedra Shapiro, executive director of SDSU’s Field Station Programs, learned that the San Diego Zoological Society needed to acquire a parcel of natural habitat to offset expansion of the Wild Animal Park, she saw an opportunity and seized it, initiating negotiations with the Zoo and the City of San Diego. In March, the City Council approved the resulting win-win transaction.

The zoo purchased 266 acres of Fortuna Mountain and deeded it to the city as an expansion of Mission Trails. SDSU realized $2 million from the sale, enough to set up a healthy endowment benefiting the Field Station Programs.

“This transaction was a great benefit for everyone,” Shapiro said. “It more appropriately aligns our respective missions and expertise. It strengthens the partnership between the city and the university, and it enables the zoo to comply with mitigation requirements.”

Community leaders were equally pleased. “Creating a mitigation area in Mission Trails Regional Park was a wonderful way to secure land in perpetuity and to generate income for the SDSU Field Station Programs,” said Dorothy Leonard, chair of the MTRP Citizens Advisory Committee.

“It was a wonderful opportunity partnering with San Diego State University to provide additional land for Mission Trails,” City Council Member Jim Madaffer agreed.

And for once the environment came out ahead, too. “It is a nice consortium,” Shapiro said, “because we all have an interest in the natural world, land stewardship and making decisions based in science.”

– SMY
An Affair to Remember

It was a month-long celebration marking SDSU’s 106th birthday and the unique relationship between the university and the greater San Diego community. All 18 area cities, San Diego County, state assembly members and U.S. Congressman Bob Filner helped kick off the festivities by proclaiming March 2003 SDSU Month in San Diego County.

For the next 31 days, thousands of San Diegans attended 70 university events and enjoyed discounts from 20 local businesses. A donated media campaign worth over $600,000 showcased the university’s accomplishments via some 50 news stories. And the SDSU Alumni Association signed up 1,100 members — an unprecedented one-month total. Based on this overwhelming response, look for an even bigger and better SDSU Month in 2004.

Philanthropic Leadership

The Campanile Foundation, the organization devoted to encouraging and managing philanthropic gifts to SDSU, has added three new members to its board of directors. They are (above, left to right): Terry Brown, Susie Spanos and Christopher D. "Kit" Sickels.

Terry Brown is president of Atlas Hotels Inc. and owner of the Town and Country Hotel in Mission Valley. A founding donor of SDSU’s Entrepreneurial Management Center, he also supports the Hospitality and Tourism Management Program and serves on the Aztec Athletic Advisory Council.

An outstanding community volunteer, Susie Spanos is a key supporter of the San Diego Blood Bank and its umbilical cord blood program. Married to San Diego Chargers president Dean Spanos, she has helped make the team’s annual blood drive one of the nation’s most successful.

Christopher D. "Kit" Sickels is president of Christopher D. Sickels and Associates, a real estate development group. A 1960 San Diego State graduate in elementary education, he was recognized in 1984 as SDSU’s Alumnus of the Year.

Class of 2003: Our Biggest Ever

San Diego State University recently hosted commencement festivities for its largest graduating class to date and also the largest in the history of the California State University system. In total, 9,775 students were eligible to graduate in six ceremonies held May 15, 17 and 18. They included 7,457 bachelor’s, 2,314 master’s, and 57 doctoral degree candidates.

New grad Beth Cole, who plans to enter medical school this fall, reflected the Class of 2003’s enthusiasm. "I had a great experience at SDSU, and I’m really excited to apply my degree as I move to the next level of my education," she said. Cole has already co-authored a publication on molecular cardiology.

The university also recognized three honorary degrees recipients. Astronaut Charles F. Bolden received a doctor of sciences, internationally renowned artist John A. Baldessari was awarded a doctor of fine arts, and Price Club founder and philanthropist Sid Price, who spearheaded the transformation of San Diego’s City Heights community, received a doctor of humane letters.

Tony Gwynn on Hitting

Some folks say hitting a baseball is the most difficult challenge in sports. But it’s also a skill that can be learned. And who better to offer batting tips than Padres legend and Aztec baseball head coach Tony Gwynn, one of the greatest hitters of all time? Here’s his advice:

• Mechanics: "Don’t grip the bat too tightly or take an overly wide stance. Practice hitting off a tee. Develop a consistent swing that’s easy to repeat."

• Plate Patience: “Learn the strike zone and make the pitcher throw strikes. Be aggressive when you’re ahead in the count, and the pitcher is more likely to throw a meaty fastball."

• The Mental Game: “If you notice what a pitcher likes to throw in certain situations, you can try to anticipate his strategy to attempt to strike you out. Visualize making solid contact. Learn from your successes and failures.”
Global Security. Addressing international issues demands big-picture perspective.

By Coleen L. Geraghty

Choose an academic program that best reflects San Diego State's distinctive assets—in diverse international population, its extended yet practical academic offerings, its extensive community outreach—and that program might well be ISCOR, the study of International Security and Conflict Resolution.

Unique within the California State University (CSU) system, San Diego State’s ISCOR program takes a multidisciplinary approach that also distinguishes it from international relations and global security programs at most other universities. This broad perspective was ISCOR’s hallmark from the start, notes David Johns, professor emeritus of political science and the man credited with shepherding ISCOR through the thorny path to CSU approval.

“In the mid-80s, a number of us at SDSU became concerned that our academic disciplines were too narrow,” Johns recalls. “A student could not examine the international picture by majoring in history or political science. We needed something outside the existing disciplines that took account of human rights, of globalization, of environmental issues and of international organizations.”

Johns, with physicist Alan Sreedler, biologist Roger Sabbadini and political scientist Dipak Gupta, envisioned a program spanning three colleges: Sciences, Arts and Letters, and Professional Studies and Fine Arts. It seemed an unorthodox approach to many.

“People thought it was ridiculous to involve three colleges,” Gupta says. But the founding board was adamant. “How can you expect a historian to teach about anthrax?” Sabbadini asks. “We knew that to address international security issues, we had to draw from a variety of disciplines.”

INTELLECTUAL CAPITAL

ISCOR students take four core courses, supplemented by classes in a wide variety of disciplines relating to one of three specializations: global systems, environment and security, or cooperation, conflict and conflict resolution.

Jeffrey McIlwain, director of the program, is currently planning a fourth specialization in homeland security, which he believes will be unique in the field. “I see SDSU becoming the intellectual capital of this emerging discipline,” he says. “We could be the beta site for scholarly analysis of changes that occur in the name of homeland security.”

Already, ISCOR instructors often adapt course material to address events with ties to global security and conflict resolution. After the Sept. 11, 2001 terrorist attack, for instance, lecturer Lisa Maxwell scrapped her next few lesson plans and invited students to express their personal reactions to the event. “It became a lesson in how to facilitate difficult issues,” she says.

PALPABLE ENTHUSIASM

The flexible and comprehensive nature of ISCOR seems to appeal especially to nontraditional students. Of the 120 or so enrollees in the curriculum, many are ROTC cadets or international students. Others are pursuing degrees after years in the work force.

But all share a common characteristic—a palpable enthusiasm for a program that, in the words of student Leonie Wichert, “is at the same time broad and diverse and very specific and particular.”

In addition to completing classes, ISCOR students must write a thesis or serve an internship in a government or private agency involved in international security or conflict resolution work.

Most students choose the internship, which becomes the culmination of “a highly practical education in the field of world affairs,” says ISCOR adviser Allen Greb. In 2003-2004, study abroad will also become a mandatory component of the program.

INTERNSHIPS

For her internship, Wichert, who is from Germany, spent a semester in Washington, D.C., with the Atlantic Council of the United States, a nongovernment organization that promotes constructive U.S. leadership and engagement in international affairs. She intends to work in Washington before returning to school for a degree in human rights and international security.

SDSU alumnus Human Arshakian is now secretary of the Foundation to Support Humanitarian Programs, the San Diego-based organization he joined as an ISCOR intern. Fluent in five languages, Arshakian helps the foundation implement social projects in Russia with funds from the Departments of State and Commerce.

Edwin L. Horn is one of many ISCOR students who interned at the San Diego Mediation Center. After graduation, he applied for a job with the center and is now an alternative dispute resolution specialist.

With each graduating class, ISCOR students bring to the work force a genuine understanding of world affairs coupled with a commitment to conflict resolution. Reflecting the success of a multidisciplinary program pioneered by San Diego State 20 years ago, these assets could not be more relevant in today’s world.
All this football talk around San Diego lately: Trigger classes. Lease re-negotiations. Will the Chargers get that new stadium they want so badly? Will they really leave town if they don’t? Scary stuff, actually. It’s hard to imagine America’s Finest City without its beloved Bolts. Of course, we’d still have the Aztecs. Or not.

The truth is, if San Diego loses the Chargers, it could also lose its only Division I-A football team. With the Padres headed to their new downtown ballpark next year, the City of San Diego’s QUALCOMM Stadium is already short one anchor tenant.

If current lease renewal talks fail and the Chargers leave town, the Q’s remaining marquee events – Aztec home games, the Holiday Bowl and an occasional concert or off-road rally – couldn’t begin to cover the rising costs of maintaining the aging structure.

And given the stratospheric value of the stadium site – 166 prime Mission Valley acres – the city might well decide to demolish the Q and convert the property to more profitable use. That would leave the San Diego State Aztecs, who have played at the stadium since it opened in 1967, without a home field and end a grand gridiron tradition.

It’s an unsettling possibility for university administrators. “This is a serious matter with potentially damaging consequences to San Diego State athletics in general and to football in particular,” said SDSU President Stephen L. Weber.

“It is important that everyone in the community understands there is no way we can continue to offer Division I-A collegiate football in San Diego without a facility that meets NCAA requirements.”

**Athletics influence**

If the Q did come down, absent a new facility, the fallout would drift across the entire university. Without a football program, SDSU would no longer qualify for membership in the Mountain West Conference. Although likely maintaining Division I-A status in basketball, the Aztecs would nevertheless slip to a less prestigious athletic conference, squaring off against teams like Irvine, Fullerton and Sacramento State rather than Utah, Wyoming and New Mexico.

Women’s sports at San Diego State would suffer a double blow, losing not only conference prestige, but also potentially more than 80 athletic scholarships – an equivalent number, as dictated by Title IX, to the football scholarships now given to men. And enough to wipe out about four women’s sports programs.

Private giving, a sizeable and increasingly critical component of the university’s budget, might also suffer from an athletics downgrade, said Theresa Mendoza, SDSU’s vice president for university advancement, “especially among alumni and friends with an affinity for sports.”

Weber, who recognizes athletics as “a major way the community engages with us,” emphasizes that participation in Division I-A athletics enhances the university’s visibility and overall reputation.

“We expect from our athletics programs the level of excellence that characterizes the rest of the university,” he said. “We wouldn’t be content with minor-league athletics, nor should we be.”

Weber recently mandated a top-down overhaul of the SDSU athletics department to rectify deficiencies found by a California State University (CSU) audit, and at that time publicly affirmed San Diego State’s ongoing commitment to Division I-A sports.

**Out of options**

Short of a new stadium, there are no real post-Q options for the Aztecs. NCAA Division I-A football rules require at least a 50,000-seat venue. The Padres’ new Petco Park would qualify, but it’s designed expressly for baseball, with every seat angled toward home plate. At this point, San Diego State...
Lack of money and land prevent SDSU from building its own football facility. The University of Connecticut, for example, now completing construction of a 40,000-seat, Division IA stadium, is spending $31 million on the project, which will consume 75 campus acres.

Even the Q has never been an ideal home field for the Aztecs, who rent the facility for $40,000 per game or a set percentage of ticket revenue, whichever is higher. As a tenant, San Diego State can’t lay claim to permanent offices or locker rooms. It can’t paint the field red and black, rent out the VIP suites or sell advertising signage.

In their ongoing if-you-build-it-we-will-stay discussions with the City of San Diego, the Chargers cite more serious issues—deteriorating infrastructure hindering behind the 16-year-old structure’s Super Bowl Sunday best appearance, plus the competitive benchmarks set by 19 high-tech stadiums built nationwide in the last decade.

There’s no question the Aztecs would benefit from a new stadium, too, especially with the kind of partnership the University of Pittsburgh Panthers and the NFL’s Pittsburgh Steelers enjoy at 2-year-old Heinz Field, which both teams call home. Electronic signage helps keep the roommates happy by customizing the stadium’s ambiance and advertising signage.

With three alumni—Nikki Clay, Tom Considine and Cassandra Clady—serving on the 15-member Citizens’ Task Force on Chargers Issues, San Diego State has certainly been well represented in the public debate and on the panel’s final report to the city.

Murphy realizes the stadium outcome will affect the Aztecs. “Whatever the future of the San Diego Chargers is,” he said, “I would like to preserve San Diego State football in Mission Valley.”

Alumnus Ky Snyder, president of the San Diego International Sports Council, would like to see more Aztec supporters weigh in on the matter before it’s too late. “It never hurts for alumni to let their city council representatives know it’s important to them to keep football in San Diego,” he said.

Aztecs Football
A Rich History

1951 First undefeated season

1961-72 Don Coryell

1986 No. 1 small-college team in the nation

1984-87 Todd Santos sets NCAA career passing record

1986 WAC championship Holiday Bowl

1991-93 Marshall Faulk

1995 Las Vegas Bowl

lease-renewal negotiations between the City of San Diego and the Chargers are likely to continue throughout the summer as the clock ticks toward an Aug. 16 deadline. After that, the Bolts would be free to leave San Diego following the upcoming 2003 season.

In the meantime, SDSU head football coach Tom Craft continues to train and recruit, guiding the Aztecs on a tough but purposeful journey toward national prominence. He chooses to focus on the positive—an incoming recruiting class ranked best in the league and among the nation’s top 40.

“Whatever the future of the San Diego Chargers is,” he said, “I would like to preserve San Diego State football in Mission Valley.”

Aztecs Football
A Rich History

1951 First undefeated season

1961-72 Don Coryell

1986 No. 1 small-college team in the nation

1984-87 Todd Santos sets NCAA career passing record

1986 WAC championship Holiday Bowl

1991-93 Marshall Faulk

1995 Las Vegas Bowl

lease-renewal negotiations between the City of San Diego and the Chargers are likely to continue throughout the summer as the clock ticks toward an Aug. 16 deadline. After that, the Bolts would be free to leave San Diego following the upcoming 2003 season.

In the meantime, SDSU head football coach Tom Craft continues to train and recruit, guiding the Aztecs on a tough but purposeful journey toward national prominence. He chooses to focus on the positive—an incoming recruiting class ranked best in the league and among the nation’s top 40.

“Whatever the future of the San Diego Chargers is,” he said, “I would like to preserve San Diego State football in Mission Valley.”
Homeland Security

By Coleen L. Geraghty

The new national imperative becomes a regional mission, with San Diego State at the forefront. And Washington is watching.

Inside jam-packed QUALCOMM Stadium on Super Bowl Sunday 2003, Buccaneers and Raiders battled for a championship.

Outside, space cowboy look-alikes in Hazmat suits paced the perimeter, checking air and water sensors for warning spikes. Part of a San Diego State University-led team, they were staging a sophisticated response to a simulated public health emergency, such as an act of terrorism. Local and federal security experts assigned to the Super Bowl took note. By the time the Buccaneers had felled the Raiders, San Diego State had proven its commitment to implementing a new national imperative.

The work began after the fall of the Twin Towers, and long before the Department of Homeland Security existed, when communities across the country began to assess their own vulnerabilities to terrorist activity at the local level.
San Diego officials saw security hot spots everywhere—at the bustling border with Mexico, at the international airport downtown and at smaller airfields across the arching span of the San Diego-Coronado Bridge and even at the San Onofre nuclear power plant 50 miles away.

But local leaders realized these potential problems also presented an opportunity. San Diego could become a template for homeland security solutions. It would take organization, communication, and the best minds available. In California congressional representatives Duncan Hunter and Susan Davis turned to two prominent local universities—UC San Diego and San Diego State.

In the tradition of community collaboration that has always distinguished San Diego State University, the campus immediately offered its resources and personnel to advance San Diego’s homeland security efforts. Today, SDSU faculty sit side by side with regional military and public health meetings and on advisory groups that plan responses to potential emergencies. Researchers and students at San Diego State are turning technological wizardry into practical applications for port and border security. In short, SDSU faculty, students and alumni are involved in homeland security ventures all over the region.

Dolores Woukaz, dean of the College of Health and Human Services, co-chairs the Regional Networking Project on Homeland Security, a dynamic consortium of public and private institutions charged with evaluating San Diego’s first-response needs and capabilities, and developing strategies to bridge the gaps between them. The Regional Network’s mission is two-fold: to pursue state and federal funding opportunities, and to strengthen homeland security programs by dispersing information and leveraging local resources.

Peter Andersen, a professor in the School of Communications who is also a leader in the Regional Network, believes the university’s involvement makes good sense. “SDSU contributes significant brainpower to the Regional Network,” he said. “We are a linchpin in helping the Department of Homeland Security. But in the absence of any substantial federal funding, the university has partnered with community groups, elected officials, private companies and county agencies to fashion viable strategies for responding to potential threats.

The most comprehensive expression of their response to that unfolding Jan. 26 behind the scenes of Super Bowl XXXVII as some 70,000 football fans gathered in San Diego’s Qualcomm Stadium. While athletes from Oakland and Tampa Bay fought for the National Football League Championship, about 200 volunteers stationed in and around the stadium staged a drill based on the premise of a natural or man-made disaster. Truly a demonstration of community activism, the SDSU-led exercise called ShadowBowl came together because committed people from academia, technology, medicine, business and county agencies pooled their talents in an effort to “pre-respond” to a potential mass casualty situation.

ShadowBowl was the brainchild of San Diego State alumsus and adjunct professor David Warner, a medical neuroscientist with kinetic enthusiasm for marrying communications technology and health care applications. Without government funding, using off-the-shelf or borrowed equipment, networking with local law enforcement and medical experts, Warner created an emergency readiness and response system that dazzled federal homeland security officials, including FBI and CIA agents assigned to the Super Bowl.

In the words of Steve Cooper, special assistant to the president and senior director for information integration at the U.S. Department of Homeland Security, the technology demonstrated at ShadowBowl is “highly relevant to our homeland security mission.”

SDSU’s cavernous Immersive Visualization Laboratory became one of the central sites at Warner’s adapted Internet-based technology to connect first-responders with medical experts in distant locations. Working with them to establish the real-time, two-way audio and video system was Bob Young, business area manager for advanced technology transition at the Navy’s SPAWAR Systems Center.

The resulting breakthrough communications system enabled participating doctors across the nation to view the “disaster scene” through video cameras attached to the emergency workers’ headgear. In an impressive, futuristic twist, first-responders could speak with physicians many miles away, and see, on a PDA to screen, a doctor’s guiding hand superimposed over the image of the “disaster victim.”

As Warner directed the emergency response simulation, Eric Frost, professor of geological sciences, and Bob Wiley, director of homeland security projects for the SDSU Foundation, supervised operations from the “Vis Lab.” The team monitored vital data on air and water quality collected by strategically placed environmental sensors, and crowd movement detected by the stadium’s security cameras.

This last task was one that Shiek for Bowl organizers had not anticipated. But in the final days before the big game, Super Bowl security managers asked Warner to stand by, ready to convert the Vis Lab into a fallback communications hub for law enforcement officers.

Emergency Training

“In an emergency, what’s needed are trained people. We are taking public health students who already understand disease control, and sharpening their skills in surveillance, field investigation and community education.”

Louise Gresham

“They said they didn’t even know this kind of capability existed,” Warner said. “The agencies were overwhelmed, we were filling the holes they couldn’t fill to support public safety.”

As ShadowBowl demonstrated, San Diego State’s unique contributions to homeland security flow from high levels of communication and trust established between university and community. So naturally, when members of the Regional Network divined the tasks set before them, SDSU assumed responsibility for public health and safety/education, training and communications—a ambitious undertaking and one requiring the highest level of community interaction.

“There is such a dynamic collaboration between SDSU and the community,” observed Louise Gresham, an epidemiologist and Graduate School of Public Health professor who also works with the Regional Network.

Gresham directs two grants for SDSU’s Graduate School of Public Health, both hold homeland security implications. One finances the training of public health students and staff for emergency response, particularly to a bioterrorism...
Beyond Shadow Bowl

As Dave Warner began writing the story of Shadow Bowl in his head, he realized its enormous potential. It would be a multi-party effort led by San Diego State University. It would establish professional relationships and personal rapport across a broad spectrum of the San Diego region. And it would showcase technology customized to protect community well-being.

Projects like these extend San Diego State directly into the community and simultaneously connect students with experienced professionals in mentoring situations. In the College of Engineering, for example, professor Ron Kline’s students have conducted a technology assessment of San Diego’s port and border security. After visiting security posts and interviewing key border agency personnel, the students identified assets and vulnerabilities, along with new technologies, such as transborder tunnel detectors and remote vehicle-disabling devices that could enhance security efforts.

San Diego State has long been a champion of such emergent technology for homeland security applications. As a partner in the Center for Commercialization of Advanced Technology (CCAT), SDSU works with other public and private institutions to identify and help finance start-up companies that develop anti-terrorism technologies.

One such venture is EyeTracking Inc., founded by Sandra Marshall, an SDSU psychology professor. Marshall discovered a way to use pupil dilation as a gauge of cognitive effort and fatigue. Marshall is now collaborating with other researchers and companies to take augmented cognition technology to the next level for possible military applications. Jeffrey Morrison, a decision support system manager for SPAWAR Systems Center, likes the idea. ‘(This project) could dramatically improve decisions of military operators by helping them manage the information they receive,’ he said. Funded by the Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency (DARPA), the sensory technology will be tested by defense contractors over the next two years.

San Diego State is home to numerous leading-edge research efforts such as Marshall’s, and much of it is relevant to anti-terrorism. Engineering professor Joseph Katz and his students, for instance, contributed invaluable technical assistance to Northrop Grumman during development of the Global Hawk, an unmanned, high-altitude surveillance aircraft. Equipped with radar, infrared and high-resolution photo imaging capability, the Global Hawk gave ground commanders an unprecedented ability to pinpoint hostile activity almost instantaneously, at great distances and over vast geographical areas.

In the environmental engineering department, Miram Gouré and her colleagues are completing a study of ozone’s effectiveness in fighting anthrax. The work was financed by a $100,000 research grant from the National Science Foundation. Biology professor John Love is also tackling anthrax. His research team uses computer technology to design antibody-like proteins that could bind to and inactivate harmful proteins released by disease-causing organisms.

Efforts like Love’s and Gouré’s will proliferate with completion of a planned BioScience Center at SDSU. Envisioned as a campus home for innovative programs like the San Diego State University Heart Institute, the Center for Microbial Sciences and the Molecular Biology Institute, the facility also will lease facilities to private companies working to develop or test biodefense technology. The result: an interactive research environment for many fields of biology and engineering, including those with homeland security applications.

‘We will be directly involved in strengthening preparedness for bioterrorism by supporting research with organisms considered most likely to be agents of biological warfare,’ said Stanley Maloy, professor of microbial sciences.

Each of these endeavors attests to San Diego State’s extraordinary outreach efforts in homeland security. Already, the university’s contributions have extended far into the community, improving health services, law enforcement, border security and communications. As a result, the San Diego region is better equipped to face our unique homeland security challenges and develop exportable solutions for other major metropolitan areas.

Public health students are also creating a terrorism awareness Web site for the San Diego County Office of Emergency Services. When completed, five slide shows on the site will relay information and advice in both English and Spanish. The project builds on an earlier student effort—a bilingual curriculum manual for public health workers that outlines various chemical and biological threats and treatments.

ROTC roll call

The U.S. Army, Air Force, and Navy all operate Reserve Officers’ Training Corps (ROTC) programs at San Diego State. The university’s Air Force cadet wing is the largest in California, and its Army battalion recently ranked 12th among 270 units in advanced training at Fort Lewis, Wash. The Navy (and Marine) battalion is part of a regional consortium. Several cadets who graduated this spring have already been stationed in Afghanistan and throughout the Middle East.

Cadets enrolled at SDSU:

- Air Force: 167
- Army: 86
- Navy: 60

First year on campus:

- Air Force: 1952
- Army: 1986
- Navy: 1982

Cadets commissioned since:

- Air Force: 905
- Army: 374
- Navy: 91

Program strengths:

- Leadership
- Discipline
- Time management
- Physical fitness
Once upon a time, the realm of wizards, ogres and enchanted sprites rarely extended beyond the boundaries of childhood, but today children’s literature enjoys unprecedented popularity on adult best-seller lists and in the display windows of leading bookstores.

Scholars at San Diego State, where the study of books written for youthful audiences has long been a credentialed field of academic endeavor, see the shift in public opinion as welcome—and overdue.

“We won the battle [for legitimacy] long ago,” said Alida Allison, whose course, “Adolescence in Literature,” tackles the work of James Joyce, Sophocles, J.D. Salinger, Russell Hoban, Pam Munoz Ryan and Zhai Zenghua. “At San Diego State, children’s literature is prized for its intrinsic value as literature, not primarily as a stepping stone to literacy.”

That distinction undergirds the College of Arts and Letters’ long-standing and broadening support for the children’s literature program. This fall, the Department of English and Comparative Literature will offer a new specialization in the field for master’s students. And plans have been approved to establish a National Center for the Study of Children’s Literature on campus.

A $2.7 million campaign to fund the project is now under way.

“What it amounts to is recognition that we’re a powerhouse in this area,” asserted Jerry Greenwald, one of the first English professors hired to teach children’s literature at SDSU nearly 20 years ago.

Faculty envision the center as a hub of international scholar-ship and activity, sponsoring study-abroad exchanges and attracting leading specialists such as Maria Nikolajeva, a former Fulbright recipient and past president of the International Research Society for Children’s Literature. Nikolajeva taught at SDSU from 1999 to 2001.

The center would also develop curricula to train thousands of California teachers to expand their use of children’s literature in the classroom. This effort would build on the work of the SDSU Children’s Literature Circle, a group of teachers, librarians, writers, booksellers and alumni that meets occasionally to discuss books or hear leading children’s authors, such as Russell Hoban, Lawrence Yep and Gary Soto.

The link between children’s literature and teacher education at SDSU was forged years ago. Professor Emeritus Peter Neumeyer developed the children’s literature specialty within the Department of English and Comparative Literature in the late 1970s, making SDSU one of the first universities to offer this field of study. With Ramon Ross and George Mehaffy from the College of Education, Neumeyer then designed courses with liberal studies students in mind. His six-unit block of children’s literature courses is still a requirement for San Diego State students planning to teach elementary school.

Today, about 200 liberal studies students enroll in these courses each semester. Liberal studies program coordinator Phoebe Rodler estimates that up to 70 percent of students in the program go on to earn teaching credentials and eventually find positions in San Diego area schools, a factor that children’s literature faculty consider an added responsibility.

“We are very aware that many of our students are teachers and future teachers, that we’re talking to people who are going to be using these books in their own classrooms,” Allison said. “We recognize how formative that is.”

June Cummins, the newest of SDSU’s children’s literature specialists, hopes the center will also engage a broader audience in...
Once upon a time, the realm of wizards, ogres and sprites rarely extended beyond the boundaries of childhood, but today children’s literature enjoys unprecedented popularity on adult best-seller lists.

Jerry Griswold, who often reads “The Adventures of Tom Sawyer” with his classes, enjoys these kinds of subversive elements in children’s literature. He reminds students that Tom plays hooky and disrupts church services. Popular heroine Jo March from “Little Women” refuses to grow up and become a woman in the conventional sense.

“These classic books, if they’re read thoughtfully, as we do in class, question the essential values of this culture and raise thoughtful citizens,” Griswold noted.

Recognized as leaders in children’s literature even to the international level, SDSU faculty members often have opportunities to share their perspectives with other scholars around the world. Griswold was a 1999-2000 visiting Fulbright lecturer at the National University of Ireland in Galway. Camile Scott is past president of the International Research Society for Children’s Literature in Stockholm, Sweden. Alida Allison was invited to address an international book publishing conference in China in 2000. And Lois Kunze, professor emerita, won recognition in 2002 for service to the field from the Children’s Literature Association.

Despite the international attention, the children’s literature faculty are perhaps most gratified to see their work bearing fruit here at home. Said Griswold: “I have seen some of my former students shaping the San Diego schools in a positive way, like fighting to get fairy tales and fables into the K-12 curriculum. I don’t teach people how to teach in the classroom, but the things we do here have a ripple effect… because we develop in our students a love for children’s literature.”

Kids are a tough audience says Sid Fleischman

...and he should know

Now in his fifth decade of writing for children, SDSU alum us Sid Fleischman has accumulated the awards and recognition that come to the best creators of children’s literature. Some of his fanciful, eccentric books, like “By the Great Horn Spoon!” and “The 13th Hour: A Ghost Story,” have become classroom standards. Another, “The Whipping Boy,” won the 1987 Newbery Medal, the American Library Association’s coveted prize for the year’s most distinguished children’s book.

Fleischman’s characters are vividly drawn; even their names evoke string images: General Dirty-Face Scroobus from “Jingo!”, for instance, and Hold-Your-Nose Billy from “The Whipping Boy.” Some critics contend that creating Josh McBrown, an Iowa farmer who stretches the truth, distinguished Fleischman as the first modern writer to add to the American genre of tall tales.

Sid Fleischman didn’t set out to be a writer. He began as a magician, performing in vaudeville acts and publishing a book of original slight-of-hand feats. But World War II interrupted his career and changed his life’s path. Afterwards, he began reporting and writing novels. He graduated from San Diego State with a B.A. in English in 1949. Here are a few of Fleischman’s thoughts on writing for children:

There is a different commitment when you’re writing for children. You have a heavier responsibility, and you have to be much sharper and clearer. Kids will simply not tolerate fuzzy thinking and fuzzy dramatization. And they’re impatient with description; your descriptions have to be extremely sharp and cogent.

Some of the best historical fiction is certainly in the children’s book field. I was a history minor at Stats, and I love poking around in the dark corners of history. I can cut loose when I’m writing in a historical period, my imagination seems to be richer. I can exaggerate the characters and have a lot more fun with them.

When I was writing only for adults, I never got letters, was never asked to speak. Now that I’m writing for children, I get letters all the time and two or three suggestions a week. There’s a whole new field that’s bubbled up in the 40 years that I’ve been writing children’s books. Programs like the one at San Diego State are multiplying throughout the country.
A Gift of Land, a Legacy of Hope

Thanks to a generous gift of land, San Diego State University is moving ahead with plans to build a new campus near the Imperial County community of Brawley.

SDSU’s existing Imperial Valley campus, located on the Mexican border in Calipatria, is too far away for many residents in the north end of the county to commute to classes, explained Kholostrow Fatemi, Imperial Valley Campus dean. The Brawley site 22 miles to the north will serve those areas, as well as the city of El Centro, offering many county residents their first chance to obtain a college education.

SDSU’s plans for a second Imperial Valley campus became a possibility when the Bixby Land Co., long-time owners of the Lucky Ranch near Brawley, agreed to donate 200 acres for the project. They offered us the best part of their 2,000-acre parcel,” Fatemi said, “right on Highway 78.” The donated land is appraised at approximately $8 million.

Jean Bixby Smith, president of the Alamosa Land Co. in Long Beach, said the decision to donate acreage for the new campus fulfilled both business and philanthropic purposes. “We’ve been a member of the Brawley community for a long time, and we’re interested in seeing them realize their dreams to grow,” she explained. “We’ve worked closely with the city to make changes we thought would enhance their growth opportunities as well as ours. Since higher education is the key to economic development, one idea that came up was trying to attract the university.”

For Smith personally, there was yet another reason. “Education is a part of my life,” she said. “I was a teacher for a while, and I served on the board of trustees of my alma mater, Scripps College in Claremont.” Smith also maintains a special interest in California State University, Long Beach. Her father was one of the institution’s original trustees.

The Bixby gift could help bring welcome, long-term changes to the Imperial Valley, a primarily rural desert region whose young, growing population is limited by the scarcity of educational and employment options. Only about 10 percent of residents 25 and older hold a college degree; nearly half have not even finished high school. The county’s unemployment rate is just over 21 percent; by contrast, the statewide rate is only about 5 percent. And more than 22 percent of residents live in poverty, with per capita income averaging only $18,469.

Fatemi hopes to see those numbers improve as educational opportunities expand. By 2008, with 3,400 students projected to enroll at Brawley, and 400 more at Calipatria, SDSU’s Imperial Valley enrollment could nearly triple—from 1,000 to 2,800. “The Brawley campus will significantly increase our ability to serve the community,” he predicted.

That’s just what Jean Bixby Smith intends. “Education is important, and it’s important to expand its presence in the (Imperial) Valley and be able to offer it to the residents there,” she said. “We were in the fortunate position of being able to help them achieve that goal.”

—Sandra Millers Younger

Class Notes

1948s

45. Regina Hickey ♦ (economics), a real estate professional since the 1950s, recently developed a low-rent office building in Chula Vista that reached 100 percent occupancy before completion. Hickey lives in La Jolla.

1950s

53. James R. (Dick) Dickenson ♦ (journalism) handles media relations for the Library of Congress, including its Congressional Open World/Russian Leadership Program, which connects Russian and U.S. professionals. Dickenson also is the author of “We Few: The Marine Corps 400 in the War Against Japan.”

1960s

61. Robin Luby ♦ (English, ’62, TCHR), an English teacher at Grossmont High in La Mesa, has received the Mortar Board Distinguished Alumna Award and the California Association of Teachers of English Distinguished Service Award. She lives in La Jolla with husband, Chuck Luby ♦ (’59, chemistry, M.S., ’64, chemistry).

66. Walter M. Brasch (sociology), a journalism professor at Bloomsburg University in Pennsylvania, has received the first annual Dean’s Salute for Excellence for his teaching and research/writing skills. Brasch is also a syndicated newspaper columnist and the author of 13 books, most recently “The Joy of Sex: America During the Bill Clinton Era.” Luis Nogales ♦ (political science) has been appointed a public member of the Mayo Clinic Board of Trustees. A past Monty recipient, Nogales is managing partner of Nogales Investment, a private equity investment firm in Los Angeles, and a senior adviser to Deutsche Bank.

1970s

76. Roland Bullen (public administration) has been appointed ambassador to Guyana by President Bush.

78. Andy Thompson (psychology) has been appointed vice-president-operations and training at Global Business Services Inc., a retail postal and business services franchising network.

79. Juanita Brooks (political science) has been named one of the top 25 intellectual property lawyers in California by the Daily Journal Extra, a legal publication. She specializes in patent and trademark infringement and trade secrets litigation.

81. Ron Martel ♦ (marketing), recruited by IBM on campus 28 years ago, is now the company’s national solutions executive for recovery services. He lives in Laguna Niguel. His daughter, Angela, is a current SESU student.

85. Tim Coyte ♦ (business administration) is proud to announce an addition to the Aztec family: his older son, Chris, a graduate of Sacramento’s Rio Americano High School. Dad is senior vice president for governmental affairs of the California Building Industry Association in Sacramento.

★ Please send your news to the SDSU Alumni Association, 5500 Campanile Dr., San Diego, CA 92182-1690 or sschools@mail.sdsu.edu. ♦ = annual member. ★ = life member

When I was at State...

During the Vietnam war, there were daily protests on the steps of the administration building. As the war progressed, the protestors became more vocal, animated and sometimes aggressive. I remember students attempting to burn an American flag inside a trash can and other students trying to salvage the flag by dragging it out.

I had a U.S. Naval Academy bumper sticker on my VW bug, a remnant from a boy I had dated in high school, and no amount of scraping could get it off. Several times, my car was egged while parked in a campus lot – just for sporting that sticker, which reflected a one-time love interest and not necessarily my politics.

Pam Mawio Ryan, ’74, B.A., child development (family studies), ’91, M.A., education
Marla Runyan
Class of 1991

Marla Runyan’s life is running right on course. Since graduating from San Diego State in 1991, she has run in several marathons and has competed in various races. She has run in more than a dozen marathons, including the Boston Marathon in 1991, and has completed the New York City Marathon in 1991 and 1995.

Admirable accomplishments for anyone. But all the more remarkable for Marla Runyan, who has been legally blind since age nine due to Stargardt’s disease, a juvenile form of macular degeneration.

Because of her condition, Marla learned to take a mental approach to her sport, mapping out courses in her head in advance. “It’s all about preparing,” she says, “so on race day, all I have to worry about is running, not the course.”

Her preparation has paid off. She made the 2000 Olympics team and finished fourth in her race. Making the Olympic team, she said, was as important as being a medal winner. Marla ran her first marathon in New York just last November and placed fourth, the highest an American has finished in more than a decade. More recently, she was fifth in the April 21 Boston Marathon, the best American finish since 1991.

Marla is also competing this summer in the U.S. Nationals in Palo Alto and the World Championship in Paris. Cheering her on will be her husband and coach, Matt Longeorgen.

Alongside her amazing athletic accomplishments, Marla values her academic achievements. She has earned both a B.A. and an M.S. from SDSU in education for deaf-blind children. “Next to making the Olympic team, the thing I’m most proud of is getting my master’s degree,” she says. “Especially as someone who’s visually impaired, it’s very meaningful to me to have my master’s.”

Sometime between races, working with co-author Sally Jenkins, Marla also wrote a book about her life titled, “No Finish Line: My Life As I See It.” “You’ve never finished accomplishing your goals, you’re always moving on,” Marla says in explaining the title. “I don’t really see the finish line until I cross it.”

—Jennifer Zwickel

SUMMER 2003

Alumni Association 2002 - 2003

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE
President: Walt Dunn, ’70
President-elect: Jerry Oneal, ’71
Immediate Past President: Terry Mancillas, ’72
Vice President for Community Outreach: Chuck Ludeke, ’91, 94
Vice President for Constituency Relations: Joe Herd, ’92
Vice President for Membership & Marketing: Marga Kaush, ’97
Vice President for 2030 Alumni & Campus Outreach: Eric Rafter-Chincher, ’88
Vice President for Special Projects: Bruce Ives, ’90
Executive Director: Jim Herrick
Secretary: Cheryl Titan

Other Elected Directors:
Jim Ball* ’79, Maria Cortes ’95, Adam Day ’91, Kathy Druique Duff ’97, Adrienne LaBrucherie Finley ’71, Carol Foster ’79, ’82, Beverly & Fitchette ’72, Dena Garnish ’93, Jeff Glazer ’73, ’91, Randy Goodson ’89, Judith Gurnstein ’66, ’79, Barbara Hall ’91, Dennis Kuhrt ’91, Teresa Leader-Antanas ’91, Mike Miripkin ’96, ’95, Erika Opstad ’90, Edgar Patiño ’00, Wendy Kuhn ’90, Teresa Leader-Anderson ’91, Mike Minjares ’92, Judith Gumbiner ’66, ’79, Barbara Hall ’86, Dennis Gibson ’68, Jeff Glazer ’73, ’81, Randy Goodson ’89, Matt Dathe ’90, Jerry Dressel ’76, Kerry Peter ’90, Athena Behning, Greg Chew, Amy Blackburn ’94, ’01, Rachel Lieder ’94, ’97, Rachel Lieder ’94, ’97, Jennifer Stein ’98, Cheryl Trtan ’81, Margo Kasch ’67

Immediate Past President:
Jim Herrick

Executive Director: Jim Herrick

Associate Director: Nancy Edelman, ’94, ’91
Executive Associate/Campuses Liaison: Cheryl Titan
Alumni/Program Coordinator: Jennifer Zwickel
Marketing Specialist: Shawn Beckman, ’92
Membership and Marketing Assistant: Tanja Zimmerman
Program/Proposal Analyst: Rachel Lester
Program Coordinator: Jen Ranallo
Student Assistant: Athena Behning, Greg Chew, Gina DiCicco, Maria Michael, Beth Rector, Kristen Sauerman, Alicia Stark, Alex Vasquez

1980s

76. Gary R. Dokes (finance) is chief investment officer for the Arizona State University System. He lives in Scottsdale.

77. Beth Strong Andrews (M.S.W., social work), a clinical social worker for 24 years, has published “Why Are You So Sad?”, a children’s book about coping with parental depression. Lynn Bryant (M.B.A., information systems) is vice president of sales engineering for Piliteri &
Honey, a Web-based cash-management firm in Newton, Mass. Previously she was a business unit manager for Metavante Corp.’s FORTE and FORTE Express product (information systems) and later for the musician known as Golani, was nominated by the Native American Music Awards for Best Male Artist and Florida of the Year for his album ‘Winds.’

The academic year opened with “First Snow” Paul S. Downey Jr., (journalism) has been named Humanitarian of the Year by the Downtown San Diego Partnership for his leadership in issues related to senior living in poverty. Downey is president and CEO of Senior Community Centers in San Diego.

Keith Dunne (finance) is managing director of electronics manufacturing products and services research at RBC Capital Markets in San Francisco. He was cited as a top-ranking analyst for the past four years by Institutional Investor, and named in The Wall Street Journal’s “Best on the Street” list in 2001. Brad Thomson (finance), with his wife, Regan, owns and operates the Standard Diner in Vancouver, Wash., and the Blue Moon Diner in Alota, Ore. Both feature a retro New England diner look and “comfort food.”

Gayle Lynn Falkenthal (radio/television; M.A., ’91, mass communication) is now chief marketing and public relations officer at the American Red Cross, San Diego Imperial Counties Chapter. Richard N. Graham (English/creative writing) is associate editor of Sports Afield and editor of his own Web site, InLineHockeyCentral.com. He also volunteers with Big Brothers of Greater Los Angeles. Sue Katz (recruitment/management) works for American Express as director of the sales East region for global corporate services, travel. She lives in New Jersey.

Kathy Worley (industrial arts; M.A., ’91, liberal arts) is a teacher, coach and athletics director at Mt. Miguel High School in Spring Valley. She was recently named California Interscholastic Federation (CIF) model coach of the year for the San Diego region. She is now a JRTC instructor. He lives in Saffaltatius, Maine with his wife Susan (’82, history) and family.

’81, Amedeo “Deo” Lauria (radio/television/film) has retired from the U.S. Army as a lieutenant colonel after 29 years of service. A charter member of SDSU’s Army ROTC program, Lauria is now a JRTC instructor. He lives in Saffaltatius, Maine with his wife Susan (’82, history) and family.

’69, Kathie Hocum Ross ★ (journalism; 74 M.S., counseling) is retiring from this summer with a volunteer group, teaching English to university students in Dolores Hidalgo, Mexico. A San Diego public school teacher, she lives in Jolla with her husband, Linda Philipps (journalism), a U.S. Marine Corps captain, served with the USN Nassau Amphibious Read Group during a recent six-month deployment to Kuwait, the Indian Ocean and Arabian Sea. She is assistant director of Marine Expeditionary Unit based in Camp Lejeune, N.C.

Laith C. Draves (international business) has been commissioned as a supply corps officer in the U.S. Naval Reserve while assigned to the Naval and Marine Reserve Center in St. Paul, Minn.

’99: Joseph R. Babb ★ (M.B.A., international business) is vice consul to the Embajada De Los Estados Unidos, España, the U.S. embassy in Madrid, Spain. Kathy Berkshire (public administration) is a sales associate for Caldwell Banker in San Francisco. Formerly, she worked as a political fundraiser and a sales and marketing specialist in the high-tech industry. She also holds an M.B.A. from Nova Southeastern University’s International Business School. Ross joined Vanderbilt University in 1980.

2008s

’80: Pedro Anaya Jr. (psychology; B.A., ’91, Mexican-American Studies) was one of three recipients of the 2005 Rhetoric Human Rights Awards for his work defending Latin for discrimination and human rights abuses. Jamie Harris ★ (journalism) is a compliance specialist for FutureTrade Securities, a start-up technology firm in Lake Forest, Calif. He lives in Seal Beach and is working towards his M.B.A. at U.C. Irvine. Raoul Vega Jr. ★ (English and Spanish) is the Title I coordinator and bilingual teacher for the Dual Immersion Program and Title I coordinator at Berney AYer Middle School in San Clemente.

Glenda Moenlenap ★ (M.B.A., finance) has founded Mission Federal Service Organization’s Mission Investments to oversee financial advisors who work for credit union members. Wholly is a certified financial planner (CFP) and certified public accountant (CPA).
O p i n i o n

A very wise investment: Fee increases can't diminish the value of an SDSU education

As we all know, our state government finds itself in a budget quandary that could significantly affect education in California. Regardless, I believe San Diego State University will continue to provide top value in higher education.

My wife and I are both San Diego State alumni. We also have one son currently attending SDSU and another who proudly marched at graduation ceremonies this spring. So we know from experience that SDSU students receive a first-class education. We know, too, that fee increases have become essential to continue providing the academic programs and support services all students need to achieve their goals.

As parents, we understand how these fee increases can affect the family budget. But, again, I must emphasize that a California State University (CSU) education remains an exceptional value. Consider that the state's instructional cost for each full-time CSU student totals nearly $11,000 annually. Yet the student’s share of that cost, even with proposed fee increases, will be less than $2,600 in 2003-04.

What can SDSU students expect in return for their investment? For one thing, college graduates can expect to earn an average of $674,000 more during their careers than workers without a four-year diploma. And the value of an SDSU degree continues to rise with the university’s reputation. Did you know the prestigious Carnegie Foundation recognizes SDSU as a “doctoral/research intensive” university, placing it in the top 6.7 percent of the nation’s higher education institutions?

Still, I cannot overlook the fact that fee increases will especially burden the financially disadvan-
taged. Some SDSU students I have the privilege of mentoring are quick to note their extreme difficulty in meeting school expenses. So I was pleased to learn that a third of the last fee increase was set aside as financial aid. And I’m assured by SDSU administrators that San Diego State remains committed to serving a diverse student population and providing financial support for those who need it. It’s imperative to do so.

As an alumnus, I am proud to support SDSU and its great tradition of educational access, academic excellence and community service. And I am confident that a San Diego State University diploma will remain a very wise investment.

Al Araiza 1971, business management 2000, president, Los Angeles Chapter SDSU Alumni Association

CANDI ROBERTS

Future Profession: physical therapy

SDSU degree: Roberts will graduate in December with a B.A. in kinesiology and an emphasis in prephysical therapy. She is also battalion commander of SDSU’s Army ROTC program and will be commissioned a 2nd lieutenant in the United States Army upon graduation.

What attracted you to ROTC? “It has to be one of the biggest confidence boosters you could ever experience. ROTC and the Army are about challenges. It’s scary to stand in front of 50 people, give an order and wonder what will happen. It’s intimidating, but when you see the results of all your hard work and planning, that’s an amazing feeling.”

What do you like most about SDSU? “The diversity here is outstanding. Other schools in the area don’t have it. You can tell just by walking on campus. And the teachers at SDSU are awesome. Most professors challenge you to think beyond what’s in the books. They present different options. That’s what impressed me most in my first year.”

Who on campus had the greatest impact on your life? “Sergeant First Class Rene Romero. He was the one who told me, ‘Miss Roberts, you’re going to go places.’ He gave me positive feedback constantly. Major Katherine Graef inspires and motivates me, too, because she is a female officer. She has insight on being a female in a man’s world.”

Photo: Ion Moe
For thirty-one days, we got to hang out with 300,000 of our closest friends. (We can’t wait ’til next year.)

The first-ever SDSU month was a huge success. Great exposure, successful events and fun promotions. And we’d like to thank everyone – students, faculty, staff, alums, promotional and media partners, and friends of the university for pitching in and making all the difference.

A special thanks to our sponsors for their funding and support. Your generosity truly helped us move the world.
What $35 gets you these days:
1. A no-frills dinner for two.
2. Three movie tickets w/popcorn and soda.
3. A fill-up for the family SUV.
4. Another pair of half-price shoes.
5. The chance to make waves. Big waves.

In addition to all the cool benefits you get as an association member, you get this: the satisfaction of knowing your contribution is helping exceptional SDSU students achieve great things through scholarships, mentorships, and a variety of other innovative programs. To make a real difference, call 619-594-ALUM (2586) or visit www.sdsualumni.org.

Thank you for reading 360 Magazine online! To receive your own subscription, join the SDSU Alumni Association or help support the university with a financial gift. Contact the editor at 360mag@mail.sdsu.edu for more information.

360: The Magazine of San Diego State University is produced by the Marketing and Communication Department, University Advancement Division, San Diego State University, 5500 Campanile Drive, San Diego, California 92182-8080. Copyright 2003.