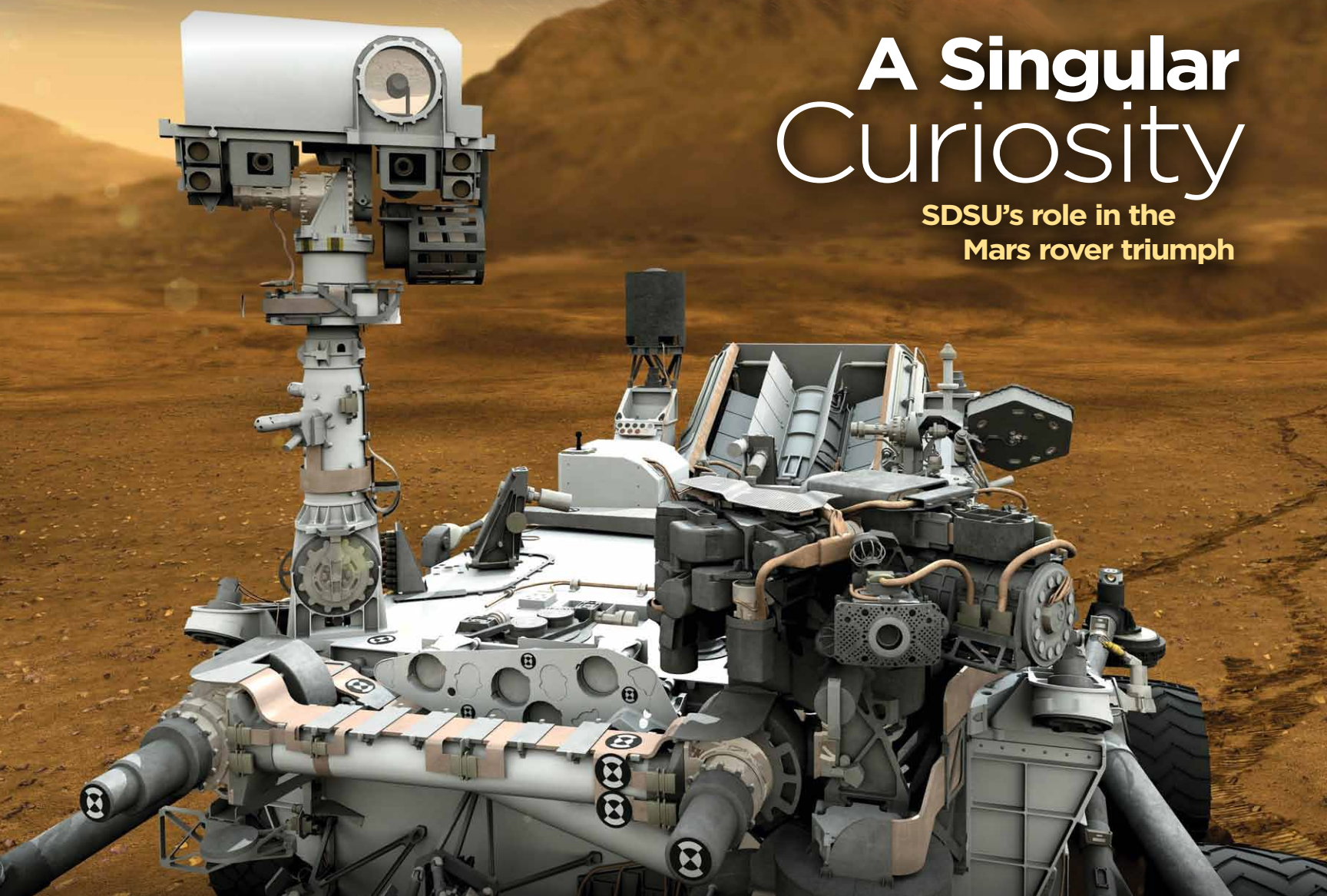


# 360

## A Singular Curiosity

SDSU's role in the  
Mars rover triumph



IN THIS ISSUE: Profiles of Leadership

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**Editor:** Coleen L. Geraghty

**Editorial Contributors:** Jennifer Coburn, Gina Jacobs '01, Catherine Snapp, Tobin Vaughn

**Guest Contributor:** Ken Kramer '74

**Additional Editing:** Sandra Millers Younger

**Art Director:** Lori Padelford '83

**Graphic Design:** John Signer '82

**Cover Photo:** Courtesy of NASA

## SAN DIEGO STATE UNIVERSITY

**Elliot Hirshman**  
President

## DIVISION OF UNIVERSITY RELATIONS & DEVELOPMENT

**Mary Ruth Carleton**

Vice President - University Relations and Development

**Sarah Slaughter '78**

Chief Financial Officer -The Campanile Foundation

**Joanne Ferchland-Parella**

Associate Vice President

**Jack Beresford**

Chief Communications Officer

**Jim Herrick**

Executive Director - Alumni Association

**Chris Lindmark**

Director - Campaign and Special Events

We welcome mail from our readers.

### 360 Magazine

Marketing & Communications

5500 Campanile Drive

San Diego CA 92182-8080

**E-mail:** [360mag@mail.sdsu.edu](mailto:360mag@mail.sdsu.edu)

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San Diego State University

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[alumnidata@sdsu.edu](mailto:alumnidata@sdsu.edu)

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**SAN DIEGO STATE UNIVERSITY**

*Leadership Starts Here*

## FROM THE PRESIDENT

*“The heart of our university is our people.”*

When we think of our university, we often think of a place—the grandeur of our location atop Montezuma Mesa, the beauty of our iconic Mission-style buildings. Yet the heart of a university is not its land or its buildings. The heart of our university is our people—the leaders throughout our community who innovate, who create, who educate the next generation, and whose research and service address the challenges of our society.

**Leadership Starts Here** is a bold statement of our university's ethos. It reflects our faith that we can make things better, as well as our fervent belief that hard work and innovation create the path to prosperity for our region, our nation and our world. We are fortunate to have leaders throughout the Aztec family who embody this ethos. You will learn about some of them in this issue of *360: The Magazine of San Diego State University*.

Kee Moon, mechanical engineering professor, leads a team creating implantable brain chips that will allow our wounded veterans and others to more effectively use their prostheses. Doctoral student Kimberley Miller is studying the interaction of microbial methane production and climate change as a Fulbright fellow. Alumnus Walter Rosenkranz is a co-founder of the car2go all-electric car-sharing fleet in San Diego.



These efforts reverberate in San Diego and around the globe. Public health professor Greg Talavera is fighting chronic disease in our South Bay Latino community, and our Price Community Scholars mentor aspiring college students in City Heights. Farther from home, anthropology faculty member Ramona Perez is empowering rural communities in Oaxaca, and alumna Hilary Maiberger—part of our strong tradition in the creative and performing arts—is playing the lead role in the U.S. tour of “Beauty and the Beast.”

Each of these members of our SDSU community is demonstrating that **Leadership Starts Here.**

*Elliot Hirshman*

Elliot Hirshman, president  
San Diego State University



# 360



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Profiles of alumni, students and faculty who embody SDSU's leadership—locally and globally.

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#### **Innovation**

Kee Moon

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Kimberley Miller

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# Compass





## Hail Montezuma

What does a collection of century-old Indian baskets have to do with SDSU's Mount Laguna Observatory? Where on campus can you find dinosaur tracks dating back 250 million years?

Why were crates of crackers stored for decades beneath the university's administration building? How were the original school colors of white and gold chosen and who changed them?

The answers to all of these questions and many, many more can be found in "Hail Montezuma: The Hidden Treasures of San Diego State," a new book by Seth Mallios, chair of SDSU's anthropology department.

The 256-page hardcover is the culmination of 11 years of research and two years of writing and editing. Released Aug. 22, "Hail Montezuma" is available through the SDSU Bookstore and Amazon.com

## Education Island

A tall green palm tree stands over a sign bordered by colorful native flowers. In the sign's far left corner are four letters: S-D-S-U. The letters may be small, but they represent a major shift taking place on the South Pacific island of Palau.

More than 7,000 miles from San Diego, the Republic of Palau has a population of less than 25,000—smaller than the student body of San Diego State.

While the country has a near-perfect high school graduation rate, few inhabitants pursue higher education, and those who do generally leave Palau forever. The island's K-12 teachers are mostly high school graduates. At Palau Community College—the only institution of higher education on the island—associate degrees are the norm among instructors.

San Diego State is changing that. For the past decade, SDSU has partnered with the community college to offer bachelor's degrees through the SDSU Interwork Institute.

More than 200 local teachers and education administrators have graduated from the program since 1998. Another 30 began coursework this summer.



"For a country as small as Palau, educating hundreds is huge," said Caren Sax, director of the the Interwork Institute. "We have a real presence on the island; SDSU bumper stickers are everywhere."

With so many islanders pursuing higher education, government officials are pushing for more credentialed teachers. SDSU has already graduated three cohorts of master's degree students.

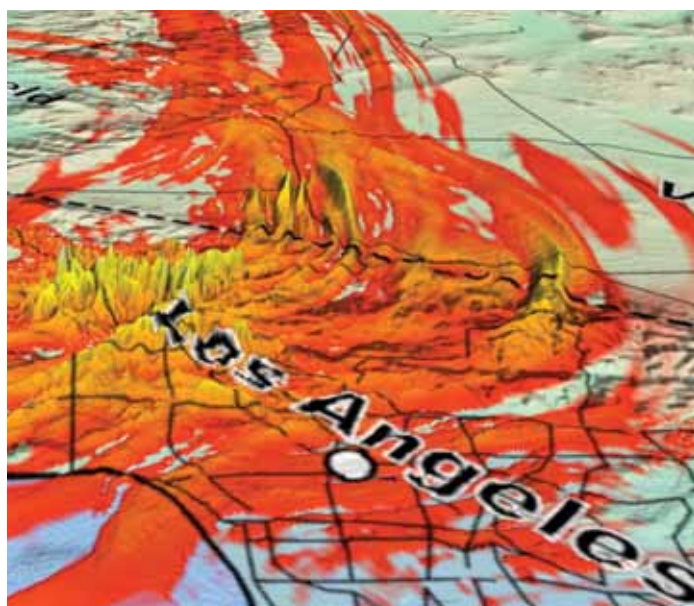
"The Palauan people are thirsty for knowledge and dedicated to their studies," said Sax. "They are truly committed to improving education and opportunity."

The commitment goes both ways. Sylvia Garcia Navarette, a newly-minted Ed.D., worked with K-12 teachers in Palau on pedagogical techniques for English language learners. "True leadership," she said, "is about what we are really doing to help others."

—Gina Jacobs

## When the “Big One” Comes

It's enough to make you shudder. Seismologists predict there is a 99 percent probability that California will experience an earthquake measuring 6.7 on the Richter scale during the next 30 years. An even larger quake—of 7.0 magnitude—is 94 percent certain.



But even those mighty temblors would pale next to “the big one,” the moniker for a magnitude 8.0 or greater quake on the San Andreas Fault.

SDSU professor and seismologist Kim Olsen has created a computer-generated model of this monster quake in order to project its capacity for destruction.

On the next episode of “SDSU Insider,” airing Sept. 22 at 12:30 p.m. on KPBS, Olsen unveils the simulation, which shows strong shaking in the San Bernardino, Ventura and Los Angeles basins. The strongest ground movements persist for about one minute in Los Angeles, but begin to subside as the waves move toward San Diego.

“San Diego is actually located in a fairly fortunate position for such an earthquake (on the San Andreas Fault),” Olsen said. “The visualization shows relatively minor, roller-coaster-like shaking that would mostly be felt in the high rises downtown.”



## Healing Hearts

SDSU's Heart Institute has made a breakthrough discovery that could one day lead to new treatments for patients who have suffered cardiac arrest.

Researchers at the institute successfully rejuvenated the damaged and aging heart tissue of older heart-failure patients with scientifically

modified stem cells using PIM-1, a protein that promotes cell survival and growth.

Cells were rejuvenated when the modified stem cells enhanced activity of an enzyme that elongates the length of telomeres. Aging and disease result when telomeres break off.

“Right now we can only offer medication, transplantation or

stem cell therapies with modest regenerative potential,” said Sadia Mohsin, a post-doctoral researcher at the institute. “But PIM-1 modification offers a significant advance for clinical treatment.”

On the next episode of “SDSU Insider,” SDSU's Mark Sussman, Ph.D., talks about new frontiers in heart research. Tune in to KPBS at 12:30 p.m. on Sept. 22.





Illustration: Tom Voss

## A Living Lab

Just in time for Balboa Park's centennial celebration of the 1915 Exposition, SDSU faculty and students have embarked on an ambitious project to help achieve environmental sustainability for the San Diego landmark.

The nonprofit Friends of Balboa Park is developing a program to optimize water use in the park by 2020. That means not only reducing water consumption, but also minimizing the impacts of water use on other natural resources in Balboa Park, such as air, energy and soil.

The Friends have assembled a team of regional experts, including SDSU faculty and staff, into a

waterwise "community of practice" to bring the plan to fruition.

"Our collaborative intends to make the park a world center for water and related energy efficiency," said Alan Sweedler, Ph.D., SDSU's environmental sciences program director. "With the university's contributions of technical expertise and student support, the park becomes a living laboratory for us."

SDSU's efforts are coordinated by Stanley Maloy, Ph.D., dean of the College of Sciences, who values the project as an opportunity for students to apply what they learn in the classroom to real problems in the community.

As the waterwise program gets under way, SDSU students guided by Matt Rahn, Ph.D., academic

advisor for the environmental sciences program, are using GIS technology to map the underground mains and valves that support Balboa Park's water infrastructure.

At the same time, Vinod Sasidharan, Ph.D., a professor and expert in sustainable tourism, will supervise students in helping the Friends develop a Center for H2O Experience. Visitors to the center will learn how to use water more wisely in their homes and communities.

"SDSU is channeling valuable expertise into the maintenance and enhancement of the park," said Laurie Broedling, the Friends' program manager and organizer of the waterwise collaborative. "Their involvement has made a big difference in our ability to move forward very quickly."



# leadership starts here



Hepner Hall, the icon of SDSU's leadership



**Leadership Starts Here is a bold statement of San Diego State's impact and commitment.**

**“Reserved”** is not a word normally associated with the San Diego State community. Nor is timid or unassertive. The SDSU mascot is the proud, independent Aztec Warrior. The university colors are red and black. At SDSU, our alumni are leaders, our faculty are innovators, our students are eager to learn and ambitious to make their mark in the world. SDSU's legacy of leadership reaches from research and discovery, to entrepreneurship and exploration, to community engagement. In this issue, *360: The Magazine of San Diego State University* features the stories of extraordinary people who demonstrate that **Leadership Starts Here.**



# Finding the Key to Health and Longevity

Greg Talavera's activist roots grew strong in the fertile soil of California's Central Valley. The youngest of three sons born to Mexican-American parents in Los Angeles, Talavera worked alongside his older brother to educate and organize farm workers.

Years later, Talavera continues to educate the economically disadvantaged as a medical doctor and public health practitioner.

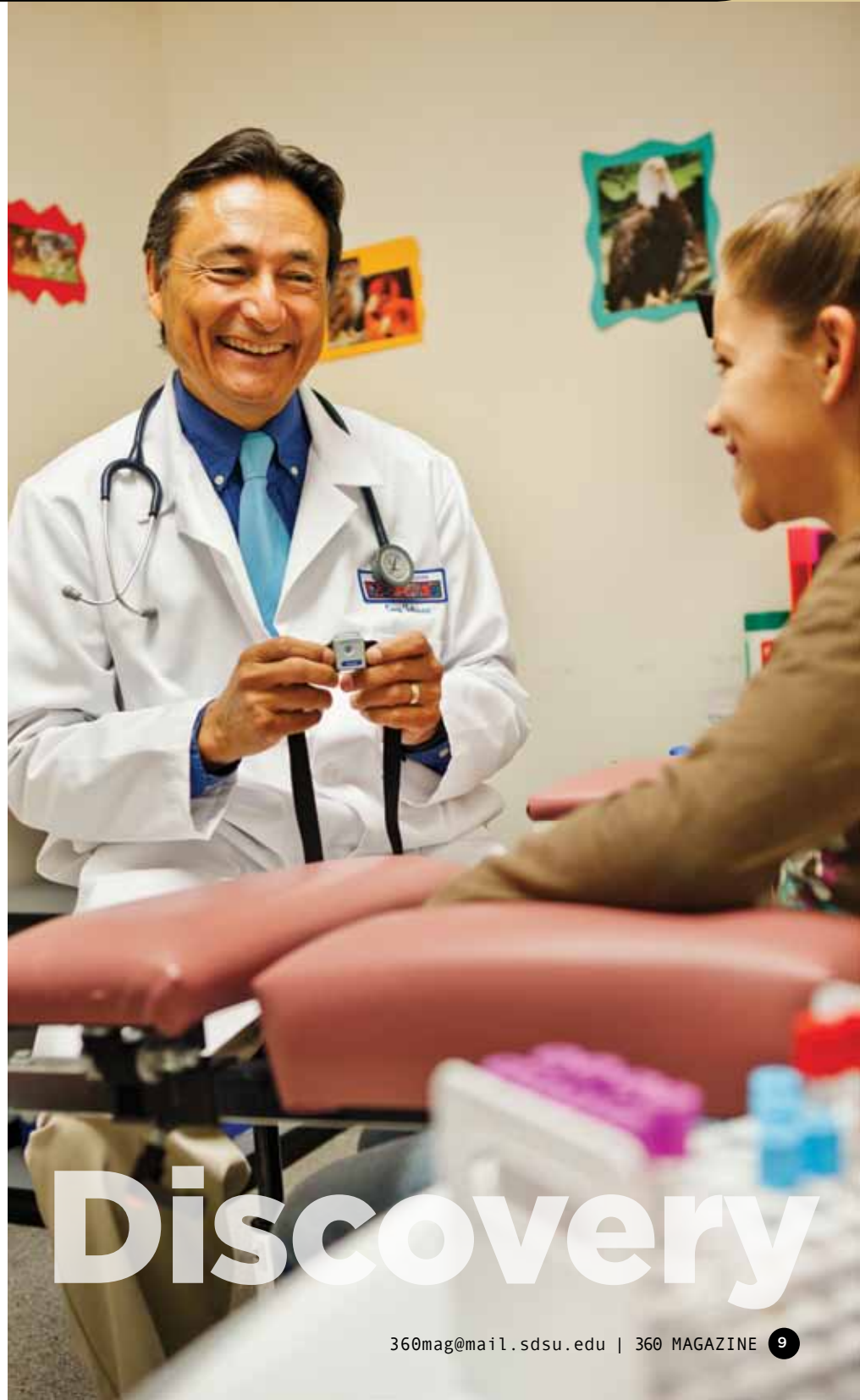
A 1991 alumnus of SDSU's Graduate School of Public Health, he is now one of the school's most prolific faculty-researchers and a member of IBACH, an SDSU center for integrated research on problems that intersect the disciplines of public health, psychology, sociology and exercise and nutritional sciences.

Talavera's research has been funded with \$13.6 million from the National Institutes of Health. Currently, his Chula Vista clinic is among four research centers selected to

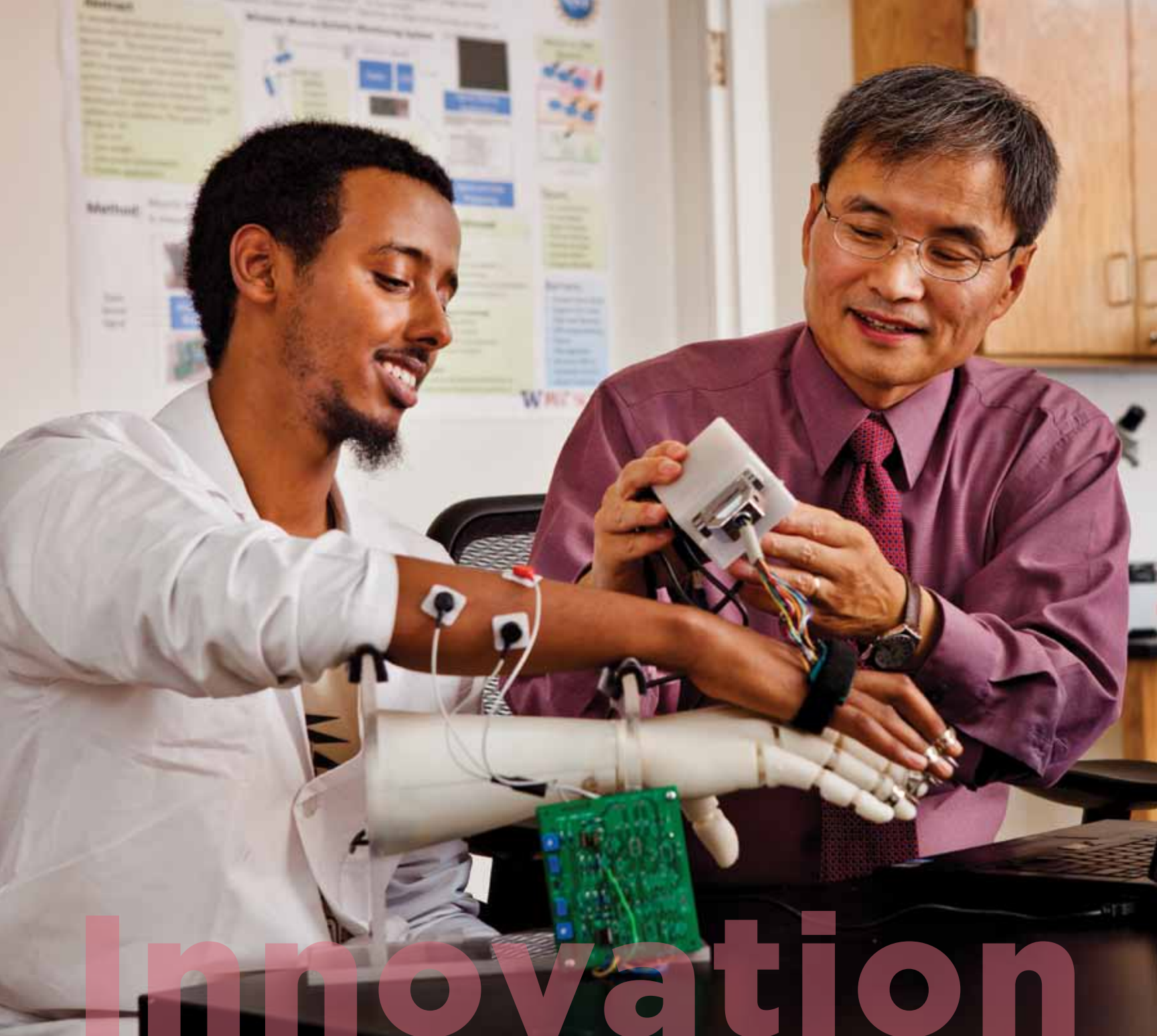
**Talavera heads up one of the largest and most comprehensive studies of Latino health.**

lead a potentially life-changing NIH study of Hispanic health. While the other participants study the Cuban, Puerto Rican and Central/South American populations, Talavera assesses the prevalence of and risk factors for chronic illness in Mexican-Americans living in San Diego County's South Bay.

"The Centers for Disease Control recently published results showing that Hispanics live longer than any other minority group in the U.S., and our study will help explain those results," Talavera said. "We hope our research will lead to a number of insights that maintain the health of this population in the coming decades."



# Discovery



# Innovation

## Mind-Body Connection

Mechanical engineering professor Kee Moon, Ph.D., leads SDSU's Engineering Research Center, where he works with students like Ahmed Abdi to perfect brain-controlled bionics. Implantable sensors will enable new-generation prosthetics to substitute for damaged or missing nerves by transmitting information between the brain and injured muscles or robotic devices. Moon also aims to revolutionize physical therapy by enabling data transmission from home-based rehabilitation devices directly to hospitals or medical clinics. Read more about his innovative work at [sdsu.edu/360](http://sdsu.edu/360)



# Solving Problems with Global Reach

In the beginning, Ramona Perez noticed the women with bowed thighs. Then she heard about the high rates of infant mortality, and of dementia in 30-to-40-year-old men and women.

Something was very wrong in the Mexican community of Oaxaca, and Perez, an anthropologist, was determined to find the answers.

She traced the health problems to alarmingly high lead concentration in traditional pottery, an important source of income for the people of Oaxaca.

Envisioning a solution, Perez asked Mexican government officials to change manufacturing standards for glazes and paints, but her appeal fell on deaf ears.

So Perez has returned to Oaxaca every summer—and taken SDSU students with her—to work with the women of the communities, creating recipes and advocating dietary changes that fight the effects of lead deposits in human bones.

**When government officials refused to act, Perez took matters into her own hands.**

She has also joined forces with Margaret Handley from UC San Francisco to establish a market for non-toxic glazed pottery and an outreach program about lead exposure in the Monterey County town of Seaside, Calif., where many Oaxacan-born immigrants have settled. This new enterprise will support Oaxacan artisans without increasing their exposure to lead.

As director of SDSU's Center for Latin American Studies, Perez brings together faculty and students in the fields of anthropology, public health, history, nutrition and public administration to find interdisciplinary solutions to social injustice and global problems.



# To the Arctic and Beyond

When the sun disappears this winter and a thick snow blanket swaddles Finland's Arctic tundra, SDSU doctoral student Kimberley Miller will be there, searching for clues to global warming.

Following three summers working at the SDSU research station in Barrow, Alaska, Miller is now in Finland on a Fulbright grant to complete her research. Her doctoral thesis, guided by David Lipson, Ph.D., examines the interaction of climate change and microbial methane cycling in Arctic wetland soils.

Certain microorganisms living in permafrost produce methane, a deadly greenhouse gas, when iron oxide is unavailable to breathe. Miller hypothesizes that where more iron is available, less methane will be produced. Working with Finnish researchers, she will extract soil samples to measure iron and methane content and compare the results with samples from Alaska.

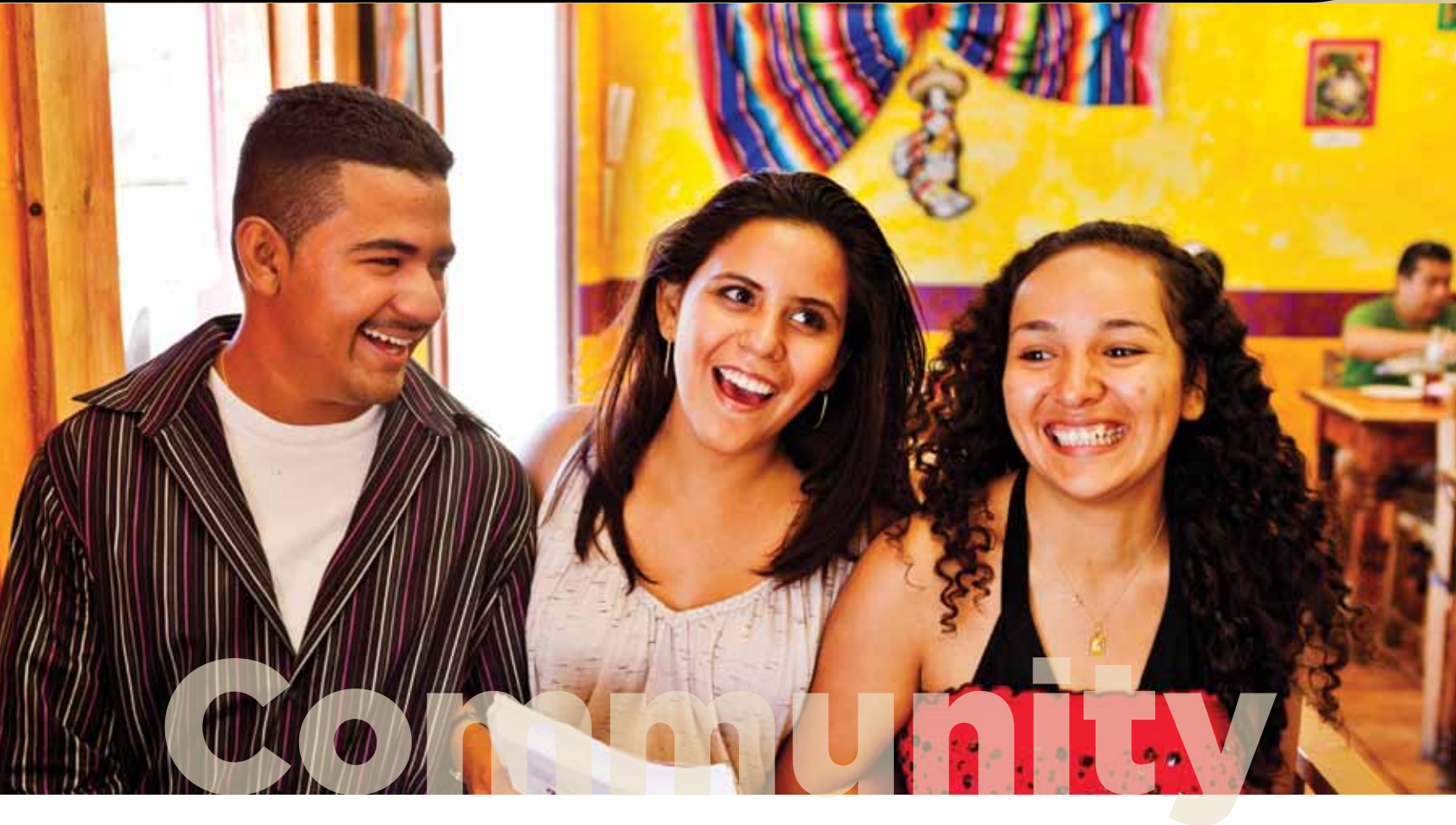
"I've never sampled through snow before," Miller said. "Most researchers don't measure during winter, but there is increasing evidence of a fair amount of biological activity in the cold."

Miller's exploration will expand knowledge of the interactions between iron and methane in wetland soils, a first step to understanding this important aspect of climate change.





# Leading the Way for Future Aztecs



For 15 high-achieving students from City Heights and the surrounding area, it is the chance of a lifetime. A new program starting this fall taps their potential for leadership as they begin their college careers.

The Price Community Scholars program, funded by a grant from the Price Family Charitable Trust, pairs up each of 15 SDSU student-mentors with three

## The Price Scholars program creates a pipeline to college.

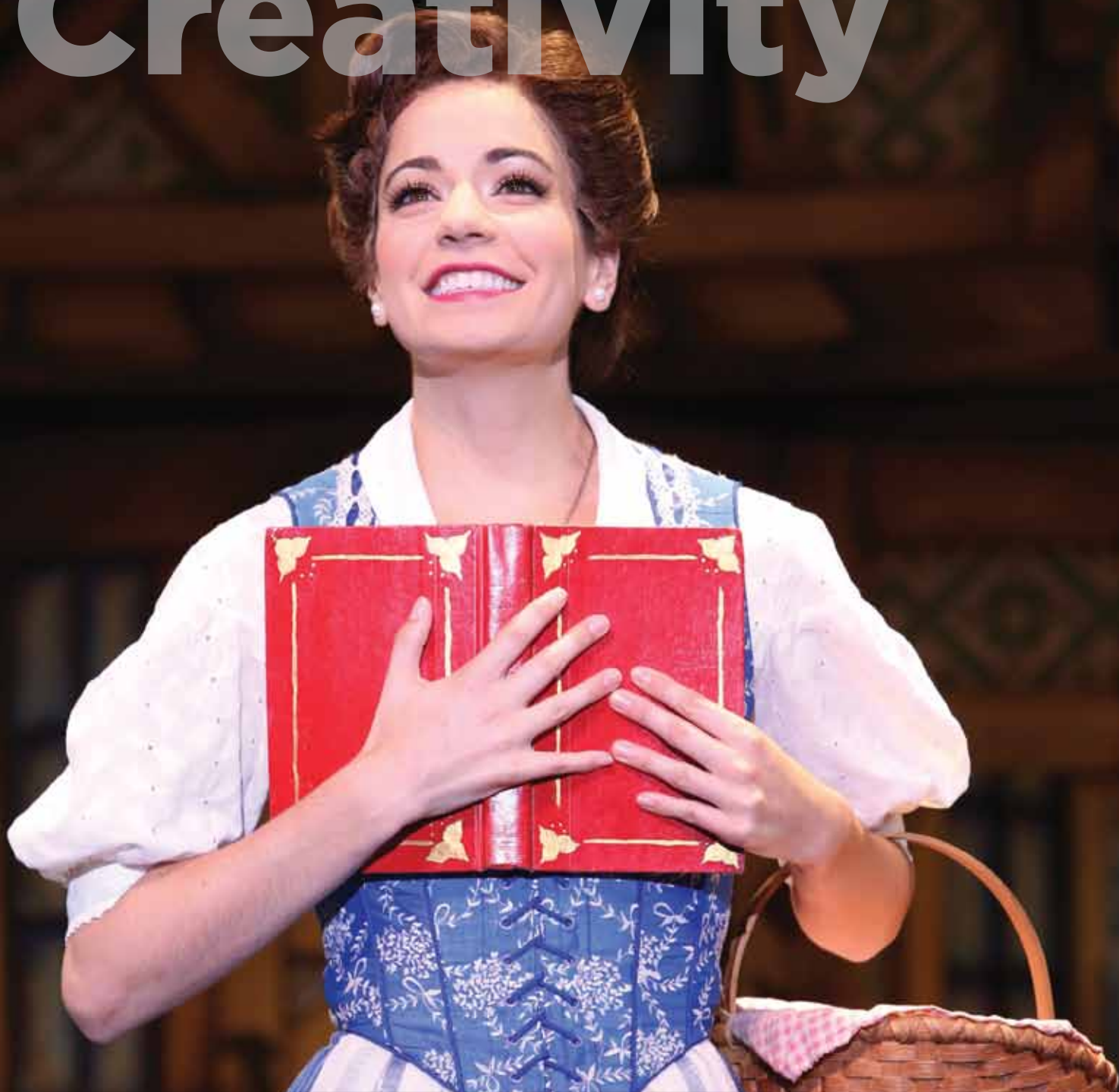
middle-school students from San Diego's City Heights neighborhood.

Roberto Carcamo, Itza Perez and Isamaria Cortes (above, from left) are part of the first cohort of SDSU's Price Scholars—first-generation college students with track records of high academic achievement and leadership activity in high school.

Each Price Community Scholar will receive an annual stipend of up to \$7,500 as they support and guide their mentees on the road to college.

"I've been lucky to have a lot of people who helped me to find my way since I was a kid," Cortes said. "It feels good to have someone who believes in you. Everybody should have that somebody."

# Creativity



## Fairytale Beginning

Barely four years after earning a music degree from SDSU, Hilary Maiberger has landed the role of a lifetime. She is cast as Belle in the NETworks touring production of Disney's "Beauty and the Beast." Playing a larger-than-life heroine is hard work, according to Maiberger, but it's also a hugely creative endeavor. "You can't be afraid to try new things, to put yourself out there," she said. Read more about Maiberger's creative talent at [sdsu.edu/360](http://sdsu.edu/360).



# Shifting Gears Toward a Greener City

Walter Rosenkranz, '09, grew up in Lafayette, Indiana, but he always had the spirit of a California native.

The San Diego transplant describes his adopted city as “innovative, forward-thinking and open to new ideas.” Much like Rosenkranz himself.

After completing a master's degree in business with an entrepreneurship focus, Rosenkranz interviewed for the position of business development manager for a car-sharing venture called car2go.

Daimler AG, the German automotive giant, had recently introduced car2go in two North American markets—Austin, Texas and Vancouver, Canada—and was eager to go even greener in San Diego with an all-electric fleet.

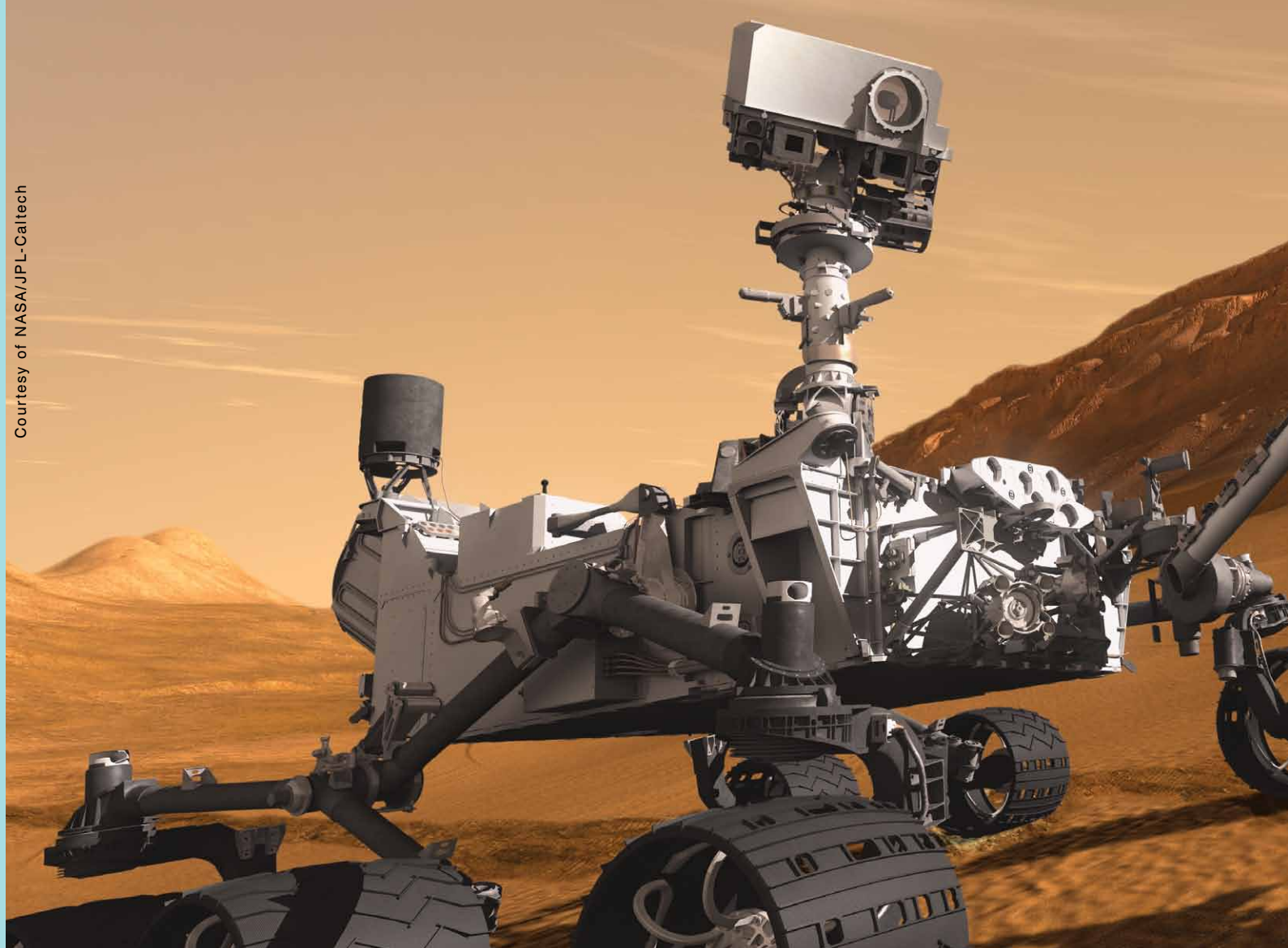
Rosenkranz wanted in. He remembered a class at SDSU led by Alex DeNoble, Ph.D., in which the students had analyzed cases of large, established companies branching out into new ventures.

Rosenkranz hired a team of like-minded managers, including fellow SDSU alumni Michael Cully and William Berry. Within

**San Diego and Amsterdam are the only cities in the world with all-electric car-sharing fleets.**

the first 100 days, car2go had more than 6,000 members booking 4,000 rentals weekly, and Aztec entrepreneurial prowess has been the driving force behind its success.





**Jordan Evans '93** knows the Mars rover Curiosity as only a parent can know a child. He has marveled at its complexity and recognized its potential. It has kept him up late into the night.

At NASA's Jet Propulsion Lab (JPL) in Pasadena, Calif., Evans spent six years of his life with the team that developed and equipped NASA's fourth and most capable Mars rover. He was deputy flight systems manager, one of two engineers responsible for every piece of equipment the rover would carry into space.

So in August, as Americans watched Curiosity's spectacularly successful arrival on the red planet—proud to be part of a country that could accomplish such a feat—Evans felt a deep personal sense of accomplishment and relief.

The tricky descent and landing had been picture perfect. In the first weeks on Mars, Curiosity flawlessly accomplished every given task—from transmitting images, to firing lasers to steering itself around the planet's dusty terrain.

“  
...the greatest  
achievement is  
not scientific but  
engineering.  
”

Which may explain why Neil deGrasse Tyson, oft-cited astrophysicist and director of the Hayden Planetarium, said the mission's “greatest achievement is not scientific but engineering.”

Don't expect any pushback to Tyson's assertion from Evans or the seven other San Diego State alumni who helped put Curiosity on Mars. Six of them have engineering degrees and the two science majors in the group also work as JPL engineers.





# Engineering the Rover

How eight SDSU alumni helped  
send Curiosity to Mars

By Coleen L. Geraghty

## A complex mission

Curiosity is the fourth Mars rover engineered by JPL and by far the most technologically advanced. Its two-year mission—to determine whether the red planet is, or ever has been, habitable to microbial life—was fraught with challenges, including the notorious landing sequence employing a giant parachute, a rocket-controlled descent vehicle and a bungee-like apparatus JPL called a sky crane.

“People understood the operation was iffy,” said Mark Ryne ’80, an orbit determination analyst with the navigation team. “Even if we do everything right, a rock can tip it over. In our work, there are either spectacular successes or spectacular failures. If it’s a failure, they bring in grief counselors. It’s like losing a child.”

Amanda Thomas ’97 remembers watching one of NASA’s failures on a black-and-white TV in her native Grenada. The Challenger space shuttle broke apart just after take-off, killing all seven crew members. Despite the tragedy,

Thomas was inspired. When her family later moved to Pasadena, she began imagining a career with JPL, just up the hill from her new home.

Today Thomas is a supervisor at the Deep Space Network Goldstone complex in the Mojave Desert, which provides a vital communications link between JPL and Curiosity. Part of the job, she said, is to wake Curiosity, establish a command link, collect its data and put it to sleep.

## Laid-back feel

Located in the hills above the California Institute of Technology, JPL has the laid-back feel of a college campus. It is the only facility outsourced by NASA, and under the terms of the contract, all 5,000 staff are Caltech employees.

Doug Clark ’85 is the Curiosity mission veteran among the SDSU alumni. Seven years ago, he helped develop the interface between Curiosity’s science instruments and its electronics. Clark’s work enables the rover to complete its





Aztecs inside the Mars testbed are (from left) Doug Clark, Joey Brown, Jordan Evans, Brandon Florow, Amanda Thomas, Bonnie Theberge.



## Curiosity is the most technologically advanced rover ever deployed.

assignments and transmit data back to the Mars Science Lab in Pasadena. Since childhood, space exploration has fascinated him.

"I was in middle school when Viking landed on Mars," Clark recalled. "Then came the Voyager grand tour (of Jupiter and Saturn). JPL was recruiting on the SDSU campus in my senior year, and I wasn't going to turn them down."

Clark joined the Curiosity team in 2005, the year Joey Brown and Brandon Florow graduated from SDSU. Brown and Florow had attracted some media attention, while still on campus, as engineers of an experimental liquid rocket, and the experience gave them a unique advantage.

"No other university was building a liquid rocket at that time," Brown said. "When I showed that work to the people here at JPL, they were impressed."

### **Dream jobs**

Bonnie Theberge '86 also joined JPL straight from SDSU, and is now supervisor of the Mars Science Lab Test Bed team. Her group assembled a life-sized, nearly exact replica of Curiosity and tested it "to get the bugs out" before the rover was launched last November. Tests continue on a daily basis before Curiosity undertakes each of its scientific tasks.

Theberge, whose parents are also SDSU alumni, calls her role at JPL a dream job, and understands why Americans are intrigued with the red planet.

"I think it has to do with Mars being the closest planet and the one people might actually visit someday," she said. "My husband and teenage children watched the landing with me. To see their excitement brought tears to my eyes."

Florow also admits to tearing up at Curiosity's arrival in the Martian atmosphere.

The rover's entry, descent and landing came to be known as the "seven minutes of terror" because of the brief time window available to slow the rover from 13,000 miles per hour to zero and winch it to the surface from a hovering rocket stage. The operation was so perfectly executed that JPL officials later renamed it "seven minutes of triumph."

"To be working on something for six years and have that kind of perfect outcome," Florow paused, "...it means we did our jobs. And now I can say that something I touched is on the surface of Mars."

This summer, as Curiosity took its place in the annals of U.S. space history, eight SDSU alumni became national heroes for their part in nudging humanity just a little farther out along the final frontier.





# The President's Leadership Fund

## San Diego State University



*Gifts to the President's Leadership Fund ensure that SDSU's president has the resources to launch innovative new ventures and advance student and faculty success by:*

- Attracting the best and brightest students to SDSU
- Supporting life-changing research
- Creating academic programs of distinction
- Benefiting our community

*To become a member of the President's Leadership Fund and support excellence at SDSU, please contact Christina Kawai at 619-594-0771 or [ckawai@mail.sdsu.edu](mailto:ckawai@mail.sdsu.edu)*

### CONTACT US

THE PRESIDENT'S LEADERSHIP FUND  
SAN DIEGO STATE UNIVERSITY

5500 CAMPANILE DRIVE, SAN DIEGO, CA 92182-4400

PLF@SDSU.EDU • P: 619-594-0771 • F: 619-594-6409



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*Leadership Starts Here*

# Every Aztec, Every Year: Give to SDSU

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By making a gift of any amount to The Campaign for SDSU, you become an architect of our future and a role model for current students at a crucial time in our history.

The Campaign for SDSU will take the university to even greater national distinction. We need the support of every alumnus. It's a promise well worth keeping.



# Aztecs in Motion





# Ring of Fire. Oceanside recruits ignite Aztec gridiron squad.

“Explosive.”

That’s the word that came to J. J. Whittaker’s mind when he first met fellow Aztec defensive back King Holder at football practice.

Whittaker knew he’d overthrown a pass, but that didn’t stop Holder, his receiver, from turning on the speed, nabbing the ball, and scoring a touchdown.

It’s been almost a decade since that first impression. Whittaker and Holder, along with Aztec linebacker Jake Fely and defensive back Rene Siluano, met as 12- and 13-year-olds playing for the Oceanside Pop Warner football program.

Moving on to Oceanside High School, they became fast friends with teammates Osmond Nicholas, now an Aztec wide receiver, and SDSU defensive lineman Kenny Galea’i.

While always striving to discover top players nationwide, SDSU Athletics recruiters never lose sight of the talent in their own backyard, and they’ve come to expect especially great potential from Oceanside.

“They’ve been a powerhouse, and they have a great coach in John Carroll,” said Aztec head coach Rocky Long. “These players have a real impact on our season because they came to us with a love of the game and solid fundamentals.”

As most San Diego Chargers fans know, Oceanside High is famous not only for its impressive record of undefeated seasons and state titles, but also as the training ground of legendary Charger linebacker Junior Seau. The NFL great, who died May 2 of a self-inflicted gunshot wound, was a mentor to Siluano, with whom he shared a Samoan heritage. Seau’s nephew Micah is now a freshman linebacker for the Aztecs.

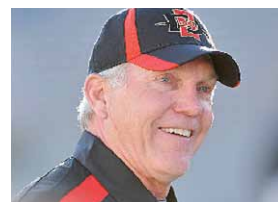
The six Oceanside “Pirates” currently represented on the SDSU football roster make up the largest block of players from any single high school. Combining their proven strengths, they hope to forge a formidable Aztec legacy.

Their goal this season: to win the Mountain West Championship before SDSU moves into the Big East Conference next year.

“The way we’re working,” Fely says, “we’re going to get that championship.”

Read more about the Oceanside Six at [sdsu.edu/360](https://sdsu.edu/360)

—Jennifer Coburn



Clockwise from top right:  
King Holder, Osmond Nicholas, Jake  
Fely, Rene Siluano, J.J. Whittaker.  
Kenny Galea’i is not pictured.

Photo: Ernie Anderson

• The CAMPAIGN for •





*The Campaign for SDSU—the first university-wide fundraising campaign—has raised nearly \$340 million toward its \$500 million goal. Riding a wave of momentum from the public launch of the campaign last September, SDSU raised \$71.5 million in 2011-2012, an average of \$1.375 million per week.*

## Changing the Face of SDSU

### Named Buildings and Centers

1. 2007 Alan and Debbie Gold Auditorium for the Life Sciences
2. 2007 Sharp HealthCare Human Patient Simulation Center
3. 2009 Allan Bailey Library
4. 2009 Charles W. Lamden School of Accountancy
5. 2009 J. Willard and Alice S. Marriott Foundation Student Center for Professional Development
6. 2009 Parma Payne Goodall Alumni Center
7. 2009 Susan K. Weber Conference Room
8. 2010 Corky McMillin Center for Real Estate
9. 2010 J. R. Filanc Construction Engineering & Management Program
10. 2010 L. Robert Payne School of Hospitality & Tourism Management
11. 2011 Donald P. Shiley BioScience Center
12. 2011 Fowler Athletics Center
13. 2011 Joan and Art Barron Veterans Center
14. 2011 Joan and Irwin Jacobs KPBS News Center
15. 2011 Michael and Christine Pack International Business Suite
16. 2012 Cymer Advanced Physics Lab
17. 2012 Leonard H. Lavin Entrepreneurial Management Center
18. 2012 Wells Fargo Financial Markets Laboratory
19. 2012 Zahn Center for Innovation and Engineering
20. 2012 Charles W. Hostler Building

### Naming Opportunities

Basketball practice facility  
Center for Film Excellence  
Center for Latin American Studies  
College of Business Administration  
College of Business incubator  
Construction & Engineering Management Research Institute  
Geology, Math, Computer Science Building  
School of Public Affairs

"We have accomplished a lot during these first five years of The Campaign for SDSU," said Kit Sickels, chairman of The Campanile Foundation's Board of Trustees. "We are grateful for the commitments from so many people to support San Diego State."

The map tells the story of how private support has changed the face of the campus. Red indicates that all or part of the building was named through a gift since the beginning of The Campaign for SDSU. The key at left identifies each named building, center or institute and lists other naming opportunities of the highest priority for SDSU's future as a leading research university.

Since 2007, more than 38,000 donors to the campaign have helped transform the physical appearance of the campus and enhance the academic experience for SDSU students.

- The campaign raised \$153 million for academic programs and the university library as of May 31.
- Gifts to support faculty total \$95 million.
- Donors have pledged \$41 million to Fuel Potential, the campaign's scholarship initiative. A new effort focuses on scholarships for the "best and brightest" local students.
- The physical campus has changed with the buildout of the Donald P. Shiley BioScience Center, construction of the Parma Payne Goodall Alumni Center, and remodeling at the Joan and Irwin Jacobs KPBS News Center.
- Donors have supported SDSU with more than 50 gifts of \$1 million and above.

SDSU President Elliot Hirshman said The Campaign for SDSU helps build the university's long-term path to success by creating financial stability; fueling student success, research and other SDSU strengths; and energizing our alumni network.

"The \$500 million is a bold goal, but this campaign is about more than dollars," Hirshman said. "It is about the academic excellence, life-changing research, community engagement and innovative spirit that define a leading public university."

To view a more detailed version of the map and learn more about how you can join The Campaign for SDSU, visit [sdsu.edu/campaignmap](http://sdsu.edu/campaignmap)

# Giving Back

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## Supporting a MASTERPIECE

San Diegans have taken the lead in preserving a national treasure that has entertained America for more than 40 years.

Local philanthropists Conrad Prebys and Donald and Darlene Shiley were among the first to support the MASTERPIECE Trust, created in 2011 to ensure the future of the PBS prime time drama, MASTERPIECE. The Shileys made a \$1 million contribution in March, and Prebys gave \$500,000 in April.

Half of all donations to the MASTERPIECE Trust go to support the donors' local public television station—in this case KPBS.

KPBS has been a part of San Diego State University since the station's inception in 1960. Originally known as KEBS, the radio station was a student-run operation housed in the Speech Arts building.

Today, with its headquarters near the southeast corner of campus, KPBS is one of the nation's most award-winning public broadcast stations and a partner in The Campaign for SDSU, the university's \$500 million fundraising initiative.

"San Diego State and KPBS share a commitment to educating citizens and initiating discussion about the important issues of our time," said Tom Karlo, KPBS general manager.

Many of KPBS' most generous supporters have made additional contributions to The Campaign for SDSU, including the Shileys, the Price Family, Joan and Irwin Jacobs and Union Bank.

MASTERPIECE debuted in 1971, and was hosted for 22 years by the British-born journalist Alistair Cooke. Among the iconic actors featured over the decades were Sir John Gielgud, Glenda Jackson and Dame Diana Rigg.

In 2012, MASTERPIECE earned 37 Emmy Award nominations from the Academy of Televisions Arts and Sciences, the majority for two new series, "Downton Abbey" and "Sherlock."

Darlene Shiley, a frequent contributor to the arts, said the ability to support the MASTERPIECE Trust and KPBS simultaneously "is the best example of collaboration I know. That others are joining in the effort gives me hope that appreciation of the arts and culture will remain strong in our society."





## About San Diego State...



By Ken Kramer

Robert Fikes brought them out to show me. Treating each fragile sheet of paper like the treasure it was, he gently, reverently, beheld the words: “The Fifth Army is on the move, and that doesn’t leave much time for writing.”

Within 48 hours of penning those words in 1945, 1st Lt. Russell Newbury, a tackle for the San Diego State football team, was killed in action. There are dozens of such letters from former Aztecs, written 70 years ago in wartime circumstances we can only imagine, and sent to their beloved geography professor and football coach, Dr. Lauren Post.

Eight days before he died in battle in Germany, Army PFC Robert Alber wrote that he was “dreaming of the swell days I had at State.” Army paratrooper Herman Addelson, who sold Cokes at San Diego State basketball games, remembered leaving New York Harbor on a troop ship. “Tough guys had tears in their eyes,” he wrote. Pvt. Addelson would die at Normandy on D-Day.

Post knew the letters he was receiving were an important link between military Aztecs and the home front. He created a newsletter and, careful not to reveal any strategic information, he published the soldiers’ reflections. Nothing else like it was done on any campus, anywhere, during World War II.

For Fikes, an SDSU librarian, the letters became part of a research project documenting the lives of all the Aztecs who gave their lives in service. Titled “Supreme Sacrifice, Extraordinary Service: Profiles of SDSU Military Alumni,” the book puts a human face to names on SDSU’s War Memorial, and in the process, underscores the poignancy of those precious letters to Dr. Post.



Many who died were well-known friends on what was then a smaller campus—Atwell “Milky” Phelps, captain of San Diego State’s NAIA National Champion basketball team, killed in a Navy aerial training accident; and Navy Lt. Samuel J. Patella, a track and basketball star adored by his classmates.

In their letters to Dr. Post, the soldiers showed the same kind of affection for their school as Lt. Alan Thomas, who longed for “the day when we will emerge from our foxholes and return to our sunny homeland and State’s beloved campus.”

Thomas never returned home. He died on the island of Cebu in the Philippines.

## Alumni Association Board of Advisors 2012 - 2013

### EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

**President:** Bill Earley '86

**Immediate Past President:** Jeff Marston '77

**President Elect:** Tim Young '91

**Vice President for Membership, Marketing, Communications and Alumni Engagement:** Joe Farrage '89

**Vice President for Finance and Revenue**

**Enhancement:** Elsa Romero '84

**Members At Large:** Perette Godwin '86, Katie Hanson '03

**Liaison to The Campanile Foundation:** Sherrill Amador '64

**Liaison to Athletics:** Marlene Ruiz '75, '79

**Executive Director:** Jim Herrick

**Associate Director:** Tammy Blackburn '94, '01

**Secretary:** Kelley Suminski

#### Other Elected Advisors:

Stephanie Dathe '95; Ernest Dronenburg, Jr. '66; Alan Dulgeroff '92; Deanna Encarnacion '90; Aimee Faucett '96; Robert Garvin '76, '81; Aron Getty '95; Dan Guevara '70; Ryane Hughes '02, '05; Tom Karlo '75; Matt Keipper '08; Ken Kramer '74; Kathleen Lang '05, '07; Steve Nelson '96; James Newland '88, '92; Janine Pairis '01; Barbara Powels Bowen '05; Katie Rogow '90; Deanna Shoop '97, '05; Peggy Stephenson '84; Todd Vitale '86; Kirk Walwick '81

#### Past Presidents: (\* denotes deceased)

2012 Jeff Marston; 2011 Sherrill Amador; 2010 Brig Kline; 2009 Adrienne Finley; 2008 Bill Trumpfheller; 2007 Chuck Luby; 2006 Erica Opstad; 2005 Bruce Ives; 2004 Jerry Dressel; 2003 Matt Dathe; 2002 Tamara McLeod; 2001 Bill Trumpfheller; 2000 Ash Hayes; 1999 John McMullen; 1998 Richard West; 1997 Frederick W. Pierce IV; 1996 Lois Bruhn; 1995 Tom Jimenez; 1994 Nancy Reed Gibson; 1993 Jerry Dressel; 1992 Walter Turner Jr.; 1991 James B. Kuhn; 1990 Art Flaming; 1989 Bernard P. Rhinerson; 1988 Craig Evanco; 1987 David E. DeVol; 1986 Dr. Morton Jorgensen; 1985 Denise Carabet; 1984 Robert Chapman; 1983 William Hastings; 1982 Thomas Carter\*; 1981 Walter Weisman; 1980 Don Harrington; 1979 Nicole Clay; 1978 Daniel Bamberg; 1977 Allan Bailey\*; 1976 Richard Troncone; 1975 & 1974 Robert Battenfield; 1973 Robert Butler; 1972 Robert Scott; 1971 James H. Ashcraft; 1970 A. Kendall Wood; 1969 Michael Rogers; 1968 Gerald S. Davee; 1967 Dr. Louis Robinson\*; 1966 Daniel Hale\*; 1964 Wallace Featheringill; 1963 Ed Blessing; 1962 Hon. Frank Nottbusch, Jr.\*; 1961 Bryant Kearney\*; 1960 & 1959 Lynn McLean\*; 1958 Harvey Urban\*; 1957 Ken Barnes\*; 1956 Grant Nielsen\*; 1955 Muriel Tierney\*; 1954 Dwain Kantor\*; 1953 Fred Whitney\*; 1952 William S. Miller\*; 1951 Hon. Richard Ault\*; 1950 Gordon Wiggins\*; 1949 Hon. Byron Lindsley\*; 1948 Joe Suozzo\*; 1947 Robert Breitbard\*; 1946 Jean Self\*; 1945 Barney Carman\*; 1941 William Lyons\*; 1940 Sue Earnest\*; 1939 Bert McLees, Jr.\*; 1938 Donald Clarkson\*; 1937 Robert Barbour\*; 1936 Jefferson Stickney\*; 1935 Terence Geddis\*; 1934 Richmond Barbour\*; 1933 Helen C. Clark\*; 1932 Earl Andreen\*; 1931 Vesta Muehleisen\*

#### Non-elected Advisors:

President, Elliot Hirshman; Vice President University Relations and Development, Mary Ruth Carleton; Senate Representative, Bill Eadie; A.S. President, Rob O'Keefe; Aztec Athletics, Mandy McKinley

### STAFF

**Executive Director:** Jim Herrick

**Associate Director:** Tammy Blackburn '94, '01

**Parma Payne Goodall Alumni Center**

**Facility Manager:** Mike Sweet '93;

**Assistant Manager:** Mike Lopez '09

**Administrative Assistant:** Donna Buttner '91

**Membership & Marketing Coordinator:**

Kelley Suminski

**Alumni Chapter Coordinator:** Diane Barragan

**Program Coordinator:** Jen Ranallo

**Communications Specialist:** Tobin Vaughn

**Analyst/Programmer:** Ed Tuley

**Data Control Technician:** Robin Breen Rust

**Membership and Marketing Assistants:**

Robyn Guzman '10; Bryan Walker '11

# Class Notes

1930s 1940s 1950s 1960s 1970s 1980s 1990s 2000s

## 1950s

'59 **Dan Dierdorff** (finance) was inducted into the National Wrestling Hall of Fame, California chapter, and into the San Diego Hall of Champions for his 50 years of officiating.

## 1960s

'60 **The Hon. Victor Bianchini** ★ (political science), a U.S. District Court judge in Buffalo, N.Y., won the National Fencing Championship in his age division (70-79) and represented the U.S. at the World Championships in Krems, Austria.

'66 **Ernest J. Dronenburg Jr.** ★ (finance) received the Los Angeles County Bar Association's 2012 award for excellence by a government official. He is San Diego County Assessor/Recorder/Clerk.

## 1970s

'70 **Ralph Dudgeon** (music education; '72 M.A., trumpet performance), professor emeritus of music at SUNY Cortland, retired after 27 years; **Patricia Mensch** (accounting), head of the CPA firm Mensch and Associates, has joined forces with Macias Gini & O'Connell LLP.

'71 **David Koenigshofer** (mechanical engineering) joined the Chapel Hill, N.C., office of Dewberry. He will manage projects in western North Carolina.

'76 **David Down** ★ (accounting) celebrated his 35th anniversary with KPMG's San Diego office and his 17th year as managing partner.

'78 **Ron Yukelson** ★ (journalism) associate administrator, business development, at Sierra Vista Regional Medical Center, was inducted into the California State University, Northridge Athletic Hall of Fame.

'79 **Kathleen Kennedy** (television, film and new media), was named co-chair of Lucasfilm, positioning her to take over the studio that is home to the "Star Wars" films as its founder, George Lucas, prepares to retire. She received an honorary doctor of fine arts degree from SDSU in 2004.

## 1980s

'80 **Jeff Figler** (M.A. sociology) published "Collecting for Beginners." He and his wife own the Figler Foundation and Museum in Poway.

'84 **Mickey Brown** ★ (electrical engineering) is chief of the Capabilities Integration Division within the Plans and Programming Directorate at the Headquarters Air Force Test Center at Edwards Air Force Base; **Frederick Pierce** ★ (finance; '88 M.B.A./real estate) is the Ernst & Young 2012 Entrepreneur of the Year in real estate and construction.

'86 **Lycia Coble Sibilla** (accounting) is a program officer in the Family Liaison Office of the U.S. Department of State. She has also worked in the National Security Office of the U.S. Vice President.

'87 **Lalo Alcaraz** (art) is the 2012 Revolucionario Award Winner in the New Americano category; **Christopher Carlyle** (political science), attorney for the Carlyle Appellate Law Firm, accepted the Brevard County (Fla.) Legal Aid Inc.'s Appellate Law Award on behalf of his firm; **Kathy Drucquer Duff** ★ (recreation administration) is associate vice president for University Development at UC San Diego; **Marisue Fasick** (finance) joined Trustmark Companies as vice president in the Information Technology Enterprise Project Management Office.

'88 **Stephen Donell** (real estate), president of FedReceiver, was re-elected 2012 co-president of the Los Angeles/Orange County Chapter of the California Receivers Forum; **Tom Gildred** (accounting)

Please send your news to the SDSU Alumni Association,

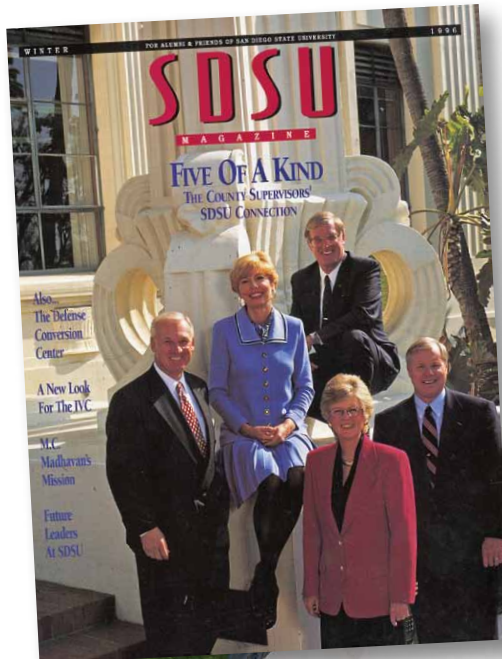
5500 Campanile Dr., San Diego, CA 92182-1690 or [aluminfo@mail.sdsu.edu](mailto:aluminfo@mail.sdsu.edu).

★ = annual member; ★ = life member



## Past is Present

It has been called the end of a dynasty in San Diego. When Pam Slater-Price steps down early in 2013, the San Diego County Board of Supervisors will see a change in its ranks for the first time in 18 years.



In advance of that change, we asked the supervisors—all SDSU alumni—to help recreate the cover photo of a 1996 SDSU Magazine issue that featured them as “Five of a Kind.”

Here, for one of their last official portraits together, are Aztecs Ron Roberts '65, Pam Slater-Price '70, Dianne Jacob '61, Greg Cox '70 and Bill Horn '66.



Photo: David Friend

### 1980s

is the Ernst & Young 2012 Entrepreneur of the Year in the Emerging category; **Jackie Hanten Bouchard** (accounting) published the humorous fictional novel, “What the Dog Ate.”

### 1990s

'93 **Matthew Liao-Troth, Ph.D.**, (real estate) is interim provost at Georgia College. Previously, he was dean of its J. Whitney Bunting College of Business; **Paul Zimmer** (M.B.A./real estate) was elected president of the San Diego Chapter of the California Society of Certified Public Accountants.

'94 **Michelle Bowen** (English; 2000 M.F.A., creative writing) is CEO and founder of Red Piggy Press, which released a new book app for children whose parents travel frequently or are stationed away from home; **Joseph King** (finance/real estate), employed with Madison Partners, was a broker of the year in Los Angeles for 2011.

'96 **John Bradley** (finance) joined the Irvine, Calif., office of Troutman Sanders LLP.

'97 **Angie Mendoza** (nursing) is a clinical informatics specialist at Sharp Grossmont Hospital and recently became a certified professional in health information management systems.

### 2000s

'03 **Patty Vitale** (M.P.H. epidemiology), assistant professor of pediatrics and emergency medicine at Cooper University Hospital, Camden, N.J., co-authored “Population Based Nursing: Concepts and competencies for advanced practice,” released by Springer Publishing.

'04 **Sarah Frankel** (speech communication) joined the Garden City Group Inc., in New York as business development specialist for corporate restructuring services.

'06 **Jeremy Davis** (criminal justice) was sworn in as an attorney in California by his father, Judge John Davis.

'09 **Iris Caffin** ('11 M.A., television, film and new media) won the 2012 Lorean Arbus Focus on Disability Scholarship from the College Television Awards. She is an associate producer for the History Channel's “Swamp People.”

**Steven Beitashour** (communication) was named to the Major League Soccer All-Star Game roster for 2012. He plays for the San Jose Earthquakes.



# The 2012 Faculty Monty Award Winners

Each year, the San Diego State University Alumni Association honors one outstanding faculty member from each of the university's colleges. The 2012 Awards for Outstanding Faculty Contributions to the university, affectionately known as the Montys, were presented at the All-University Convocation in August.

## College of Arts and Letters • Stuart Aitken, Ph.D.

Stuart Aitken is an internationally recognized critical human geographer and chair of the geography department at SDSU. His vision and drive resulted in the creation of the Center for Interdisciplinary Studies of Youth and Space. He was invited to present the keynote address at the 3rd International Children's Geographies Conference in Singapore this year.

## College of Business Administration • Donald Sciglimpaglia, Ph.D.

During three decades of teaching at SDSU, Donald Sciglimpaglia has played a major role in developing the MBA Consulting Program, the Small Business Consulting Center and the SIFE chapter on campus. His career is distinguished by nationally recognized research and outstanding work as a teacher/scholar model in the marketing department.

## College of Education • Cynthia Park, Ph.D.

Cynthia Park is director of the Pre-College Institute, which oversees GEAR UP and Pathways Student Support Services. She has been awarded more than \$10 million in grants for enhancing literacy, math and science skills, and her work has helped the college respond to the academic needs of low-income 7th-to 12th-grade students.

## College of Engineering • Asfaw Beyene, Ph. D.

Asfaw Beyene has been awarded funding from numerous federal agencies, and his proposed concept of a morphing wind turbine has been enthusiastically received by an international audience. He has initiated academic exchanges between SDSU and universities in Norway and Italy, while also serving in the University Senate since 2010.

## College of Health and Human Services • Jessica Barlow, Ph.D.

Jessica Barlow is a nationally recognized researcher whose work on behalf of children and those with language disorders has been supported by the National Institutes of Health. She is a graduate advisor to the master's program in speech-language pathology and a faculty member with the SDSU/UCSD joint doctoral program in language and communication disorders.

## College of Professional Studies and Fine Arts • Brian Spitzberg, Ph.D.

Brian Spitzberg is an outstanding scholar and teacher in SDSU's School of Communication. His expertise in technology includes developing a number of mechanisms to measure learning, including a computerized system called IMPACCT, currently in use at several universities. He also serves as chair of the Senate's Faculty Honors and Awards Committee.

## College of Sciences • Vanessa Malcarne, Ph.D.

Vanessa Malcarne, internationally recognized for her work on chronic diseases, played a key role in developing the SDSU/UCSD joint doctoral program in clinical psychology. She has created a number of psychometrically sound instruments that are frequently cited and used in literature. In 2011, she received the Outstanding Education and Training Award from the American Psychological Oncology Society.



## *In Memoriam*

**1937:** Lois Linkletter; **1938:** Robert Conyers; **1939:** Robert Rapp; **1940:** Marilyn Thompson; **1941:** Henry Wiegand, Mildred Jacobs, Vaida Helland; **1942:** Robert Cozens; **1943:** The Hon. Earl Cantos, Keith Dixon, Joseph Rogers; **1947:** George T. Forbes Jr., Marilyn Lepore, Carleton Shaw; **1948:** Noma Brown, Joseph Hoyle, Charmon Lehw; **1949:** Mary Babick, William Davies, Shirley Kovac, Edward Nicholson, Carmen Roberts, Virginia Warner; **1950:** Donald Albaugh, Joan Clapp, Harvey Goerlitz, Margaret Govea, Adare McAllister, Lloyd McClain, Cathleen Sable; **1951:** Frederick C. Conrad Jr., Sylvia Luce Heitzmann, George Lacombe, Paul Querin, Jay Scott; **1952:** James Boyd, John Dall, Alan Fulcher, James Hardin, Charles Hill, Norman Vetter; **1953:** Jeremy Evans, Carillou Hurlbut, Elizabeth Moore, Dorothy Uehling; **1954:** Jo Ann Keplinger, James Spears, George Swanson; **1955:** Shirley Collamer, Roger Gainor; **1956:** John Halvorsen; **1957:** William Biebusch, Lawrence Hardacre; **1958:** David Kenney, James Lanham; **1959:** Gene Hastings; **1960:** Arthur R. Barron, George F. Yackey Jr.; **1961:** Donald Ebbert, Nathan Lipscomb, Robert Parker; **1962:** Ronald Fuller, John Gallo, Jack Hagler, Dennis Kinnaird, Sydney Shank, Ellen Tyler, Barbara Wilson; **1964:** Margaret Balciunas, Milan Dimich, Raymond Griebel, Fred U. Hammett Jr., Michael Jenkins, Julian Johnson, Robert Mullin, Elon Place; **1965:** David Sykes; **1966:** Nancy Amstadt, Clare McKanna, Ph.D., Marjorie Peet; **1967:** Gary Kivett; **1968:** Howard Benedict, Lady Davis, Stephen Lunceford; **1969:** Waldo Boyd, L.K. Byrom, Tom Goad, Ph.D., Bruce Hosfeld, George Romero, Minor Umberger; **1970:** Marion Alberty, Dean Birdsong, Thomas Dutton, Martin Hoffmann, Raymond Perrault; **1971:** William Andersen, Jesus Cota, William Daiber, Gunder Morken, Gary Plantz, Alfred Velasco, Ph.D.; **1972:** Michael Alexander, Lon Christensen, Rev. Minoru Fukuda, Tato Pauu; **1973:** Margaret Myers, Michael Sgobba; **1974:** Richard Alf, Maxine Dower, Glenda Drown, Helen Franklin, Ph.D., Robert Gottschalk, Bobbie Payton, Joseph Venegas; **1975:** Eileen Baier, Ann Daniels, Barbara Della-Rose Bjorkquist, Mark Garcia, D. Michael Gallon, Paul Jorgensen, Kristine Madden, Gerald Schad, Timothy Sievers, James Weir; **1976:** Lawrence Hermansen, Eleanor Mang, David Peck, Thomas White; **1977:** Jeffrey Graham, Ph.D., Sharone Lee; **1978:** Victoria Cavazos, Michael Farmer, Janet Hills, Margaret Jacobs, Marie Jo LaVack, Paul Matthews, Janice Minor, Mark Pedley, Mark Petix, Britt Scholz, Dolores Thompson, Yvonne Vandam, Karl Walter; **1979:** Juan Huerta, Curt Noland; **1980:** Shirley Alpert, Rose Wilhelm; **1981:** Daniel Bideaux, Joseph King, USMC Ret., Lyn Olsson, Carlos A. Richardson Jr., Melissa Wolf; **1982:** Robert Batten, John Bellinghiele, Gregory Entizne, Theodore Herrmann, Mary Martinez, Dale May, Maurice Oates, Ellen Sturtevant; **1983:** Estela Delgado, Shane Fitzmaurice, Kathleen Mangan; **1984:** Nobuko Ishibashi, Garrett Lokers; **1985:** Rex Babin; **1986:** Johnny Applegate, Joel Hargis, Frances Maday, Michael Matthews, Curtis Suckut; **1987:** Glenna Craig, Gregory Farley, Brian Fink, Renee Griffin, Donna Smith; **1988:** Randall Carson, Warren Chan, Nancy DiSanto, James Henkel, Jodie Shannon; **1990:** Patricia Medina, Robin Rockwell; **1991:** Deborah Dilloway; **1992:** Isabel Negrete, Aaron Noble; **1993:** Marietta Del Favero; **1994:** Chad Coulliette; **1995:** Betty Moss, Frank Scarcella; **1996:** Mark Ledbetter; **1997:** Iris Gill, James Watts; **1999:** Gina Dayton; **2000:** Anwar Alaulaqui; **2002:** Ray Samuels; **2003:** Peter Andrews, Stewart Butters, Katharine Ryals Humphreys; **2004:** Anthony Sanfilippo; **2009:** Jennifer Storm-Duffner; **2010:** Rebecca Mabunay, Crystal Veytia; **2011:** Brett Horner.

# Homecoming 2012 October 8-13

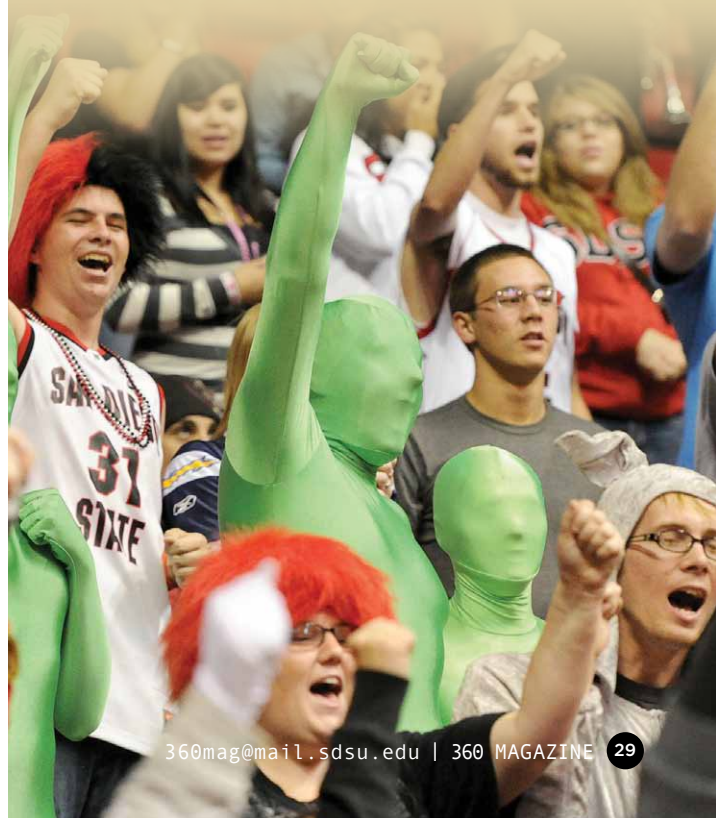
Continuing its tradition of flaunting conventionality, The Show will serve as Grand Marshal for Homecoming 2012. The irreverent student cheering section, known for its antics in support of Aztec basketball, brings its unique brand of enthusiasm to SDSU football during Homecoming Week.

“Paint the Town Red” is this year’s theme with a public pep rally set for noon - 1:00 p.m. on Thursday, Oct. 11, in front of Hepner Hall. At sundown, an overnight vigil begins at the War Memorial, continuing until Friday morning, Oct. 12, when the annual War Memorial ceremony takes place at 9:30. The observance honors fallen Aztecs who served during our nation’s military conflicts.

On Friday evening, the Parma Payne Goodall Alumni Center and Fowler Athletics Center will be the sites of the fifth annual Aztec for Life Homecoming Celebration, presented by the Marshall Faulk Foundation.

The week climaxes on Saturday, Oct. 13, with the Aztecs game against the Colorado State Rams at 4 p.m. Before the game, fans may enjoy food, music and children’s activities at the Aztec Village in the Qualcomm Stadium parking lot.

**Details at [homecoming.sdsu.edu](http://homecoming.sdsu.edu)**



# By Degrees

**Whitney Ashley | 2012 NCAA Women's Discus Champ**

*Ashley, who hails from Moreno Valley, Calif., is a senior majoring in media studies.*

**How does it feel to win a place in the Aztec record books as one of only four national track and field champs in SDSU history?** I cannot begin to describe how excited I get when I think about this accomplishment—not only for me, but also for San Diego State. It has been quite some time since SDSU has had the opportunity to announce an NCAA champion, and for that person to be me still leaves me speechless.

**It must be inspiring to have an Olympian as head coach. What has Shelia Burrell taught you?** Coach Burrell has taught me to adapt and take responsibility for my actions. She taught me that nobody has control over my life but me. I struggled with the changes in event coaching these past two seasons, but she would never let me quit. And this year, I had the best season of my life.

**What was your favorite class at SDSU?** Media Law & Ethics with Professor Martin Kruming. The course was extremely difficult, but eye opening. We sat in on real court cases, learned the dynamics of court decisions and gained a deeper insight into how juries are formed.

**Who on campus has been most influential in your life?** She doesn't reside on campus, but the most influential person in my life is my mom. I am stubborn when it comes to change, but she always seems to catch me before I reach the edge. We are nothing alike—we usually disagree—and that's the beauty of our relationship.

**What do you do for fun?** When I get a chance to relax, I love to pamper myself. I'll get a massage and a pedicure. I also love going to the movies. I try not to lose sight of the little things.

*To read more about Ashley, go to [sdsualumni.org/discuschamp](http://sdsualumni.org/discuschamp)*



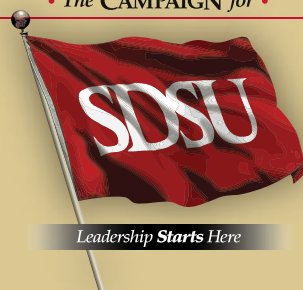
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# WHAT IS YOUR LEGACY TO SAN DIEGO STATE UNIVERSITY?



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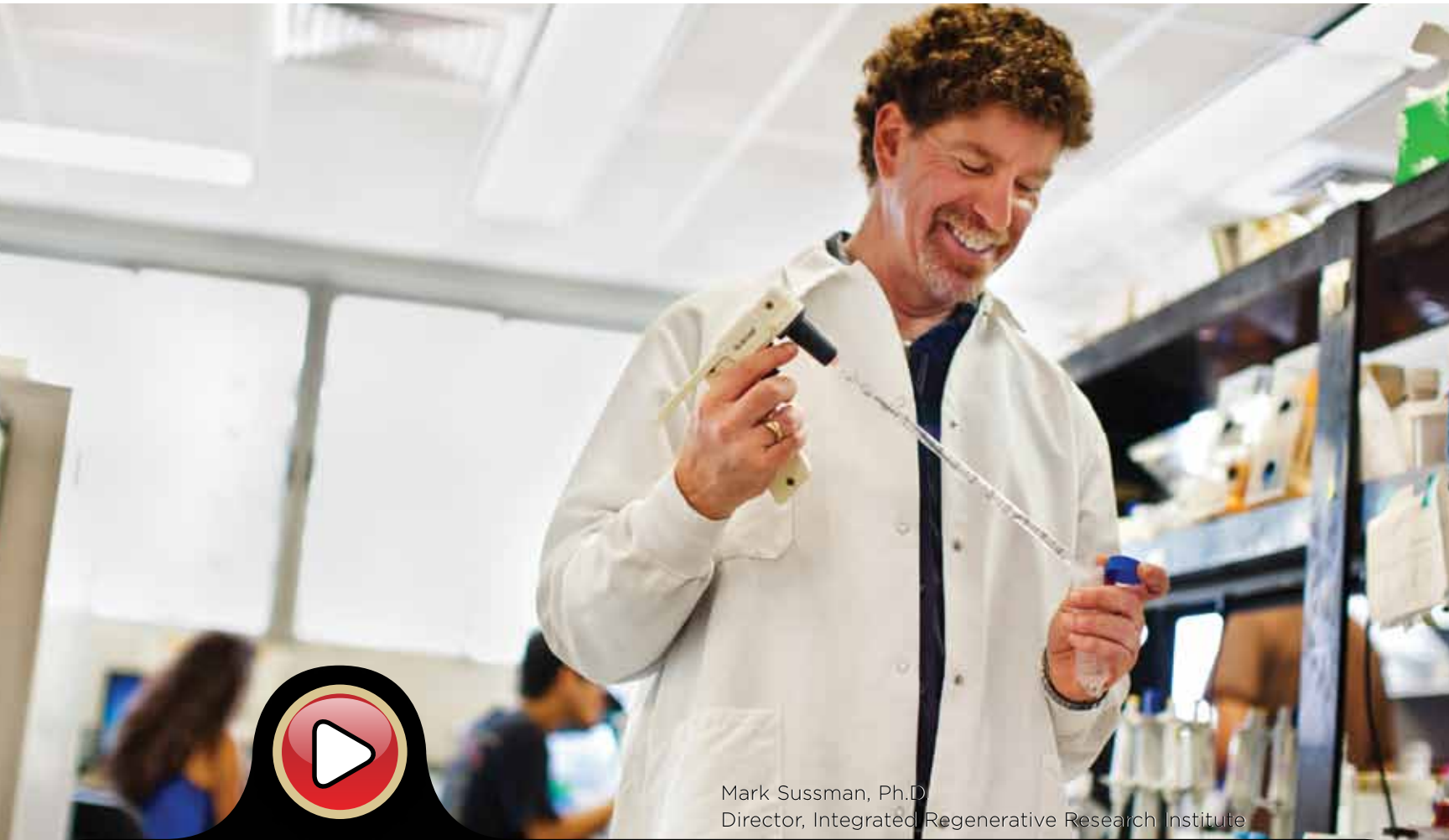


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Mark Sussman, Ph.D.  
Director, Integrated Regenerative Research Institute

# discovery starts here

**Mark Sussman started something.** In his lab at San Diego State University, the future of cardiac cell regeneration is happening now. Sussman and his students have successfully engineered stem cells that repair damaged hearts. His work would make cardiac transplants obsolete by enabling the human heart to heal itself. Other SDSU researchers are perfecting brain-controlled bionics, discovering new planetary systems and exploring universal elements of human language. To learn more, visit [sdsu.edu/leadershipstartshere](http://sdsu.edu/leadershipstartshere)



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