Eyes on the Prize
Aztec football returns to the national stage
FROM THE PRESIDENT

“We have begun...to invest in scholarly excellence.”

San Diego State University has always attracted those who aspire to excellence.

This tradition began with the 19th century visionaries who created the San Diego Normal School, was continued by students, faculty and staff who moved the campus to its present site during the depths of the Great Depression, and carried forth by university leaders of the past four decades who set SDSU on its current path as a major research university.

The development of the university’s new strategic plan, “Building on Excellence,” allowed us to examine our common aspirations as a community and to develop our shared goals for the next several years. The plan details initiatives in student success, research and creative endeavors, and community and communication.

We have already begun work on many of the initiatives, including one to invest in areas of scholarly excellence. The first four areas identified are ones in which SDSU has strong research expertise and community support: the study of cognitive neurodegenerative diseases; the study of how viruses affect environmental and human health; climate and sustainability studies; and the use of mobile technology to examine social behavior.

New resources will broaden and deepen SDSU’s specialized knowledge in these areas of excellence. Additional faculty members are being hired, laboratories are being upgraded and new equipment purchased.

The Campaign for SDSU—which raised a record-breaking $91 million in 2012-13—is essential to supporting the strategic investments in “Building on Excellence.” The campaign also is increasing awareness among alumni and friends of the many opportunities to invest directly in our most compelling initiatives, such as the areas of excellence.

I hope you enjoy this edition of 360: The Magazine of San Diego State University, which takes a closer look at the areas of excellence and other developments that are making this a great time to be an Aztec.

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A Slimy Subject

Jeremy Barr has a healthy fascination with mucus.

His research, supported by the National Institutes of Health, gives the slimy substance serious credit for protecting humans and animals from infection.

Barr is an adjunct professor of biology and part of an SDSU research team that has sampled all kinds of mucus—human mucus, mouse mucus, even sea anemone mucus.

Scientists know that mucus serves both as a home for large populations of beneficial microbes and as an entry point for infection.

Barr and the team discovered yet another role that mucus plays in our lives. It acts as a kind of glue for bacteria-infecting viruses, known as bacteriophage.

As living things recruit bacteriophages from the environment, mucus holds them in place throughout the body. The bacteriophages then become protectors, accumulating and attacking the infecting agents.

The team tested this theory in a lab. They placed bacteriophages atop of a layer of mucus-producing tissue as well as on a layer of non-mucus producing tissue. When they challenged both tissues with a common strain of bacteria, they found the samples with no mucus had three times more cell death.

Taking previous research into consideration, Barr and his team proposed the Bacteriophage Adherence to Mucus—or BAM—as a new model of immunity demonstrating the first symbiotic relationship between phage and animals.

“We envision BAM influencing the prevention and treatment of mucosal infections seen in the gut and lungs, having applications for phage therapy and even directly interacting with the human immune system,” Barr said.

Barr was a post-doctoral fellow with metagenomics pioneer Forest Rohwer from 2011. (See more about Rohwer’s research on page 16.) Metagenomics is a new field of research in which scientists analyze the genomes of organisms recovered directly from the environment.

—Natalia Van Stralen

Bravo!

SDSU’s symphonic repertoire adds another note with the premiere of a new musical ensemble.

Alongside the African music ensemble, the Latin American troupe and the Javanese gamelan is the SDSU Mariachi Ensemble in the School of Music and Dance.

Mark Fogelquist, a master teacher and performer of mariachi, directs the SDSU students, most of whom played mariachi in their South Bay middle and high schools.

The new ensemble receives support from Aztec Parents and the President’s Leadership Fund as well as financial aid from the Mariachi Scholarship Foundation in San Diego.

“This is a vivid example of expanding opportunities for the Latino community in SDSU’s School of Music and Dance,” said Lou Murillo, Compact for Success director and a mentor for the ensemble.

Watch for the SDSU Mariachi Ensemble at Aztec football and basketball games this year.
Coming This Fall

Who better to play the lead in SDSU’s tribute to Sam Shepard than an honest-to-goodness cowboy?

Peter Cirino’s production of Shepard’s “Fool for Love” stars student Vincent Cozzolino, who grew up on a working ranch in California and brings his own personal lasso to rehearsal.

Cozzolino’s Eddie is one half of a troubled young couple caught up in a passionate, destructive relationship that plays out in a Mojave Desert hotel.

“Eddie and May attract each other like magnets, but whenever they’re together, catastrophe follows,” explained Cirino.

An ardent admirer of Shepard’s uniquely Western characters and visceral dialogue, Cirino is directing a double-bill of the playwright’s work in SDSU’s Experimental Theatre this month.

“Action,” the second feature, takes place in an indeterminate time and place and explores humanity’s dark emotions. The productions involve about 40 students in SDSU’s Department of Theatre, Television and Film.

Cirino is in his 11th year at SDSU. He grew up in Texas, studied at London’s Guildhall School of Music and Drama, and helped establish eight alternative theatre companies to give voice to disadvantaged populations.

“All Action” and “Fool for Love” are on stage at SDSU Sept. 20-29. For tickets and more information, visit ttf.sdsu.edu.

Aztec Intelligence

Musician Ramón “Chunky” Sanchez, ’73, is among nine winners of this year’s National Endowment for the Arts’ National Heritage Fellowship award, the nation’s highest accolade for achievement in the folk and traditional arts.

Joan Putnam, director of SDSU’s Joan and Art Barron Veterans Center was appointed to serve on the federal Veterans’ Advisory Committee on Education.

“Short Term 12,” a new film by Sundance Film Festival winner Destin Daniel Cretton, ’11, was released nationwide in August.

The San Diego premiere is scheduled for Friday, Sept. 13, at the Landmark Cinema in Hillcrest.

Former SDSU men’s soccer star Joe Corona scored crucial goals against Cuba and El Salvador, lifting the U.S. to victory in the CONCACAF Gold Cup.
High-stakes Learning

In a new spin on community engagement, SDSU has partnered with National City to help improve quality of life and sustainability standards for the city’s 60,000 residents.

Beginning this academic year, the university will offer up to 30 academic courses providing hands-on experience with projects that address environmental, health, land use and public administration issues in National City.

The new program, Community Engagement for Sustainable Cities (CESC), involves more than 400 undergraduate and graduate students guided by SDSU faculty.

Each year, the university will partner with a different city or government entity in the San Diego region.

National City was selected as the first partner because of the city’s commitment to quality of life issues, its diverse population, and the willingness of its leaders to work alongside SDSU.

“We are providing a framework for increased collaboration and common focus,” said Jessica Barlow, director of the CESC program. “Students will participate in the projects as part of their normal course work.”

Audiology students, for example, will measure noise levels in certain areas of National City. Public health students will examine air quality. Geography students will analyze land use, including the availability of green spaces, and graphic arts students will design banners for many of the city’s neighborhoods.

“These are the kinds of real-world experiences that lead to student success,” Barlow said. “The stakes are high because students will present their final projects to the city managers.”

Brad Raulston, executive director in the city manager’s office, is National City’s liaison with the SDSU program.

He said “Cities deal with real-life issues, and we hope SDSU can uncover some innovative approaches to help our city become more sustainable.”
Inside Aztec Student Union

AT THE CENTER OF CAMPUS, A NEW HOME FOR STUDENTS OPENS THIS WINTER.

GOOD DAY SUNSHINE
Solar array saves 216,000kW hours annually

STRIKE!
120 bowling balls in the new Aztec Lanes

PASS THE POPCORN
Multipurpose theater with 300 seats

FOOD FOR THOUGHT
3 restaurants to satisfy hunger pangs

FRIENDSHIP GARDEN
21 plant species to beautify the building

HAVE A CUPPA
1,500 customers caffeinated daily
The wraps have come off the Aztec Student Union to reveal a stunning new center for student life and leadership.

Architecturally, the building’s classic mission revival style is a salute to the rich history of San Diego State, but its modern features are designed to appeal to 21st century students.

Within the 206,000-square-foot structure are: a satellite fitness center; an outdoor performance stage; 14 meeting rooms, a multipurpose theater and a ballroom; 36 big screen TVs; three eateries, including a pub and grill/restaurant; the large centralized Goldberg Courtyard; wireless Internet access throughout and in outdoor spaces; and offices for student organizations, including Associated Students, which will manage the building.

Grand opening activities are scheduled throughout spring 2014. Aztec Student Union is financed by student fees and designed to achieve LEED Platinum certification, the highest level in sustainable building from the U.S. Green Building Council.
Just a few years ago, the scene would have been improbable.

Christian Cumberlander, a standout wide receiver from Georgia, was about to announce at a February 2013 news conference where he would play college football in the fall.

On the table in front of him were three caps representing the football programs of Oregon, Auburn and San Diego State University.

After a short introduction, Cumberlander smiled, unzipped his jacket to reveal an Aztecs shirt and then put on the SDSU cap.

“I will be coming to San Diego State University,” he said.

A well-regarded player three time zones from San Diego had chosen the Aztecs over a pair of powerhouse programs that competed for the BCS National Championship in 2011.

Yet Cumberlander wasn’t alone. SDSU picked up recruits from 11 states as part of its incoming class in 2013, including players from Florida, Illinois, Texas, Missouri and Louisiana.

The influx of talent from regions that had been untapped by SDSU is part of a dramatic transformation of the Aztecs football program that began with the hiring of head coach Brady Hoke in December 2008 and has continued under his successor Rocky Long.

Part of something special

After an 11-year stretch in which the Aztecs didn’t have a single bowl appearance or a winning season, the program is charging into a new era where success is breeding more success. Consider:

• The team has earned a place in an unprecedented three straight bowl games.

• SDSU has three consecutive winning seasons under its belt for the first time since 1989-91 and is 26-13 since 2010 (after going 38-80 from 2000-09).
• The Aztecs’ co-Mountain West championship in 2012 was the first conference title for the program since 1986—before anyone on last season’s team was born.

• SDSU’s victory over No. 19 Boise State last season was its first on the road over a ranked opponent ever. And its impressive road victories over Boise State and Nevada in 2012 were part of a seven-game winning streak that was the team’s longest in a season since 1977.

• The bowl games and national TV exposure have opened the eyes of athletes around the country to the opportunities at San Diego State, where football was one of 12 Aztecs teams to win a championship in 2012-2013.

Senior safety Nat Berhe, who came to SDSU as a freshman in 2009 and has been a part of the transformation, says he can feel the energy and momentum.

“Whenever you start winning, you’re going to start getting people who want to be a part of something special,” he says. “Who wouldn’t want to be a part of this?”

Adds junior running back Adam Muema (featured on the cover), who rushed for 1,458 yards and scored 16 touchdowns for the 9-4 Aztecs in 2012: “When you win games, people come.”

Iron sharpens iron

Head coach Rocky Long will tell you the Aztecs turnaround has nothing to do with him.

“There hasn’t been a coach who ever won a game, even though some coaches think they do,” he said, smiling. He gives all the credit to the players, who compiled a 17-9 record during his first two seasons as head coach.

Those players have thrived in a football culture much different from seasons past. When Long arrived in 2009 as defensive coordinator under Hoke, they both came in with eyes wide-open, hoping to “get a feel for what the deficiencies were and why the team wasn’t winning.”

Their goal was to institute a tough, competitive, team-first environment in which players would be as
dedicated in the classroom as on the football field. Taking over a team that was 2-10, Hoke and Long coached SDSU to 4-8 that first season. The next year, their record was 9-4, and SDSU went to the Poinsettia Bowl.

“Coach Hoke and I have the same personality on how to run a program, and it was completely different from how the program was run before,” said Long. “We had several young men in the program who didn’t like the new way of doing things and left.

“Then we started recruiting to our particular way of doing things. Slowly, the student-athletes that were here bought in or believed in that way of doing things all along, and the ones we recruit obviously believe in it or they won’t come here.”

Now, said Berhe and Muema, the level of competition in practice is more intense. Iron sharpens iron.

“Nobody has a secure spot,” said Berhe. “The best player is going to play.” Added Muema: “There’s no easy day. We’ve got to go at it every day.”

A legitimate chance

Even during lean years, the Aztecs produced NFL-caliber players. Long hopes to see that continue: He and his staff certainly want top-notch athletes with aspirations to play pro football, but he’s more concerned with building a program that’s better “from top to bottom.”

His formula: recruit student-athletes serious about school who have good character and know how to work.

For Tony White, the Aztecs football recruiting coordinator, the task is to continue to bring in talented players with the right attitude. SDSU is determined to compete with bigger programs and travel thousands of miles to get players that fit its mold.

“Coach Long always says this: It all starts with the players in the locker room,” White observed. “If you take care of those guys, if you develop those guys, you train them the right way and you’re honest with them, and they know what to expect, chances are they go out, play their hearts out and you win football games.

“And when you win football games, visibility, popularity, all that stuff [follows]. The victories and bowl games make recruits ask, ‘What are you about?’ If we can get the recruit to ask that question, we have a legitimate chance,” said White, referring to the university’s academic reputation and student-centered environment.

The whole package

The Aztec football resurgence has benefited from a brief alliance with the Big East Conference.

San Diego State planned to play in the Big East until several key teams left. At that point, SDSU returned to the Mountain West. But in the meantime, doors of opportunity opened for the Aztecs to recruit players from the South, East and Midwest, who believed they’d be playing some games close to home.

Yet when SDSU announced it would return to the Mountain West, recruits stayed.

“We didn’t lose one kid, because they were coming for the whole package,” said Long. “They weren’t just coming here to play football. They were coming here because the university is what it is.”

Now that SDSU is connected to those new talent pools, it could mean a continuous flow to Montezuma Mesa. That’s one more building block in a winning foundation.

“It’s like a house,” White said. “Once it’s laid, if it’s bad it’s going to crumble and if it’s good you have something solid that will last you. With this house, Brady laid it and Coach Long has just been building layer upon solid layer.”

For ticket and schedule information, visit goaztecs.com.
Daily Aztec alumni Joanne Bradford and David Hasemyer are standouts in a rapidly changing industry.

By Coleen L. Geraghty
JOANNE BRADFORD, ’86, is settling into a corner office at the San Francisco Chronicle at a challenging time for the newspaper industry.

With print advertising and sales declining, the traditional media has moved online to generate new revenue, readership and return on investment.

The Chronicle posted a clear head start in 1994 with the launch of SFGate, one of the earliest major market newspaper websites.

Now the company expects Bradford—recently appointed president—to take its virtual presence to the next level. With skills honed at Microsoft, Yahoo and Demand Media, she brings the experience to forge new revenue pathways for the Hearst Corporation’s second largest daily paper. (The Houston Chronicle is No. 1.)

“One of my goals at the Chronicle,” Bradford said, “is to create products that merge the digital and print worlds. I don’t think the art of good storytelling will disappear, but the way we go about it is forever changed. Instagram, Facebook and Twitter are the newsstands of today. News is everywhere; the challenge is getting people to your site.”

The Bradford brand—smart, collaborative and forward-thinking—evolved at SDSU in the mid-1980s. She was a transfer student, majoring in journalism/advertising, and looking for a campus community of like-minded students. The Daily Aztec became a second home.

“The offices were set up with the writing staff on one side and the advertising staff on the other. Only one side got paid, and that’s where I wanted to be,” she recalled.

After graduation, Bradford joined Business Week and rose to vice president of sales and marketing before moving to Microsoft. There she was part of a new media brain trust, driving the company’s transformation from Internet portal into web-based service provider.

At Microsoft, Bradford worked with fellow Aztec Blake Irving, who became a good friend. Now CEO of GoDaddy.com, Irving respects Bradford’s talent for getting things done.

“I built the platform that Joanne used to sell ads. We had a shared vision and a shared strategy. She has super cool ideas, but the difference between Joanne and other people is that she can turn her ideas into substance.”

Bradford also encouraged Microsoft to sponsor the first Live Earth concert in 2007, a mega-event broadcasting 150 musical acts in 11 locations to a mass global audience through television, radio and online. In those early YouTube days, she said, it was proof to advertisers that viewers would watch live stream video.

In a world that values this kind of foresight and confidence, Bradford has advanced to what may be the most challenging task she’s ever faced—creating a distinctive virtual identity for the Chronicle in a region that encompasses Silicon Valley, cradle of uber-successful tech ventures.

“There aren’t many companies that get to put San Francisco in their name,” Bradford reflected. “I’m hoping we can own the brand in a way that incorporates technology, food, philanthropy, sports; in short, everything that makes this city the entrepreneurial capital of the world.”
DAVID HASEMYER, ’79, was in New York City, knee-deep in final production of an extensive public information project for the Federal Emergency Management Agency, when his cell phone rang last April.

His editor at InsideClimate News, where he works part-time, wanted to talk. Pleading overload, Hasemyer asked to return the call, but Susan White was adamant.

“No, you won’t call back; you’re going to listen to me right now,” she said. “In 10 minutes, you’re going to win the Pulitzer Prize.”

It’s a long way from the offices of the Daily Aztec to the stage near Columbia University’s Pulitzer Hall, where Hasemyer and two colleagues from InsideClimate News accepted the coveted prize for national reporting in May.

The trio was recognized for “rigorous reports on flawed regulation of the nation’s oil pipelines, focusing on potential ecological dangers posed by diluted bitumen (or “dilbit”), a controversial form of oil.”

Only twice before had an online news organization won the Pulitzer for national reporting. This year, InsideClimate News bested both The Boston Globe and The Washington Post.

“It was emotional,” said Hasemyer, recalling the awards ceremony. “You try to place the same value on [the Pulitzer] when it’s hanging on your wall as you did when you watched others accept it. You find yourself in that company and you think, wow I’ve done some good journalism in my life, but this says it’s the best.”

Hasemyer cut his investigative teeth at the Daily Aztec. Elected editor for two consecutive semesters—a rarity in those days—he ran stories that challenged the university’s administration. A series raising questions about the quality of student health services was later covered by the Los Angeles Times.

After graduation, Hasemyer joined the San Diego Evening Tribune. He stayed for 30 years, earning a reputation for hard-nosed investigative reporting, particularly after the paper merged with the San Diego Union.

His crowning achievement from that time was a series he co-wrote with Joe Cantlupe, which exposed police and prosecutorial misconduct. Their work was cited in an appellate court’s decision to reverse the wrongful convictions of four gang members.

White, who was also Hasemyer’s editor at the Union-Tribune, applauds not only his professionalism, but also his passion.

“There is a kind of purity in his determination to write the truth.”

In addition to reporting for InsideClimate News, Hasemyer currently serves as an on-call public information officer for the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA). He worked on the Hurricane Sandy response and recovery team in New York earlier this year.

“I am passionate about working for FEMA,” Hasemyer said. “Its mission is to help people, and that’s what I try to do through journalism. I try to make a difference.”

Judging from the Pulitzer Prize now hanging on his wall, he’s succeeding.
In the not-too-distant future, social media will accurately predict presidential elections and track the spread of flu epidemics. Global Positioning Systems (GPS) will help protect us from violent crime. It’s a remarkable new world of information dynamics, and San Diego State researchers are taking us there. The initiative is one of SDSU’s new “areas of excellence”—research partnerships designed to address some of the most urgent challenges in basic science and the social sciences.
Each of SDSU’s areas of excellence builds on existing faculty strengths to solve complex problems requiring new research approaches and cutting-edge technology.

“Much of this research ties into our nation’s economic, human and social health,” said Stephen Welter, vice president for research and graduate affairs. “Not only will our science be of the highest caliber from an intellectual perspective, but it is also expected to have the highest level of impact for positive change.”

SDSU’s commitment to this collaborative, entrepreneurial research strategy is underscored by plans to hire 16 new faculty members over the next two years to participate in the areas of excellence. A total of 22 new faculty joined SDSU this fall.

“By adding faculty with expertise to complement our existing strengths, we can advance into new spheres of research that will be distinctive in themselves and provide distinction to our campus,” Welter said.
Virtual goldmine

In our increasingly virtual world, every story, every post, every comment on the World Wide Web originates at a specific point and travels from one user to another. Researchers have found that the “geospatial footprints” left behind as ideas sprint through cyberspace can tell us a lot—for example, where terrorist groups are recruiting or which candidate has the edge in a political campaign.

Now, the maturation of mobile technology and smart devices gives researchers access to large data sets that can yield new insights into human behavior and interaction.

SDSU researchers in this area of excellence will employ advanced technology and analysis to assist in crime prevention; help control the spread of infectious disease; and understand the political and social issues that matter to citizens, locally, nationally and globally.

Probing the unknown

Viruses are the most abundant biological entities on Earth, outnum-bering bacteria more than tenfold. Although viruses infect all known cells and profoundly influence their evolution, the precise function of viruses is largely unknown. SDSU biologists have led the way in characterizing “viral dark matter,” and the Viral Information Institute will continue and expand this research.

Combining strengths in genomics, genetics and biochemistry, mathematical modeling and computational analysis, members of this area of excellence will continue to probe biological “space” to find and explore unparalleled interactions between viruses and other organisms present in various environments.

Their research may develop new ways to detect, manipulate and control viruses that infect bacteria in natural systems, from the human digestive tract to ocean waters and coral reefs.

The brain’s secrets

Physicians and researchers know a lot about the workings of the human heart, but the brain has been more reluctant to surrender its secrets. Recently, the White House proposed a $100-million federally coordinated initiative to revolutionize our understanding of the brain.

With research strengths in human behavioral neuroscience and clinical neuropsychology, plus expertise in neuroimaging, SDSU is well-placed to contribute to this national initiative. Faculty specializing in clinical and cognitive neuroscience will collaborate to increase understanding of brain-based disorders. Working with a range of ages and afflictions, they will also look for genetic factors that may influence an individual’s susceptibility to injury or damage and response to treatment.

To better serve San Diego’s large veteran population, researchers in this area of excellence hope to include a new faculty member with expertise in traumatic brain injuries.

Unique regional resource

Members of SDSU’s new Center for Climate and Sustainability Studies (C²S²) were among the first to detect global warming, associate it with human activity and determine the effects of climate change on Earth’s ecosystems. Now researchers want to expand this cross-disciplinary work to include solutions to address sustainability.

C²S² members will investigate how global climate change can affect ecosystems to feedback and amplify global warming, and how temperature variations—even as slight as 1 degree—can accelerate the spread of infectious diseases. They will bring the impacts of climate change close to home by studying its effects on San Diego’s ecosystems, agriculture, water availability and general economic health.

When fully operational, C²S² promises to become a unique regional resource. Researchers will collaborate with Scripps Institution of Oceanography and UC Irvine’s Earth System Science Group, but take a different spin, focusing on the ecological and sustainability applications of climate change research.

A new model

As these areas of excellence develop and faculty members create new interdisciplinary centers across campus, SDSU can become a model for a different kind of university, Welter observed.

“This campus is very good at overcoming challenges and finding creative ways to be successful,” he said, citing SDSU’s growth as a research institution in the last 30 years.

“With strong commitment from our faculty, we can lead the way toward a new model of higher learning—one that involves a true sharing of ideas between faculty, staff and students, where undergraduates are valued as part of the academic conversation, and where the entrepreneurial spirit plays out in our teaching and our research.”
MEET THE RESEARCHERS

Clinical and Cognitive Neuroscience

Karen Emmorey, Ph.D.
*Distinguished Professor, School of Speech, Language and Hearing Sciences*
Karen Emmorey is internationally recognized for her research on what sign languages reveal about the nature of human language, cognition and the brain. She is director of SDSU's Laboratory for Language and Cognitive Neuroscience.

Sarah Mattson, Ph.D.
*Professor of Psychology*
Sarah Mattson studies brain structure and function of children with fetal alcohol syndrome. Her research examines areas of the brain affected by heavy prenatal alcohol exposure, the neuropsychological consequences of this exposure, and the relationship between brain and behavioral changes.

Human Dynamics in the Mobile Age

Ming-Hsiang Tsou, Ph.D
*Professor of Geography*
Ming-Hsiang Tsou's research on Internet mapping and mobile GIS applications has been applied to wildfire tracking, habitat conservation, health care and homeland security. From 2004-2007, he was co-chair of the NASA Earth Science Enterprise Data System: Standard Process Group.

John Elder, Ph.D.
*Distinguished Professor, Graduate School of Public Health*
Specializing in health promotion and behavioral sciences, John Elder is one of SDSU's most consistently funded researchers. He has consulted on health promotion, disease prevention and behavioral epidemiology for international organizations involved in child survival, HIV/AIDS, and malaria research.

Climate and Sustainability Studies

Walter Oechel, Ph.D.
*Distinguished Professor of Biology*
Walter Oechel is director of SDSU's Global Change Research Group. He studies the interconnections of terrestrial, atmospheric, and marine systems on global change, primarily in the Arctic, the Pacific Basin and the semi-arid ecosystems of Italy and San Diego.

The Viral Information Institute

Forest Rohwer, Ph.D.
*Professor of Biology*
Forest Rohwer pioneered the use of metagenomics to characterize previously obscure organisms and investigate their role in the environment and influence on health and disease. With other faculty, he has developed detailed descriptions of the viruses in environments from human to oceanic.

Sheldon Zhang, Ph.D.
*Professor of Sociology*
Sheldon Zhang is one of a handful of academics specializing in transnational organized crime and community corrections. His research into illicit enterprises and offender rehabilitation efforts helps law enforcement and government agencies devise more effective counter measures and social service programs.

Robert Edwards, Ph.D.
*Associate Professor of Computer Science*
Rob Edwards applies computer science to answer scientific questions, with a focus on biology. His funded research includes a project to unravel the genetic organization of viruses—both beneficial and harmful.

Samuel Shen, Ph.D.
*Professor of Mathematics*
Samuel Shen was McCalla Professor of Mathematical and Statistical Sciences at the University of Alberta before joining SDSU. He has developed several theories and mathematical methods to quantify uncertainties in the global warming assessment.

Anca Segall, Ph.D.
*Professor of Biology*
Anca Segall's research focuses on the genomic viruses, particularly those that infect bacteria, and on chromosome structure. She is involved in identifying the purpose and evolutionary relationships of the large fraction of genetic information for which there is no known function.
Triple Threat. Shanieka Thomas on track to be first Aztec Olympian since 2004.

Four years ago, Shelia Burrell received an intriguing phone call from Jamaica.

Burrell, head coach of San Diego State’s track and field team, had asked then-assistant Carjay Lyles to take a scouting trip to the land of reggae, rum and often-exceptional athletes.

“One of the things I wanted to do was make sure we were recruiting the best athletes in the world,” Burrell said.

But she didn’t expect instant results, and the phone call from an enthusiastic Lyles came as a surprise. He was watching a high school meet.

“There’s this girl, she’s 6-foot-1, she got fourth, but I’m telling you, I’m watching her run, and she’s probably the best one out there,” Burrell recalls him saying. “She’s not winning right now, but she’s got it.”

The athlete was Shanieka Thomas, a high jumper and occasional triple jumper, and the “it” was her blend of speed, long limbs and coordination. When Burrell saw Thomas later that year, she offered a scholarship.

Thomas has not disappointed. At SDSU she launched an impressive Aztecs career, topped this June by her NCAA championship in the triple jump and her selection as the Mountain West’s Female Athlete of the Year. She’s the first Aztec (male or female) picked as the league’s top athlete.

The junior did 46 feet, 4.75 inches (14.14 meters) to win the fifth individual track title in SDSU history. Her victory at the NCAA Outdoor Track and Field Championships broke a string of runner-up finishes, first at the outdoor finals in 2012, and then at the NCAA indoor finals in March.

“It was kind of frustrating because I got second twice,” said Thomas, an economics major known for her quiet determination. “Everybody’s goal is to win. To come in second is just like losing.”

Lyles and Burrell have intentionally steered Thomas away from the high jump and toward the triple jump, believing she is perfect for the event (which involves a hop, step and jump after a sprint). With some weight training and coaching, Thomas has improved every year. She said her NCAA title is “a dream come true.”

Now a senior, Thomas wants to win both the indoor and outdoor NCAA titles and break the collegiate record of 46 feet, 9 inches (14.25 meters), which she calls “reachable.”

Also reachable are the 2016 Olympic Games. Thomas is a good bet to represent Jamaica in Rio de Janeiro, where she would be the first Aztec track Olympian since Marla Runyan in 2004 and 2000.

“It takes several years to master the triple jump,” said Thomas. “I still have a lot to work on. I’m not there yet.”

—Doug Williams
Giving Back

Business Incubator. A new gift to the Zahn Innovation Center will add a social innovation component.

Entrepreneur Irwin Zahn and the Moxie Foundation have pledged a second large gift to expand SDSU’s Zahn Innovation Center and open its lab to students, faculty, staff and eventually, the San Diego community.

Currently, the center helps 16 student- or faculty-led teams take ideas and move them toward commercialization. Its goal is to cultivate young entrepreneurs while creating jobs and economic stimulus for the San Diego region.

The new gift will expand that focus to include a strong social innovation component, thanks to Zahn and his son, Peter, president of the Moxie Foundation.

“Going forward, we can involve a larger community of students, faculty and staff in developing ideas that make a social impact, for example, promoting sustainability,” said Cathy Pucher, executive director of the Zahn Innovation Center. “Success will be measured by our ability to touch everyone on campus, and ultimately, our SDSU alumni.”

Mining the Campus

Pucher helped create EvoNexus, the business incubator of CommNexus, and a nonprofit trade organization created to stimulate the growth of high technology companies in San Diego.

She has constructed the Zahn Innovation Center to operate like a high-tech design workshop, with cutting-edge equipment such as 3-D printers to create early-stage prototypes. The ambiance is casual and collaborative, and the open plan space has the feel of a start-up.

Teams are encouraged to leverage the talent and resources that exist on campus. For example, the group led by Daniel Goble, a faculty member in SDSU’s exercise and nutritional sciences department, includes students from...
The Zahn family’s new gift will expand the space and scope of the center to involve larger numbers of students and faculty. In the next year, The Zahn Innovation Center will:

- Add an innovation lab with rapid prototype and development equipment
- Enlarge its space and more than double the number of entrepreneur teams
- Establish an advisory board of industry leaders, social innovators and heads of start-ups, including SDSU alumni
- Hire an associate director for social entrepreneurship to join the senior development director already in place

In the last two years, million-dollar gifts from donors have created the Well Fargo Financial Markets Laboratory and the Glen M. Broom Center for Professional Development in Public Relations, and a naming gift from Leonard Lavin for the Lavin Entrepreneurship Center funded a broad expansion of SDSU’s entrepreneurship curriculum.

San Diego State has raised more than $410 million to support students, faculty and programs since The Campaign for SDSU was launched in July 2007.

**Into the Market**

Teams accepted into the Zahn Innovation Center have about 24 months to get their companies off the ground. There are frequent progress reviews and milestones to achieve as the projects develop.

Experienced entrepreneurs from the San Diego community volunteer their time to mentor and help each team define individual measures of success. Finally, successful teams are introduced to later-stage incubators that can help support their companies during the next phase of development.

Throughout the process, Zahn Innovation Center staff work with the Lavin Entrepreneurship Center and its director, Alex DeNoble, to introduce student teams to SDSU professors who consult on business strategy and accounting practices for startups.

“The Zahn’s generosity and entrepreneurial spirit is creating a hub where impactful research and development can take place on this campus,” said Stephen Welter, dean of Graduate and Research Affairs. “We anticipate a heightened synergy between SDSU and the San Diego community.”

The B-Tracks system developers are now working with SDSU’s rugby team to test the most recent prototype. Their ultimate goal is to make the technology available to high schools and universities for significantly less than the cost of an expensive “force plate,” the current tool for assessing concussions.

**The Power of Giving**

The Zahn Innovation Center demonstrates the power of giving to create exciting new opportunities for student success at San Diego State.

 engineering, business and graphic design as well as exercise and nutritional sciences.

Goble’s team has developed a portable system to track changes in balancing ability in athletes suspected of suffering concussions. Using a low-cost balance board and custom software, B-Tracks system objectively measures how much a subject is swaying, which is an indicator of balance.

**Watch the SDSU Rugby Team Testing the B-Tracks System at Newscenter.sdsu.edu**

**Jobioz.com, Another Zahn Center Success, Displays Resumes of Students and Recent Graduates.**
A deep commitment to higher education runs through the family histories of Nua and Michael Shores.

Nua’s great-aunt, Hazel Smith, was the first woman to graduate from the College of Dentistry at the University of Illinois, Chicago. With an inheritance from Aunt Hazel—and in her honor—Nua’s mother endowed a scholarship for women dental students in Iowa, where Nua’s mother was born.

Michael’s mother became a respected pediatric nurse in Modesto after graduating from St. Francis Memorial Hospital’s nursing school in San Francisco. Though she never had a college education, she worked to ensure that her son did.

Michael graduated from UC Berkeley with a degree in mathematics, while Nua is a double Aztec, earning a psychology degree in 1971 and a Masters of Social Work in 1980.

Nua’s memories of her student days revolve around several influential professors. An introductory psychology class with Ivan McCollum inspired her to change her major from nursing to psychology.

Another influential professor, Robert Karen, taught behavior modification theory. For his class, Nua did field work in a school for young students with learning disabilities. She was thrilled when her one-on-one sessions with a third grader greatly advanced the child’s reading skills.

Full-ride Scholarships

It’s not surprising that when the Shores sat down to write their will, they decided to give back to higher education. Their planned gift will endow two full-ride scholarships—one for nursing students and another for students pursuing the master’s degree in social work.

“We realized that we are fortunate enough to be able to do this, and we decided to benefit San Diego State,” Nua said.

The Shores’ gift is one of nearly 200 revocable and irrevocable planned gifts, totaling about $90 million, received during The Campaign for SDSU, launched in July 2007.

Honoring Family

Planned gifts are crucial because they allow donors and family members to strengthen SDSU for future generations of students and faculty. Many donors derive pleasure from naming the gift to honor a family member or mentor.

In endowing the Christine Markiew with Memorial Nursing Scholarship Endowment, the Shores recognized Michael’s mother and her pediatric nursing career.

“That first giving experience to SDSU was very gratifying,” Michael said, “and then we found we had the resources to make another gift.”

The Michael and Nua Shores Social Work Scholarship Endowment honors Nua’s lifetime of work and recognizes SDSU’s role in preparing her for a meaningful career.
After six decades of teaching SDSU students to revere learning—and earning widespread acclaim for his skill—Henry Janssen himself continued to be a practitioner of the art until his death on June 28 at age 92. He was a professor of political science for more than 35 years—teaching an estimated 10,000 students during that time—and he continued his mentorship as adviser to the Honors Council long after retiring.

“One of the things of which I am most proud,” Janssen said in an interview, “is my ability to bring together [past and present] students. It is an astonishing network that is not Henry-dependent, and they will continue to stay connected after I slip this mortal coil, to each other as friends, but also to the SDSU bond that ties them together in my absence.”

Read more about Janssen’s life and legacy at newscenter.sdsu.edu

“What an extraordinary life! It pleases me to believe that Henry himself appreciated that fact and knew he was well-loved by students and colleagues alike. He is a fine remembrance of what universities are all about.”

Stephen L. Weber
SDSU President Emeritus

“Your life has been a reminder to me that I am not lost, but merely on an endless search for a worthwhile life, what you called ‘an examined life.’”

Ariel Rawson ‘12
Honors Program graduate in interdisciplinary studies

“Henry Janssen was my guide, teacher, mentor, colleague and deeply-treasured friend for 49 years. Someone so huge in one’s life doesn’t ever really go away.”

Alida Allison, ’79, ’82
Professor Emeritus, Dept. of English and Comparative Literature

“He was a titan of education, and he taught us that education is not just part of life—it is life itself.”

Levi Lentz ’12
Valedictorian, College of Engineering

“Henry influenced generations of students, broadening their vision, their understanding and their contributions to our society. His spirit and intellect were extraordinary, and he helped create the legacy of student achievement and student success our campus enjoys today.”

Elliot Hirshman
SDSU President
1960s

"68 Diana Lindsay ★ (72 M.A., history) and her husband, Lowell, received the media award from the Congress of History of San Diego and Imperial Counties for their contributions to the preservation of regional history through their publishing house, Sunbelt Publications.

1970s

"70 Hazel Rose Markus (psychology), a cultural psychologist based at Stanford University, published "Class! 8 Cultural Conflicts That Make Us Who We Are" (Hudson Street Press).

"71 John Labate (accounting) is CFO for Midway Gold Corp., a precious metals exploration company based in Denver.

"75 Nicholas Tarantino (biology) is chief global clinical research and regulatory affairs officer for AcuFocus, an ocular implant developer.

"76 Jane Bailey, Ph.D. (M.A. education) is provost at Post University in Waterbury, Conn.

"78 Bruce Golden (English) published his fourth novel, "Red Sky, Blue Moon" (Shaman Press), and a book of short stories, "Dancing with the Velvet Lizard" (Zumaya Press); Eric Steen ★ (marketing) is CEO of InfuSystem Holdings, Inc.

"79 Tony Balistreri (undergraduate studies) is president, western region, of MCPCs, a technology products and solutions company.

1980s

"81 Ron Argo (M.A. English) published his fourth novel, "The Courage to Kill" (Cliff Edge), a crime thriller set in San Diego.

"85 Gail Farber (civil engineering) was recognized as a local hero during Women's History Month earlier this year. She is the first female director of the Los Angeles County Public Works Department.

"86 Peter Vlk (M.A. psychology) has published "Regression, ANOVA and the General Linear Model: A Statistics Primer" (Sage Publications). He is a professor and program director of the clinical psychology Ph.D. program at Pacific University.

"78 Capt. Michael Taylor (geography) assumed leadership of the Military Sealift Command Pacific, responsible for MSC ships in the eastern Pacific Ocean; Carole Frick (M.A. history) is professor and department chair of historical studies at Southern Illinois University.

"88 Diana Leibrich (criminal justice) is human resources manager for the Western Municipal Water District in Riverside, Calif.
Tell us the highlights of your professional career. What are your proudest achievements?

I’m hoping I haven’t hit the highlights yet! But last year was the safest year in the history of Puget Sound Energy. I’m very proud of that.

Since I was 12 years old, I wanted to be a lawyer, and I did become a practicing attorney. Learning how to listen, collaborate and settle complex cases taught me great lessons in leadership that I still use today.

What are some favorite college memories?

While a political science student, I served as a teacher’s assistant for Dr. Vince Padgett and taught some of the sections in political science, which I really enjoyed.

I was also a cheerleader, and I used to love watching Aztec basketball games. I remember when the games were played in the Sports Arena on Midway Drive, and Michael Cage was one of our student basketball players. It was really fun.

If you were to give current SDSU students some advice, what would you say?

Two things: First, don’t be afraid to try new things. Move around a lot in a company, if you can. Second, keep good company. Surround yourself with people who support your development and will give you good advice.

What’s your favorite book? What are you currently reading?

I read for so many different reasons—pleasure, performance, strategy, relaxation and problem-solving. I can’t pick a favorite book because it would depend on what I learned from it.

What is your passion?

The leadership of and the people at Puget Sound Energy.

What traits do you value most in friends and colleagues?

Honesty, integrity, wit and a good sense of humor.

What is your motto?

If you come to the table, you have to participate.

Kimberly Harris graduated from San Diego State in 1986 with a Bachelor of Vocational Education degree. She continued her education, receiving a Juris Doctor degree from Arizona State University. Harris practiced law with Perkins Coie before joining Puget Sound Energy in 1999. Starting in the company’s regulatory and legal departments, she later became chief resource officer, guiding the expansion of Puget Sound Energy’s energy efficiency and wind power programs. She is now president and CEO.
The 2013 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 2013 Awards for Outstanding Faculty Contributions to the university, affectionately known as the Montys, were presented at the All-University Convocation August 22.

**College of Arts and Letters • Seth Mallios, Ph.D.**
Anthropology professor Seth Mallios is known as the historian-biographer of SDSU. His successful efforts to restore historic murals on campus were recognized by the City of San Diego. Mallios is a founder of the South Coast Information Center, the primary repository for archaeological data collected in San Diego and Imperial Counties.

**College of Business Administration • Gerald Whittenburg, Ph.D.**
Gerald (Gene) Whittenburg, professor at SDSU’s Charles W. Lamden School of Accountancy, is an expert on corporate and individual taxation and the tax research process. He has served with distinction on the University Promotions and Tenure Review Panel, and in 1991, he received the CSU Trustees’ Award for Outstanding Achievement.

**College of Education • Diane Lapp, Ph.D.**
A professor of teacher education, Diane Lapp was inducted into the International Reading Hall of Fame. She has addressed issues related to struggling readers and writers from economically deprived settings and initiated the San Diego State University Literacy Conference to connect graduate students with literacy leaders across the country.

**College of Engineering • Khaled Morsi, Ph.D.**
Khaled Morsi, professor of mechanical engineering, has received numerous awards from the National Science Foundation, including one for game-based materials lab simulations to provide students with insight into experimental issues in materials science. He has served as a panelist for the National Science Foundation and is an inventor/co-inventor on five patents.

**College of Health and Human Services • Roger Simmons, Ph.D.**
Roger Simmons is recognized for contributions to the understanding of Fetal Alcohol Syndrome (FAS) and efforts to help health professionals construct rehabilitation programs to improve the basic motor skills of (FAS) children. He received a National Institutes of Health grant for the research program, “Regulation of Force in Children with Prenatal Exposure to Alcohol.”

**College of Professional Studies and Fine Arts • Lawrence Beck, Ph.D.**
Lawrence Beck, professor at the L. Robert Payne School of Hospitality and Tourism Management, is a scholar/teacher of environmental and cultural interpretation. He received the National Association for Interpretation Fellow Award for career achievement and his writings have contributed to the development of interpretive programs at outdoor sites throughout the country.

**College of Sciences • Stephen Roeder, Ph.D.**
Physics professor Stephen Roeder has a record of accomplishment and service as chair of the chemistry and physics departments and dean of the Imperial Valley Campus. His classic book, “Experimental Pulse NMR, A Nuts and Bolts Approach,” is the work of a successful experimental physicist capable of assembling sophisticated instrumentation from scratch to make fundamental advances in the field.
In Memoriam


Homecoming 2013
October 20-26

“Rise of the Aztecs” is the theme of this year’s homecoming the week of October 20 – 26.

Activities for alumni include a campus 5K run—new this year—stepping off Sunday, October 20. Registration begins at 9:00 a.m.

At sundown Thursday, October 24, an overnight vigil begins at the War Memorial continuing until Friday morning, October 25, when the 17th annual War Memorial ceremony takes place at 9:30. The observance honors fallen Aztecs who served during our nation’s military conflicts.

A team sendoff is set for late afternoon Friday, October 25 outside Viejas Arena. That evening, the Fowler Center and the Parma Payne Goodall Alumni Center are the sites of the sixth annual Aztec for Life Homecoming Celebration presented by the Marshall Faulk Foundation.

Saturday, October 26, the Aztecs play the Fresno State Bulldogs in the Battle for the Oil Can, time TBD. Visit Sections G2 and H2 in the Qualcomm Stadium parking lot for the pre-game carnival.

Details at homecoming.sdsu.edu

To purchase “Rise of the Aztecs” t-shirts, visit shopaztecs.com or the SDSU Bookstore in late September.
You have an incredible life story. You left a dysfunctional family, you were homeless, but thanks to the kindness of a family who took you in, you overcame those early challenges. That’s true, but I want to be remembered for my actions rather than my story. I want to be known as the AS president who positively impacted the university. I’m like any other student with high aspirations and high standards. It just happens that I have the title of president and the resources of AS to create and implement initiatives to enhance the student experience.

As president of Associated Students, what are you most excited about? I am most excited about the opening of our new Aztec Student Union. This facility will be the campus living room where students, faculty, and the community can utilize the amazing resources and space available. The Aztec Student Union is going to change SDSU student life forever!

Who is the most influential person you’ve met at SDSU? Dr. Reggie Blaylock, associate vice president of Student Affairs. I admire his vision, compassion, and the dedication he exemplifies through his work at SDSU. He has been my mentor, confidante, and true friend. I try to spend time around him so I can learn what it means to be a true Aztec for Life.

What is the best thing you will take away from your time on campus? I cherish the relationships I have built here, and I will always be grateful for the perspective on life I have gained. I discovered my passion for philanthropy and serving my community, and that is something that will never leave me.

Read more about Morse’s story at newscenter.sdsu.edu
It’s Better to Give and Receive

Would you like to ensure fixed income for life and leave a lasting gift to San Diego State University?

A Charitable Gift Annuity can help you achieve that goal while avoiding capital gains tax. If you are like many individuals who own appreciated assets, you recognize that selling the assets would result in high capital gains tax. There is a solution.

You can fund a Charitable Gift Annuity with a minimum of $10,000 (cash or appreciated securities), be as young as 55 to participate and enjoy the following benefits:

- Guaranteed, fixed income for life for you and a loved one
- Partially tax-free income
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- Favorable treatment of capital gains if donating appreciated securities
- The satisfaction of making a lasting contribution to San Diego State University

To learn more, contact Amy Walling at 619-594-0286 or awalling@mail.sdsu.edu

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SDSU’s College of Extended Studies offers adult educational opportunities for everyone in the greater San Diego community and beyond. Take advantage of any of our many programs designed to further your career, update your skill set, enrich your personal interests, or enable you to learn something completely new! At the College of Extended Studies you can:

- Earn a certificate to enhance your career aspirations
- Take SDSU classes on campus through the Open University program
- Participate in many online learning options leading to certificates or degrees
- Attend conferences, events, and single-day seminars
- Learn English to teach overseas or study abroad
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