The Magazine of San Diego State University Spring 2013

360

The Bunnell Strings: An Extraordinary Aztec Family

360

The Magazine of San Diego State University (ISSN 1543-7116) is published by SDSU Marketing & Communications and distributed to members of the SDSU Alumni Association, faculty, staff and friends.

Editor: Coleen L. Geraghty
Editorial Contributors: Sandra Millers Younger, Aaron Hoskins, David Rozul, Beth Chee, Tobin Vaughn
Guest Contributor: Ken Kramer '74
Art Director: Lori Padelford '83
Graphic Design: John Signer '82
Cover Photo: Sandy Huffaker Jr.

We welcome mail from our readers.
360 Magazine
Marketing & Communications
5500 Campanile Drive
San Diego CA 92182-8080
E-mail: 360mag@mail.sdsu.edu
Read 360 Magazine online at www.sdsu.edu/360
Periodical postage paid at San Diego, CA
Volume 20, No. 1, copyright 2013
San Diego State University
Circulation: 45,000
Postmaster:
Send address changes to:
San Diego State University
5500 Campanile Drive
San Diego CA 92182-8045
alumnidata@sdsu.edu

Gold medal winner, Council for Advancement and Support of Education (CASE)

SAN DIEGO STATE UNIVERSITY
Leadership Starts Here

FROM THE PRESIDENT

"There is no greater asset in this country than an educated man or woman."

Commencement is a joyous day. It is my favorite day of the year, and our ceremony in 1963 proved memorable not only for its speaker, but also for his message.

President John F. Kennedy—then 46 and in the third year of his presidency—was awarded our first honorary doctorate. His commencement address focused on the importance of education for all Americans: "There is no greater asset in this country than an educated man or woman." This was the major education address of his term, and its truths still resonate.

Kennedy decried unequal educational opportunities due to economic and racial barriers. Eight months earlier, he had ordered National Guard troops and federal marshals to escort James Meredith, the first black student to enroll at the University of Mississippi.

"We are the privileged. We need to expand that privilege so that everyone in our country can share it," Kennedy told the crowd of 30,000 at the Aztec Bowl. Many things have changed in the half century since Kennedy spoke. Enduring are education's critical role in our nation's success and our central goal of expanding opportunity.

At San Diego State University, we're proud of our Educational Opportunity Program, our Guardian Scholars program, our State University Grant Program, the Joan and Art Barron Veterans Center, our Compact Scholars program and the Price Scholars program.

These initiatives and many others expand opportunities for all students, especially those who face economic challenges. Reflecting annual investments of more

than $50 million, they make it possible for students from all backgrounds to achieve excellence and to make lasting contributions to the prosperity of our state and our nation.

You can read more about Kennedy's speech and its special role in SDSU history in this issue of *360: The Magazine of San Diego State University.* Also in these pages are stories about the impact of our biomedical research, alumnus Terry Atkinson's transformative philanthropy, and astronaut-alumna Ellen Ochoa's most recent accomplishments.

I hope that reading these stories brings you closer to your university and the Aztec family. We look forward to your feedback and to seeing you on campus in the near future.

Elliot Hirshman

360

Features

Departments

Compass

Harvard Beckons

For the second consecutive year, a student in Professor Kelly Doran's microbiology lab at SDSU has been accepted to Harvard University's competitive Ph.D. program in biological and biomedical sciences.

Erin Fletcher, who graduates in May, was also accepted to the University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill. 2012 graduate Ellese Carmona currently studies at Harvard.

Doran said both Fletcher and Carmona "contributed significantly" to research projects in her lab.

"They were able to present their research findings at multiple scientific conferences, and they received multiple awards recognizing their research accomplishments and potential," Doran added.

Each young woman was also a co-author on a published manuscript in a peer-reviewed journal.

Asked about her role in the students' success, Doran was modest.

"The students deserve the credit. They worked hard. They sought out opportunities. I just provided support in an environment where they could learn and reach their full potential."

Yin-Yang

San Diego State's Confucius Institute was recognized as one of eight model institutes in the world at the Global Confucius Conference in December. The honor enables SDSU's institute to apply for a $1 million grant to grow and improve the program.

Officially opened in 2009 by the Chinese ambassador to the U.S., Zhou Wenzhong, the Confucius Institute at San Diego State won acclaim in part because of its extensive outreach in the community.

More than just teaching Chinese language, the institute sponsors Asian film and heritage festivals, Chinese culture classes, speaker series and travel abroad and exchange programs.

"For the Confucius Institute at SDSU to have been chosen as a model out of more than 350 institutes worldwide, is an extraordinary honor," said SDSU Provost Nancy Marlin.

"The world in which our students will be living and working will be increasingly international. Our Confucius Institute enables us to help prepare our students and students from many local schools in learning Chinese language and Chinese culture."

The Confucius Institute at SDSU, housed in the College of Arts and Letters, also trains teachers to operate Confucius Classrooms in 23 K-12 schools in San Diego and Imperial County, as well as Riverside, Orange County and Los Angeles.

Last year, an SDSU affiliate—the Barnard Mandarin Magnate School in Point Loma—was chosen from more than 500 classrooms worldwide as one of four "Confucius Classrooms of the Year." It offers a Chinese language immersion curriculum.

Confucius Institutes have been established in 106 countries around the world. The first opened in November 2004 in Seoul, South Korea.

SDSU's institute, including its branch office on the Imperial Valley campus, is an academic partnership with Xiamen University in southeastern China.

—Beth Chee

Photo: Lauren Radack

In the KPBS studios (from left): Thomas B. Day, Stephen L. Weber, Elliot Hirshman, Brage Golding.

SDSU Insider

A Panel of Presidents

Forty one years of university history coalesced in one room on Feb. 7, when four San Diego State University presidents met to answer questions, both serious and lighthearted, for the next edition of "SDSU Insider" on KPBS.

"All of us came from outside San Diego and embraced this community—the academic community and the broader region," noted Elliot Hirshman, president since July 2011.

His predecessor, Stephen Weber (1996-2011), who strengthened ties between SDSU and the community, underscored each president's obligation to "extend the capacity of the university to make a difference in San Diego."

Thomas Day, president from 1978-1996, said SDSU's development of the teacher-scholar paradigm is among its greatest contributions to academia. "A lot of other universities benefited from our faculty's example," he said.

The most senior living president, Brage Golding, expressed astonishment at SDSU's growth since his tenure from 1972-1977. Golding turned to Hirshman and quipped, "I'm glad I'm not president right now. That is your privilege."

Watch this unprecedented event on Saturday, March 30, at 12:30 p.m., when "SDSU Insider" previews on KPBS or at sdsu.edu/newscenter.

Job Creation

Beginning in the fall, SDSU's College of Business Administration will offer a minor in entrepreneurship to all undergraduate students, regardless of their major area of study.

The college will partner with SDSU's Lavin Entrepreneurship Center—supported by longtime Alberto Culver chairman Leonard Lavin—to prepare the next generation of entrepreneurs.

"In the current economic and social environment, small businesses are the most important sources of job creation," said SDSU management professor Congcong Zheng. "It is critical that students from all majors have the basic knowledge to successfully pursue and launch their entrepreneurial endeavors."

The College of Business Administration will join an elite group of business schools across the U.S. that offers interdisciplinary entrepreneurship minors. Others include the University of Pennsylvania (Wharton), the University of Southern California (Marshall), the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill (Kenan-Flagler) and the Rutgers Business School.

Legacy of a Dream

Overlooking the eastbound lanes of Highway 94 in San Diego, a 20-foot high and 225-foot long mural honoring Martin Luther King Jr. rivets the attention of motorists.

The vibrant mural was designed by San Diego State University faculty members Philip Matzigkeit and Neil Shigley from the School of Art, Design and Art History, with graduate student Camille Johnston creating the digital art.

Funded by a federal grant secured by Caltrans, the mural highlights King's dynamic character through three individual poses illustrating his leadership, powerful oratory and spiritual strength. (The illustration on this page depicts two separate panels of the mural stacked one above another.)

"There's a big influence in this art from African culture," said lead designer Matzigkeit, who grew up in rural Zimbabwe and specializes in architectural collaborations.

Portrait artist Shigley also lived abroad as a child, before studying painting and printmaking at SDSU. He has created large-scale portraits of homeless people, many of whom stay near his San Diego studio. One portrait was chosen for inclusion in an exhibit opening this month at the Smithsonian National Portrait Gallery in Washington, D.C.

"I have been an artist my entire life," said Shigley. "There is no project I have worked on—and probably none that I will—that is more important than this."

The subject of the artists' extraordinary mural has a special place in San Diego State history. King spoke on campus in May 1964, less than six weeks before enactment of Civil Rights legislation.

This landmark legislation outlawed discrimination against racial, ethnic, national and religious minorities as well as women; and banned racial segregation in schools and the workplace. Later that year, King received the Nobel Peace Prize.

"Understanding how we can see each person as an individual and, in so doing, embrace our common humanity would be a fitting way to build on Dr. King's legacy," wrote SDSU President Elliot Hirshman in a blog post published for this year's Martin Luther King Day celebrations (newscenter.sdsu.edu/ootp).

—David Rozul

Deep in Thought. In an age of instant communication, humans are still learning how the brain translates ideas into language.

By Coleen L. Geraghty

Is language an acquired skill, like telling time or riding a bike? Is it nurtured from infancy by conscientious parents or does nature gradually craft a child's babble into basic sentences?

Many speech and language researchers now believe the human ability to learn and use language is not simply an extension of general intellectual abilities, but an evolutionary trait deeply rooted in the biology of the species.

"Our capacity for language is biologically determined in the organization of our body, mind and brain," said Stephen Anderson, the Dorothy R. Diebold Professor of Linguistics at Yale University and an organizer of "The Language Organ: The Bases of Human Language in Human Biology" at a recent meeting of the American Association for the Advancement of Science.

Casting wider nets

Scientists don't completely understand how the human brain translates thoughts into words at lightning speed, but they have identified the brain's left hemisphere as the command center for language. Its partner, the right brain, regulates visual-spatial functions, such as searching for Waldo or finding your way around campus

As researchers pursue a deeper understanding of language's biological underpinnings, some are casting wider nets to capture information about other forms of communication, including sign languages.

Karen Emmorey, Ph.D., a professor of speech, language and hearing sciences in SDSU's College of Health and Human Services, is among the world's leading sign language researchers.

Her body of work examining what sign languages reveal about the nature of human language, cognition and the brain has earned her the title of Albert W. Johnson Research Lecturer for 2013, SDSU's highest research honor.

A visual language

"Studying sign language allows us to look at human language ability in a broader way and ask questions that can't be answered by considering spoken language alone," Emmorey said.

Illustration: Tom Voss

Because signs like those meaning "to write" or "to hammer" resemble the action described, many people view sign language as simply a comprehensive set of gestures. But those who've created poems in sign language, or struggled to remember a sign that was just on the tips of the fingers, would argue it's much more.

Emmorey seconds that argument. Her research—extending over 25 years—demonstrates that sign language is produced and comprehended in the same areas of the brain as spoken language, and that the brain can distinguish between signs and mere gestures.

Emmorey's insights have also contributed to the development of clinical practices that address communication disorders related to brain injury.

Research on bilinguals

Director of SDSU's Laboratory for Language and Cognitive Neuroscience, Emmorey heads a group of international researchers—both hearing and deaf—studying a multitude of topics related to language and the brain.

Currently, the lab is comparing bimodal bilinguals (those who are fluent in both a signed and a spoken language) with mono-modal bilinguals (those who speak two languages).

While mono-modal bilinguals must suppress one language while speaking another, bilingual bimodals are able to *code-blend*, rather than *code-switch*, and employ their two languages simultaneously.

"Our research shows that using *code-blends* doesn't slow you down," Emmorey said.

Emmorey's work is supported by the National Science Foundation and the National Institutes of Health. Since joining SDSU in 2005, she has directed, as principal investigator, more than $10 million in federal grant funding, including $2.5 million for this fiscal year.

The 23rd annual Albert W. Johnson Research Lecture is scheduled for Friday, March 15, at 3 p.m. in room 201 of the Arts and Letters Building. The lecture is free and open to the public. Seating is available on a first-come, first-served basis.

A Preventable Malady

By Sandra Millers Younger

Ed Riley finds all the motivation he needs to continue his 35-year battle against fetal alcohol spectrum disorders (FASD) whenever he spends time with children damaged in the womb by their mothers' drinking.

"That's where my real love is," he says. "When I take people who do basic research to see the kids, it changes their lives. They're studying this problem in a cell culture dish, and then you say, 'This is why you're doing it; it's this little kid right here.'"

A distinguished professor of psychology at San Diego State and director of the university's Center for Behavioral Teratology, Riley is world-renowned for his foundational research in the field of fetal alcohol exposure.

He and his SDSU colleagues—Sarah Mattson and Jennifer Thomas—have won awards, recognition and continual funding from the National Institute on Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism, a program of the prestigious National Institutes of Health (NIH). Their combined funding on FASD research exceeds $44 million.

Riley became interested in the behavioral effects of prenatal alcohol exposure in the mid-1970s, just after fetal alcohol syndrome (FAS) was first identified in children born to women who drank heavily during pregnancy.

Distinctive facial features

Early study of the syndrome focused on the small size and distinctive facial characteristics of affected individuals. But it soon became apparent that a child's developing brain suffered the most from prenatal alcohol exposure, as evidenced by cognitive problems (learning, memory, attention) and behavioral problems (overactivity, poor communication skills), even in children who didn't display the physical characteristics of FAS.

Riley led the way in establishing alcohol as a behavioral teratogen—a substance that causes birth defects resulting in altered behavior or cognition, with or without associated physical attributes. In 1988, he and Mattson came to San Diego State University and began working with other area researchers involved in this emerging field of study.

"We started a line of research looking at changes in the brain and behavior based on exposure to alcohol," Riley summarized. "We were really the first to show in a scientific exploration that you could have alterations in the brain and behavior in kids without the full-blown syndrome. We've also been among the first to look at interventions, both pharmacological and nutritional."

Mattson explained the significance of their earliest studies. "By comparing children—those with FAS as defined by

> “We’re talking about a condition as common as autism and ADHD. It’s the most common developmental disorder that’s entirely preventable.”

Photo: Lauren Radack

Jennifer Thomas, Sarah Mattson and Ed Riley are leaders in research on fetal alcohol spectrum disorders.

physical features and a second group known to have high levels of prenatal alcohol exposure but without the physical features of FAS—we discovered more similarities than differences in terms of cognitive deficits and behavioral effects.”

Magnetic Resonance Imaging (MRI) studies also confirmed brain anomalies in both sets of children. These early findings led to a shift in thinking and diagnostics. Today, the effects of prenatal alcohol exposure are viewed within a continuum known as the fetal alcohol spectrum.

Thomas joined the team in 1995, bringing additional expertise in brain development. She was also interested in the mechanisms by which alcohol causes damage to the fetal brain with the goal of discovering ways to prevent and treat its effects. As a result of Thomas’ input, the team is currently examining the effectiveness of various behavioral, pharmacological, and nutritional interventions for FASD.

Improved screening and diagnosis

While the community of FAS researchers worldwide has grown over Riley’s career from a couple dozen to hundreds, the SDSU team, all psychology professors, remains in the forefront of advancements in the field.

Riley, Mattson and Thomas also coordinate an international consortium of institutions organized by the NIH to study the issue. Members have included Harvard, Emory and Indiana universities, as well as University College London, Queensland Institute of Biomedical Research in Australia and Folkhalsan Research Center in Finland.

With recent discoveries offering more specific indicators of fetal alcohol spectrum disorders than ever before, the SDSU researchers are now focused on improving screening and diagnosis to help identify affected children who don’t display the characteristic FAS physical features—and the sooner the better.

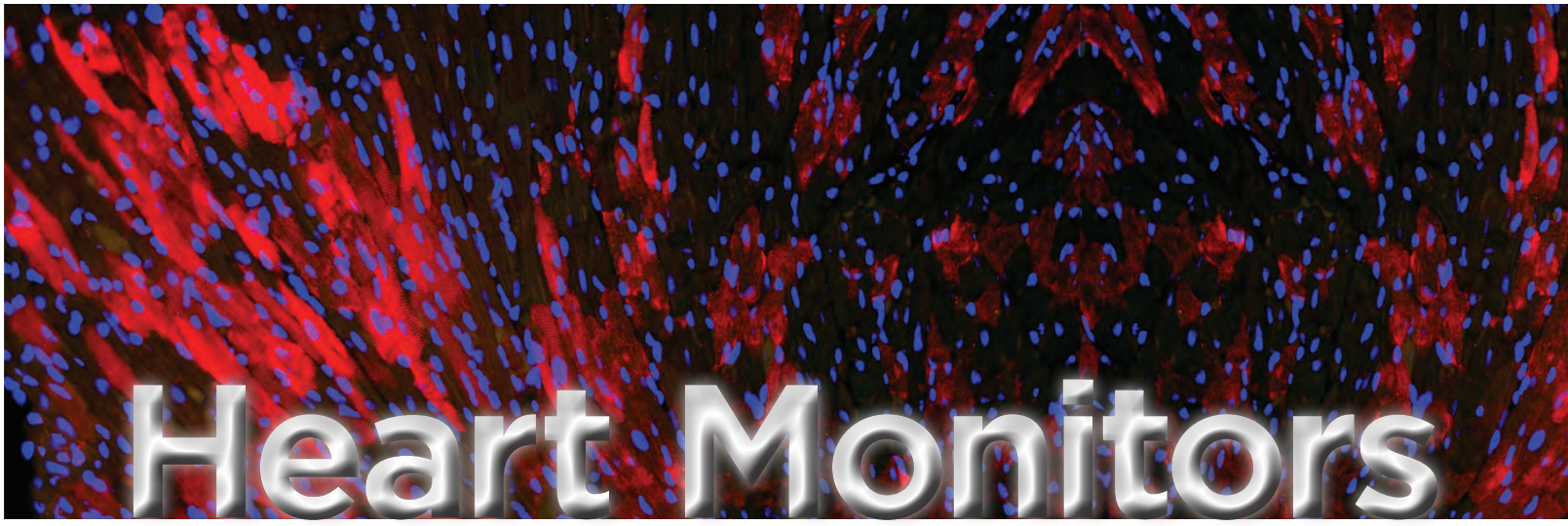
Early intervention could help prevent or mitigate problems in school and at home and could also prevent the secondary disabilities, such as school dropout, substance abuse, and trouble with the law.

“We’re talking about a condition as common as autism and ADHD,” Riley said. “It’s the most common developmental disorder that’s entirely preventable, and the most common cause of intellectual deficits that can be prevented. All we have to do is keep pregnant women from drinking.”

Easier said than done, he admits, even with growing attention to the risks, including a 2005 Surgeon General’s recommendation that “pregnant women and women who may become pregnant abstain from alcohol.”

In the meantime, Riley and his colleagues remain committed to helping kids with fetal alcohol spectrum disorders.

“The brain is incredibly plastic,” Thomas said. “We have evidence now that even after a child is born, we might be able to intervene—with drug or behavioral therapy—throughout that person’s lifespan. So just as we’ve identified a continuum of effects, there’s also a continuum of hope.”



Heart Monitors

By Sandra Millers Younger

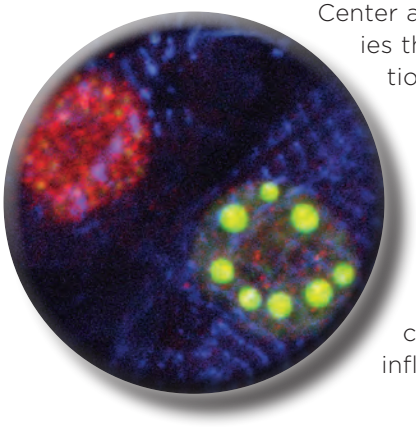
Think of it as an investment in the human race. At San Diego State University, hundreds of years (in lab hours) and hundreds of millions of dollars have been devoted to curing the number one killer of men and women worldwide—heart disease.

The mission continues, led by four SDSU researchers whose combined efforts have gained international recognition and uninterrupted funding from the National Institutes of Health.

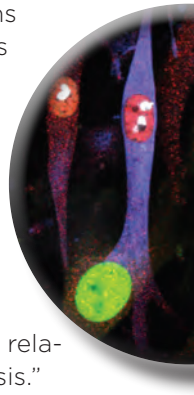
The best labs at the nation's leading research institutions compete for funding from agencies such as NIH, and fewer than 20 percent of applicants receive them. Count San Diego State heart researchers among those elite awardees.

In the Donald P. Shiley BioScience Center, the SDSU Heart Institute and the Integrated Regenerative Research Institute, these researchers work independently and collaboratively to find cures for heart disease.

Roberta Gottlieb, M.D., and her team at the Shiley BioScience Center are pursuing significant discoveries that relate infection and inflammation to cardiovascular disease.



Just as peptic ulcers, once blamed on stress and diet, were eventually traced to the *H. pylori* bacterium, evidence now indicates that heart disease and strokes may be caused by common infections leading to inflammation within arteries.



A current study of young adult Native Americans and Hispanics by the Shiley BioScience Center is designed to explore links between periodontal disease and heart disease. The potential ramifications are staggering: Low-cost dental care and education could prevent heart attacks 20 years down the line, saving untold lives and health care dollars.

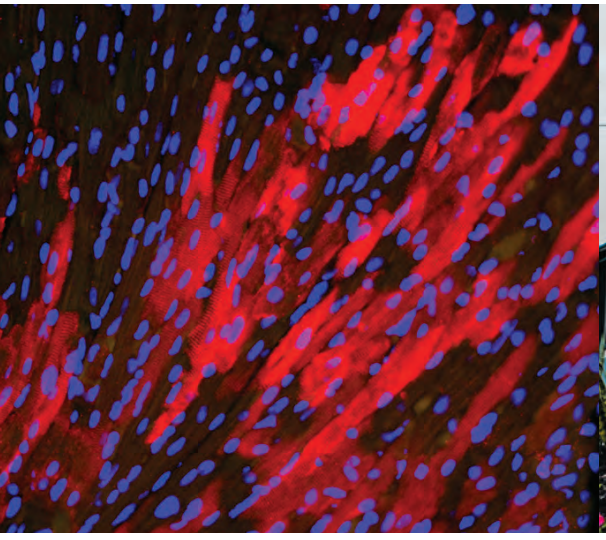
"If our hypothesis is correct," Gottlieb said, "we will be the first to directly demonstrate a causal relationship between oral hygiene and atherosclerosis."

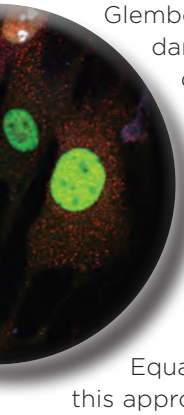
The Shiley BioScience Center is also recognized for research on autophagy, a cellular process of breakdown and recycling. In collaboration with cardiac transplant surgeon Robert Mentzer Jr., SDSU researchers have shown that autophagy is activated in humans undergoing cardiac surgery and is essential for protecting the heart during a heart attack.

The Role of Proteins

Biologist Chris Glembotski, director of the SDSU Heart Institute, heads a team working to boost the heart's natural protective processes—an important step toward the development of treatments aimed at reducing the damage caused by heart disease.

Heart Institute researchers in Glembotski's group have made great progress in their efforts. They have discovered that heart disease damages proteins in the heart, causing them to misfold, as in neurodegenerative illnesses, such as Alzheimer's and Parkinson's diseases. The misfolding results in life-threatening loss of heart tissue and function.





Glembotski's team found a gene in the heart that reduces damage by improving protein folding. Recently, they designed a new therapy for boosting the expression of this gene in the region of the heart most affected by heart disease.

"Our approach is significant because it enhances the heart's own protective processes, but only in the diseased portion of the heart, which improves its safety and efficiency," Glembotski said.

Equally exciting, Heart Institute researchers are using this approach in collaboration with other scientists to boost natural protective processes in the brain, a promising direction in the treatment of neurodegenerative diseases.

Tiny cardiac models

Sanford Bernstein, Ph.D., also a funded heart researcher, studies fruit flies to learn more about cardiac function in humans.

Although a fly heart is structurally different from the human heart, it's a relevant model for exploring the molecular basis of heart muscle contraction, a particular focus of Bernstein's lab. The team also studies how protein mutations known to cause neurological diseases, such as Alzheimer's and Huntington's, affect heart structure and function.

Bernstein's lab has been successful in expressing heart-protective proteins that ensure normal structure and function in mutant fly hearts. Next, they hope to determine the molecular interactions that go awry in abnormal human heart proteins, resulting in disease.

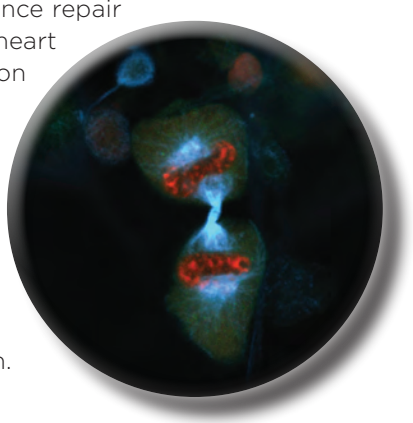
"I derive great pleasure and motivation in seeing the undergraduates, graduate students and postdoctoral fellows in our lab gain the skills and insights needed to solve these global problems," Bernstein said.

Heal thyself

Mark Sussman's approach to heart disease leverages the body's ability to heal itself. He is director of SDSU's Integrated Regenerative Research Institute, where researchers work to understand the processes of heart protection and regeneration with a goal of discovering therapeutic strategies.

Using cardiac stem cells from human heart-failure patients, researchers in Sussman's laboratory replicated them and then applied a molecule known as Pim-1 to improve the regenerative potential of damaged cells.

"With the help of Pim-1, these aged stem cells grow faster and are more resistant to dying," Sussman said. "When introduced back into the damaged region of the heart, the newly restored stem cells enhance repair and regeneration by forming new heart tissue and improving the contraction force of the heart beat."



With so many NIH-funded studies and so much collaborative work just in the field of cardiovascular research, it's no wonder San Diego State is increasingly renowned as a fertile environment for ground-breaking basic research.

Strings Attached

A musical quintet overcame personal tragedy to bring new meaning to the phrase "The family that plays together stays together."

By Aaron J. Hoskins

Cars jammed 55th Street, horns blaring at outlaw drivers flaunting the rules of the road. A news helicopter cut up the sky between four dancing spotlights. Thousands waited outside Viejas Arena, anxious to get their personal items searched and find their seats for the 91x Wrex the Halls concert, headlined by the once-brilliant indie rock band, The Killers.

A few people pushed past the crowd, walking east to Smith Recital Hall, a decidedly less boisterous but far more elegant venue. There they waited in small groups to hear a quintet of musically gifted siblings called the Bunnell Strings, who had just completed their first semester at SDSU.

The concert attracted a smattering of devotees and others who would hear the Bunnells' music for the first time. The walls didn't shake and the ground didn't rumble, but the audience was moved nonetheless by the program of original and reinvented music that connected genres in novel ways. At the last note, the crowd rose to its feet for a standing ovation.

"When the audience responds to our music in that way, it's much easier for us to connect with them, and it makes for a better performance," said Kimberly Bunnell, 22, who plays cello.

The Bunnell Strings, from left, Cara, Keren, Kimberly, Corrie and Ross

Kimberly works at differentiating herself from her siblings, whether in her choice of instrument, her bold fashion sense or her delectable skills in the kitchen. She's also the most competitive, a trait she attributes to her determination to outperform older sister Keren, 24.

The family played beautifully that December night, showcasing their broad repertoire and talents with a playlist including Mozart, the Beatles, bluegrass, religious hymns and original compositions dedicated to their parents.

Corrie, who at 21 is the middle sibling, serves as the group's first violinist. She writes and arranges most of their music, though she's the first to say it's a collaborative process that benefits from everyone's influence.

Cara, 19, also plays violin. Her emotional solos transfix the audience, but in person, she is more apt to make people laugh.

Double-bass player Ross, 17, is the youngest and "the funny one," according to his sisters. He is simultaneously introspective and curious about the world, a good combination for success in his major, political science.

The Bunnells have performed together for a decade. Now, as they perfect their repertoire, SDSU music professor and renowned clarinetist, Marian Liebowitz, is helping them smooth the rough edges of their business operation, from billing to booking gigs.

She can't help but marvel at the Bunnells' musical sophistication.

"It's magical to listen to the arrangements they play and experience their imagination and style," Liebowitz said. "Corrie's arrangements have a depth and maturity that you wouldn't expect from someone her age."

Like her siblings, Corrie began playing violin at 2 years of age. Her mother, Julie, insisted that all the children take lessons. She would sit each of them between her legs and hold their hands in the correct positions.

"She would say, 'Your wrist needs to be out and your fingers need to go down like castle tops,'" recalled Corrie, wiggling her fingers to demonstrate the technique.

"It's magical to listen to the arrangements they play and experience their imagination and style."

Photo: Sarah Pearl Photography

Photo: Sandy Huffaker Jr.

The Bunnells remember those lessons with fondness and poignancy.

"I cried a lot," Kimberly said. "But mom would tell me, 'See, you can do two things at once—cry and play the violin.'"

Julie Bunnell shepherded her five children to countless lessons, concerts and community events. She instilled in them a deep love of music, respect for each other and the discipline to fulfill their commitments.

She also homeschooled them through high school, though they did take some community college courses. And more importantly, she kept the family on course when her husband, Jim, a lieutenant commander in the Navy for 27 years, deployed six-months or more at a time during the Persian Gulf War and multiple times after 9/11.

The children would hang paper chains on the walls throughout the family home, removing a link every day until their father returned to San Diego.

When he was home, Jim made his children laugh, teaching them sports and telling rollicking tales about monster mosquitoes that enjoyed eating children.

"He called them, 'fluzzadillos,'" Corrie explained to the audience as part of an introduction to a song she wrote of the same name.

It opens with pizzicato—a rhythmic plucking that brings their dad's buzzard-size mosquitoes to life. The song unfolds with fluttering, frolicking notes that render the monsters more enchanting than menacing.

As the concert elapsed that December evening, each sibling shared a memory of their parents—Corrie told of her dad's fluzzadillos; Cara and Ross talked about family road trips; Kimberly shared that their mom never missed a music lesson; and Keren dedicated their performance of the song "Abide with Me."

What they did not share were the painful memories. Their dad died of skin cancer in 2007; their mom died of colon cancer in 2010.

Jim was sick for three years, beginning when Ross was just 11. After an unsuccessful surgery, the doctors discovered the cancer had spread to his brain, and he was unable to do much of anything for himself.

"The hospice nurses would tell us what was happening and what the process was and how it would further progress, so we were really prepared for it," Kimberly recalled.

Keren said the experience strengthened bonds in the already tight-knit family.

"We took care of him. We'd make sure he had enough blankets and we'd feed him."

Julie fell ill less than a year after Jim died. She had seen her husband barely survive a debilitating chemo regimen and, after several failed surgeries and a brief attempt at chemo, she decided to forgo further aggressive treatments.

Instead, she did all she could to give her children the best possible chance to succeed and be happy after she was gone. She made certain they would keep their home. More importantly, she ensured they would enjoy living in it together.

"She made us do everything together," Kimberly said. "If we were in orchestra, we were all in that orchestra. If two of us had a gig, we all went. She wouldn't accept it any other way."

Corrie said their mom taught them how to argue and get over it. "She really drilled that into us," she said.

"As soon as the argument is over, you move on and you're laughing the next second."

Just weeks after their mom died, Keren, 21 at the time, petitioned Family Court for guardianship of Cara and Ross, who were then 17 and 15.

She became the lynchpin that held the family together—a role she had prepared for under her mother's guidance in the twilight of Keren's adolescence. It's a role that translates to the stage as well.

"I like responsibility and I like taking care of people," Keren said. "When we play, I'm just making sure that we're staying together. Nobody's rushing, nobody's going too slowly. Everyone is in tune."

Thus far, the plan has worked. The five siblings live happily together, sharing responsibility for laundry, shopping, cooking and paying bills, though sometimes the dirty dishes get overlooked.

To be a friend of one sibling is to be a friend of all. Keren and Kimberly have longtime boyfriends, who double as handymen around the house.

The family wakes at the break of dawn and drives together to SDSU, instruments packed in the back of their 2008 Toyota Camry. They stay until 5 p.m. for Ross to finish his last class. In between, they study, eat and practice.

"We've never left a sibling behind, but we can't say the same about our instruments," Cara laughed.

And, of course, they make music together, committed to the dream they shared with their mother. They plan to continue for the next three years; then decide whether to go on performing as a family.

At that point they will have seen what it is like to tour nationally, be a full-time quintet and record an album, said Liebowitz, their mentor.

"They ooze with talent and I hope they make it over the long haul," she added. "The Bunnells have struggled to a certain extent with, 'do we want to do this or are we just doing this to please our mom.' But they are at a place in their lives right now where they are interested in doing it for themselves."

At the same time, even if they never play in front of thousands of fans in a venue like Viejas Arena, the family knows they honor their parents with every performance.

"I remember mom said that the trials in our lives would one day help us influence other people," reflected Kimberly. "And that the things we experience would only make us stronger."

—Julie Mashburn contributed to this story.

"We've never left a sibling behind, but we can't say the same about our instruments."

Julie Bunnell (standing, second from left), kept the family on course while her husband, Jim, was deployed.

Houston, We Have an Aztec

Ellen Ochoa, '80, is director of NASA's Johnson Space Center, the first Hispanic and second woman to hold the position. In 1993, she became the first Hispanic woman to go to space when she served on a nine-day mission aboard the space shuttle Discovery. During that flight and three subsequent missions, Ochoa logged nearly 1,000 hours in orbit. Prior to her career as an astronaut, she was a research engineer and inventor, with three patents for optical systems.

Q. You have been quoted as saying, "Being involved in human space flight is an emotional endeavor. It (elicits) the highest highs and the lowest lows." What was your highest high and your lowest low?

A. The highest highs were the successful completions of the missions I was involved in, knowing that a big team effort had accomplished something challenging and meaningful. The lowest low was, of course, the Columbia accident. I was in Mission Control that morning as the manager representing the flight crew.

Q. Reflect on your time as an astronaut and tell us how it changed you.

A. I was fortunate to have amazing experiences in space: seeing the Earth from a unique vantage point; contributing to understanding the Earth's atmosphere on a couple of science missions; and helping to assemble the International Space Station, an incredible facility that now supports six international astronauts doing science and technology activities. On the ground, I learned a great deal about working as a member of a team and leading a team, which serves me well in my current position.

Q. What were your emotions before, during and after your first space mission?

A. I was mainly focused on doing the best job that I could! At every step of every procedure, I was aware that I needed to concentrate, and that people on the ground were depending on me. I realized after I landed that I hadn't spent much time thinking about the actual experience of space. I had a hard time answering questions like "what did it feel like the moment the engines shut off?" because my thoughts had been about the next action I needed to take. So on my second flight, I tried to be more deliberate about noticing and enjoying the actual experience of being in space.

Q. If not science, which professional field would you have chosen?

A. When I arrived at SDSU, I was considering majors in music and business, and over the next couple of years I also considered journalism and computer science, so I had lots of different ideas! It was through my math classes that I started to explore science, and I found a welcoming and interesting environment in the physics department. I ended up minoring in math, almost by accident, when I noticed I only needed one more math class to satisfy the requirements for a minor!

“My focus is to do whatever we can to move exploration forward.”

Q. As newly-appointed director, what are your five-year and 10-year goals?

A. For the International Space Station, we want to continue to operate safely, increase both the amount of time and the impact of the scientific and technology activities onboard, and learn more about spacecraft systems in order to enable exploration to other destinations. We have important milestones in the development of the Orion spacecraft in the next few years: an initial test flight in 2014, a combined test flight with a new rocket in 2017, and the first flight with crew in 2021. While we have planned objectives for those flights, we continue to work with NASA Headquarters to consider various options that will help demonstrate needed capabilities for eventual missions to Mars.

Q. How do you see the future for NASA and for U.S. space exploration?

A. My focus is to do whatever we can to move exploration forward. The International Space Station is both a science laboratory and a test-bed for technology and concepts that we will need to explore beyond low earth orbit. We are also developing the Orion multi-purpose crew vehicle, the spacecraft that will take astronauts beyond low earth orbit, which is scheduled for a first test flight next year. We are encouraging commercialization of space through the commercial cargo and crew programs which will provide U.S. transportation to the International Space Station. And we work on many types of technologies that not only support human space exploration but also have important applications here on Earth, including advanced life-support systems and human-robotic systems.

Q. What is the best piece of advice you ever received?

A. A book that I have discussed both at work and at home is “7 Habits of Highly Effective People.” One of my favorites of those habits is “seek first to understand, then to be understood.” That can apply equally to a technical, operational forum, where we’re debating options for addressing a spacecraft anomaly, and to discussions with my family.

Q. If you knew you could not fail, what would you attempt?

A. There’s never a guarantee of success in anything that’s difficult, so it’s really a matter of striving toward a goal and understanding that even if you don’t reach it, you will have gained in so many ways. I’ve been very fortunate to have been able to obtain many of my goals, and to have had amazing experiences. I certainly couldn’t have foreseen that when I started at SDSU, but my education there gave me a great start and the confidence to pursue the next step.

Q. What trait do you most value in friends and colleagues?

A. The NASA values of excellence, teamwork, integrity and safety are meaningful to me both professionally and personally. They encompass honesty and respect, setting and achieving high standards in every type of endeavor, combining one’s own talents with those of others, respecting what different backgrounds and experiences bring and taking care of one other.

The Kenned Effe

50 years JFK came to changed

Eric Watkins, '70, had no ticket for the San Diego State Commencement ceremony at which President John F. Kennedy would speak. Back then, on June 6, 1963, the 15-year-old Watkins wasn't yet an Aztec.

But some instinct—some sense of history—impelled the Crawford High School student to cut classes and make his way to the State campus.

"I had never left school in my life, but that day, I just left. Our president was coming, and not just any president but the one who inspired the nation."

Watkins slipped though security and found a seat in Aztec Bowl, where carpenters had been sawing and hammering for days to build a dais. Perched high above the dignitaries, the graduates and the college faculty, Watkins had a bird's eye view of the president speaking to the crowd of 30,000 and receiving the first honorary doctoral degree ever awarded by San Diego State.

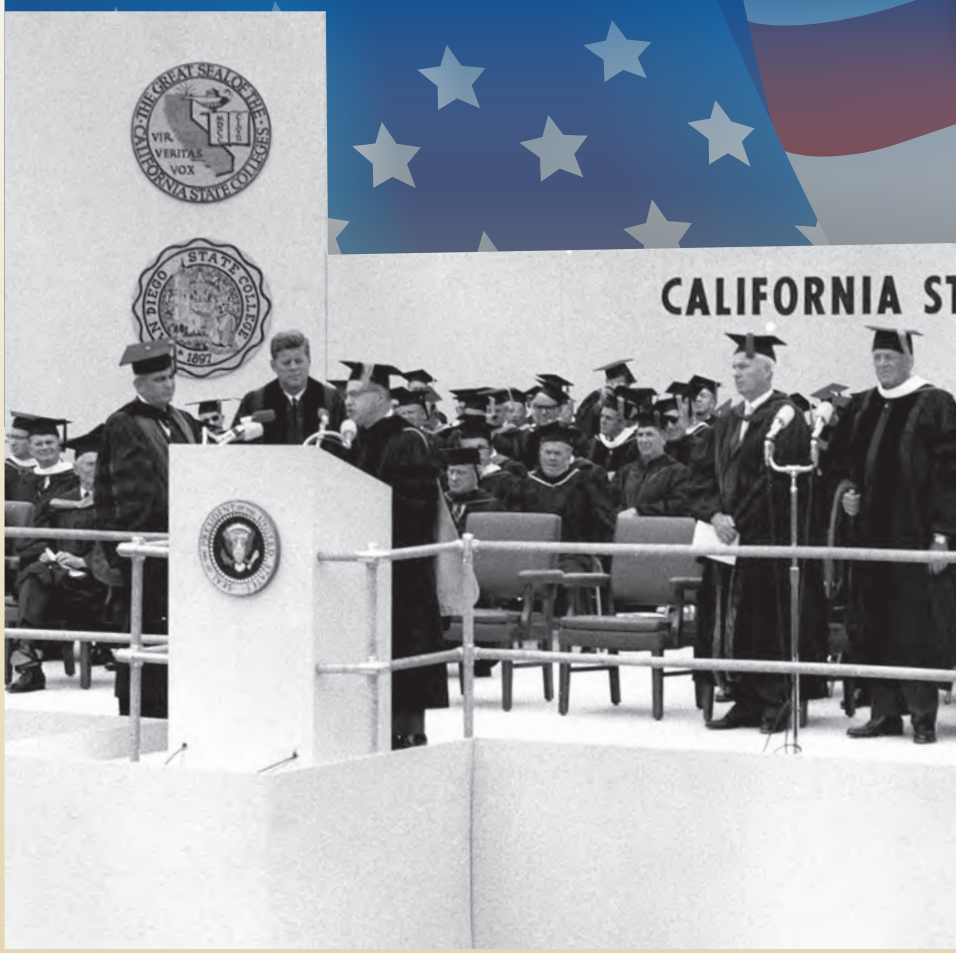
"His hair was this incredible color like copper wire," Watkins recalled. "The way the sun was shining off of his head, it was absolutely radiant. I don't remember anything he said. I just remember him, bare-headed...young and energetic.

"Then the helicopters lifted, and he was gone. Everything had stopped, like a moment suspended, and it was over. And I remember wondering how on earth did this happen? What brought the president all the way from Washington, D.C. to this campus?"

A bold plan

No one can answer that question more authoritatively than SDSU emeritus professor Henry Janssen. One morning, in the spring of 1963, Janssen heard a news report that Kennedy was to visit the Marine Corps Recruit Depot in San Diego.

He set out from his home in Lemon Grove, biking more vigorously than usual as a bold strategy took shape in his mind. On campus,



y ct

ago, campus and San Diego State history.

By Coleen L. Geraghty

Janssen eagerly shared the plan with Ned Joy, his office-mate in the Department of Political Science. It was worth a try, they agreed.

Until then, universities within the UC system had been reluctant to partner with San Diego State in doctoral degree programs. San Diego State possessed the faculty and the facilities to support doctoral level research, but state law prohibited the college from awarding doctoral degrees without a research institution partner.

Janssen's idea had the potential to turn heads among San Diego State's prospective partners. Why not award an honorary doctorate to the president of the United States?

Associated Students had written to Kennedy and invited him to speak at commencement. Now the plan went into high gear. San Diego State President Malcolm Love called California Governor Edmund (Pat) Brown. Days later, both Brown and Kennedy attended the MLB opening day game between Washington and Baltimore.

SDSU anthropology chair Seth Mallios continues the story in "Hail Montezuma!" his archaeological history of San Diego State.

"President Kennedy threw out the season's first pitch; Brown then made a pitch of his own, inviting the president to speak at San Diego State's commencement ceremony...On May 16, Love received a letter confirming that the U.S. president would indeed attend the event."

Three weeks to prepare

"It's Official! Commencement Speaker is President Kennedy," shouted the Daily Aztec front page headline from May 17, 1963. San Diego State had three weeks to prepare.

While federal security agents surveyed the campus and surrounding area, the university made plans to station 10,000 additional seats on the ground level of Aztec Bowl. AS officers spent lunch breaks in the bookstore distributing five precious tickets to each graduating senior.

The San Diego State Symphonic Band rehearsed feverishly for its role—regaling Kennedy and his entourage of White House staff, state and local

The president made an impassioned plea for equal access to higher education.

officials with "Hail to the Chief," preceded by the customary ruffles (drums) and flourishes (bugles).

College of Arts and Letters Dean Sidney Gulick designed an honorary hood described by the Daily Aztec as having a purple velvet edge and scarlet silk lining with a 5-inch-wide black V stripe in the center.

Meanwhile, the city of San Diego also prepared to welcome the head of state and the hundreds of national print, television and radio reporters who would arrive to cover his visit.

Officials mapped out a parade route from Lindbergh Field, east along El Cajon Boulevard. Marines would be stationed every 5-to-6-feet to keep the crowds at bay.

Graciousness and humility

The morning of June 6, 1963 was warm and overcast. San Diego's infamous June Gloom did not disappoint.

I was there...

Eric Watkins, '70

"I remember working my way down through the rows in Aztec Bowl until I found a seat. Suddenly, he was there. He was bare-headed, not wearing a mortar board.

In contrast to Dr. (Malcolm) Love with his silver hair was this young, energetic president...with hair like copper wire."

Kennedy was scheduled to arrive just before noon, but preparations began long before then. Angel Flight—an honorary auxiliary of the Air Force ROTC and the official campus hostesses—met to review its charge of helping the president don his ceremonial robe and hood.

Associated Students representatives also played an important role in the ceremonies, leading the procession of dignitaries into the stadium. As a bonus, the four class officers had front row seats.

"We were told not to bring cameras and photograph the president, but everyone did," said Diane Dawson, '63, former AS treasurer.

Of all that Dawson recollects about the day, the most vivid memory is Kennedy's inimitable style.

"There was a real graciousness about his remarks, as if we were his personal friends. And there was a degree of humility too, like we had done him a favor by asking him to speak. My father was on the faculty at Stanford and he was truly impressed that the president had come to San Diego State."

"We are the privileged"

Clearly, Kennedy had come with a purpose. His address, trumpeted to the press as a major policy speech, was an impassioned appeal for national support of equal access to higher education.

He began by congratulating California's commitment to education. "I do not believe that any state in the union has given more attention in recent years to educating its citizens to the highest level..."

Continuing, the president observed that not all states were equally enlightened. "In some states almost 40 percent of the non-white population has completed less than five years of school...What kind of judgment, what kind of response can we expect of a citizen who has been to school less than five years?"

Kennedy argued for education as a national priority, "at the top of the responsibilities of any government [because] it is essential to our survival as a nation...to the maintenance of freedom at a time when freedom is under attack."

And he ended his remarks with a call to action. "We are the privileged, and it should be the ambition of every citizen to express and expand that privilege so that all of our countrymen and women share it."

Yearbook dedication

Perhaps because Kennedy gave the San Diego State community a new self-respect, his loss six months later grieved many Aztecs deeply.

Sue Hotz, '66, remembers the hushed, somber mood on campus that November day when Kennedy was assassinated. An editor for *Del Sudoeste,* she dedicated the yearbook's 1964 senior section to the slain president.

I was there...

Diane Dawson, '63

"There was a real graciousness about his remarks, as if we were his personal friends. And there was a degree of humility too.

My father was on the faculty at Stanford and he was truly impressed that the president had come to San Diego State."

"Every emotion has been touched. Every word has been spoken. He lies in history; Now is the time for reflection," the inscrpition reads.

A half-century later, this story does have a happy ending. Just four years after Kennedy came to San Diego State, the college awarded its first non-ceremonial doctorate—in partnership with UC San Diego. The degree in chemistry went to Robert Metzger, who subsequently became a professor of chemistry at SDSU.

Today, San Diego State College is San Diego State University with 21 doctoral programs, a dynamic research agenda and a diverse student population. President Kennedy would have been pleased.

Robert Ray, director of Special Collections, provided historical images and invaluable editorial assistance for this story.

The public is invited to a 50th anniversary celebration of John F. Kennedy's visit at 12:30 p.m. on April 23 in L lot (at the bottom of Viejas Arena), where a stone marker commemorates the event.

Aztecs in Motion

Championship Season

SDSU is coming off its most successful fall season in school history.

Remember these names: Whitney Ashley, Allison Reaser, Chase Tapley, Katelyn Weddle, J.J. Spaun, Megan Jurado, Chelsea Hopkins, Jamaal Franklin.

They are just some of the current or recently graduated student-athletes whose outstanding records make them likely future candidates for the Aztec Hall of Fame.

Clearly, there is no shortage of athletic prowess on Montezuma Mesa, and the numbers prove it. San Diego State is coming off its most successful fall season in school history.

In 2012, Aztec teams captured nine Mountain West championships in seven sports—football, women's basketball (regular season and tournament), men's basketball (regular season), women's soccer (regular season and tournament), men's golf, women's volleyball and softball.

Four teams—women's soccer, men's golf, women's track and field and women's water polo—finished their seasons ranked among the top 10 nationally.

Aztec football went 7-1 in Mountain West play last year, winning its first conference title since 1998. And for the first time in program history, the squad advanced to a bowl game for the third consecutive season.

Nationally, San Diego State has one of the best collegiate win/loss records in football and men's basketball.

In a ranking of combined football and men's basketball results since fall 2010, San Diego State is second with 105 wins and 31 losses (77.2%). Ohio State tops the list with 102 wins and 26 losses (79.7%).

"Our 2012 year was a memorable one with nine championship trophies and numerous coach-of-the-year awards," said Athletic Director Jim Sterk. "This year looks to be equally as competitive and successful."

As a group, current Aztec student-athletes are also among the most academically adept in SDSU history. Nearly 40 athletes from four different sports made the Mountain West all-academic team for the fall 2012 semester, led by senior tight end D.J. Shields, a civil engineering major with a 3.87 GPA. "

Photos by Ernie Anderson and Stan Liu/SDSU Athletics.

A Gift of Imagination. The Edward Marsh Collection is a treasure trove from science fiction's golden age.

Edward E. Marsh spent 30 years and millions of dollars assembling one of the largest and most significant collections of science fiction on the planet. Now he is gifting a large part of it to the San Diego State University Library.

Part of the Edward Marsh Collection, including a bust of Ray Bradbury.

Valued at more than $2.25 million, the gift will be displayed in the Edward Marsh Golden Age of Science Fiction Room, a space to be created specifically for these works.

"This is an incredibly significant collection, not just to science fiction fans, but to students and researchers in many fields," said Gale Etschmaier, dean of the library. "It is a treasure trove with a new 'wow' piece at every turn."

Esteemed Authors

With his gift, Marsh joins the more than 40,000 individuals who have contributed to The Campaign for SDSU, which aims to raise $500 million by 2014.

Most of the books in Marsh's collection are signed first editions and include ephemera such as press clippings, notes and autographs.

Among the featured science fiction authors are: Arthur C. Clarke, Ray Bradbury, Isaac Asimov, Robert Heinlein, Jules Verne, H.G. Wells, Edgar Rice Burroughs and Kevin Anderson.

Marsh was also intrigued with the writings of L. Ron Hubbard, whose work is extensively represented in the collection. Best known as the founder of the Church of Scientology, Hubbard authored dozens of fantasy, science fiction and adventure stories during his 30s.

The Marsh collection also includes works by Ernest Hemingway, Albert Einstein, George Orwell, Will Durant, Winston Churchill, Ian Fleming and several U.S. presidents.

Heralding the Future

"The true gift Ed Marsh has given is his love and devotion to science fiction's golden age, represented by his collection and the endless potential for research into ideas yet to be discovered," said Rob Ray, director of Special Collections.

Marsh, who attended San Diego State in 1969, said there was "nothing I wanted more than to [ensure] this collection made it here and would continue to be shown to the public and maintained in perpetuity."

He said he hopes the material would inspire new science fiction writers. "We need brilliant minds to be stimulated by the old brilliant minds and to come up with new ideas because science fiction points to the future…it heralds the future of what can be."

The Marsh Collection will be catalogued over several months and available to the public later this year.

—Beth Chee

Investing in the Future. Terry Atkinson's gift supports SDSU's ambitious research agenda.

When private giving leverages public funding, amazing things happen.

The combination of public and private support for higher education can take research to a whole new level or expand a modest program into one that benefits hundreds of students.

Terry Atkinson recognized the importance of supporting research after he reconnected with his alma mater, San Diego State.

A 1969 graduate and public administration major, Atkinson moved from Southern California, to San Francisco, to New York as he rose through the ranks of big-name brokerage firms. He lost contact with SDSU.

A few years ago, Atkinson received a phone call from SDSU's vice president for University Relations and Development, Mary Ruth Carleton. She invited him to visit the campus and attend a few athletic events.

Getting involved

Atkinson was impressed with SDSU's growth. He joined the Campanile Foundation, the university's philanthropic auxiliary, and a lynchpin of The Campaign for SDSU. Launched in July 2007, the campaign has raised $385 million of its $500 million goal.

In 2012, Atkinson decided to make an investment in the university's future. His $1.5-million planned gift will establish an endowment to strengthen SDSU's ambitious research agenda.

"This university and its leaders are making a bet on the future," Atkinson said. "Research is the piece that will differentiate SDSU from other universities and attract more funding here. We have outstanding researchers in the fields of heart disease, public health, engineering and so many others. These faculty and their students are making a difference in people's lives."

Poised for growth

An early example of private philanthropy building on public support was Darlene Shiley's gift to expand SDSU's BioScience Center in honor of her late husband, inventor of the Bjork-Shiley heart valve.

The Donald P. Shiley BioScience Center is the first dedicated research building in the California State University system. Darlene Shiley's gift in 2008 created the Shiley Cardiovascular Center on one floor of the building.

In 2011, she made a second gift to support ongoing research at the BioScience Center and rename it the Donald P. Shiley BioScience Center. It is the only multidisciplinary center in the country to focus research efforts on the critical nexus of infection, inflammation and cardiovascular disease.

There are dozens of funded SDSU programs and research projects poised to advance in size and scope with an injection of donor funds. The endowment established by Atkinson's gift lays a foundation for growth in many different areas.

"This is important," Atkinson said. "Research is the future of higher education and SDSU needs to be part of it."

Close Encounters. Goldbergs Champion Student Success with Gift to Aztec Student Union.

The first time Frank and Lee Goldberg returned to the San Diego State campus—nearly 60 years after his graduation—they saw a group of engineering students with an 18-foot rocket.

An artist's rendering of the Aztec Student Union, due to open in fall 2013.

"The students told us they had built the rocket, then launched it in the desert and recovered it," Frank Goldberg said. "We were impressed."

Equally impressive were two Associated Students leaders the Goldbergs met at a fundraising event on campus. Lee remembered that one was a young man who had successfully navigated a difficult life in the foster care system to earn a spot at San Diego State University.

Funding Scholarships

Since their visits, the Goldbergs have made a major gift to fund scholarships for SDSU students like those they met. Thanks to them and many other donors, support for students has reached $54 million through The Campaign for SDSU.

In recognition of the couple's commitment to students, the center courtyard of the new Aztec Student Union will be named in their honor.

The Goldbergs married young. Frank enrolled at SDSU in 1949. Lee became an Aztec the following year. While still in college, they opened a retail furniture store in Chula Vista. The business prospered, and Lee left San Diego State to manage daily operations.

Frank continued his studies, graduating in 1953 with a major in business management and minors in economics and accounting.

The Goldbergs' business grew to 10 stores in California and one in Las Vegas. They became philanthropists, donating to medicine, education, religion and the arts.

But they lost touch with San Diego State until Frank saw SDSU President Elliot Hirshman speak at a meeting last year. They were introduced, and Hirshman invited the Goldbergs to campus.

First in the CSU

Both Lee and Frank plan to stay connected to SDSU in the future, and to be on hand in January 2014 for the official opening of the new Aztec Student Union. The building will open to students in fall 2013.

Located in the middle of campus, the 206,000-square-foot structure replaces Aztec Center. It is designed and built to achieve LEED Platinum certification, the highest level of certification in sustainable building. It will be the first such facility in the California State University system.

"A student union is a very important element of a university campus," Lee Goldberg said, "and we are pleased to support it."

About San Diego State...

By Ken Kramer

I hope somebody marks November 26th on the calendar, because there ought to be a celebration. The SDSU campus newspaper will turn 100 years old, and its tens of thousands of issues—preserved in the university's archives—are nothing less than a treasure.

It's never been easy. In the very first edition of what was, in 1913, called The Normal News Weekly, students were told that if this noble journalistic enterprise were to succeed, they had better support its advertisers. "You know the paper cannot subsist on San Diego climate and fricasseed air."

After Normal News became The Paper Lantern in 1921, and The Aztec in 1925, and finally The Daily Aztec in 1960, there were sometimes barely enough ads to keep it alive. To look back at those ads, especially from the 1950s and 60s, is to see the cultural expectations of campus life. One ad for trousers urges male students to reject the notion of being "pals" with females, and "turn aside the insidious blurring tide of feminine togetherness."

Women were gently reminded that school was a business, not a cocktail party, and they should dress accordingly. "The advertising is just astonishing throughout," says Robert Ray, head of Special Collections and University Archives, which has maintained copies of The Aztec. "It's a wonderful window into student habits, fears, and hopes."

NORMAL NEWS
WEEKLY

GOVERNOR HIRAM JOHNSON

Gov. Johnson Addresses Normal School

Lincoln's Birthday Is Celebrated

For decades, The Daily Aztec's headlines and stories reflected how the larger world affected our university, and, for better or worse, how students were dealing with social and financial pressures.

But in its pages can also be found sweet snapshots of campus life in the 1930s, when a regular gossip column appeared. Anonymously authored by someone known only as The Ghost, it promised, "I'll get you if you don't watch out." In one column, The Ghost reveals: "Stan Burne, although he may not know it yet, is to be the object of Margaret Hildreth's affections. She made open the announcement that all her womanly charms are to be poured upon the unsuspecting Aztec."

It's rare that anything lasts a century. The Aztec has been a campus companion through wars, social upheaval, joy, tragedy and ever-changing times. And that is indeed, something to celebrate!

Class Notes

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

1950s

'58 **David Stine** ★ (English), San Bernardino County Board of Education trustee and professor emeritus at CSU San Bernardino, is co-editor of Omni's Educator Ethics Series for California.

1960s

'65 **Vance Mills** (mathematics), a board member of the San Diego Education Fund, was recognized by the University of San Diego as a "Remarkable Leader" in San Diego's education community.

1970s

'76 **Anne Harper Panattoni** ★ (recreation administration) received the 2012 Distinguished Professional Award from the Armed Forces Network of the National Recreation and Park Association.

'77 **Teresa Dunn Freborg** (economics) is a training and implementation specialist for Financial Tools, Inc.

'79 **Ronald Baldwin** (biology) was appointed by Montana governor Steve Bullock as the state's chief information officer.

1980s

'80 **Rhonda Coleman** (graphic art) authors "Portland Insider," a guide to the city's quirky sites, which is available as an app for iPhone, iPad, and Android.

'81 **Jimmy Steinfeldt** (management) has published "Rock 'N' Roll Lens" (Point Shoot Press), a new book featuring his photography of rock music legends.

'82 **Neil Sagebiel** (economics) published his first book, "The Longest Shot: Jack Fleck, Ben Hogan, and Pro Golf's Greatest Upset at the 1955 U.S. Open" (St. Martin's Press).

'85 **Joe Haakenson** (journalism) is the author of "100 Things Angels Fans Should Know and Do before They Die" (Triumph Books), due out in April; **Dwight Leung** (mechanical engineering) is president and CEO of Martinez & Turek in Rialto, Calif.; **Michael Moulton, M.D.,** (biology) is president of the North Carolina Medical Society.

'86 **Kacy Gott** ★ (finance), a wealth adviser and principal for Aspiriant, won the 2013 Heart of Financial Planning Award from the San Francisco chapter of the Financial Planning Association.

1990s

'90 **Judith Hirni** (journalism) and '98 **Ernesto Barrera** ★ (English) were married last year, and now live in Xingsha, China, where she teaches elementary school; **Col. Mark O'Laughlin** (management) is 325th Fighter Wing vice commander at Tyndall Air Force Base in Florida. Previously, he was based in Japan with the largest combat wing in the Air Force; **Todd von Mende** (finance) is CFO for Capital Music Group in Hollywood, Calif.

'91 **Christina Hilton** (mathematics) was selected as a 2012 Math for America San Diego Noyce Master Teaching Fellow. She works at El Cajon Valley High School; **David Kahal** (finance) is senior vice president of life distribution management for Equitable Life Insurance Company.

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

An Unlikely Choice for a Woman

Diane Dodgion Denkler

One day of shorthand homework was enough to convince Diane Denkler that a career as secretary or teacher would never make her happy. Bring on the advanced algebra and physics—those were the classes she relished.

Little did Denkler know that she would make history with her unconventional choices. In 1961, she became the first woman to graduate with an engineering degree from San Diego State, choosing civil engineering/structural design as her major. It was an unlikely pick for a woman at the time.

Always realistic, Denkler expected resistance from professors and fellow students, but she hadn't anticipated practical problems like conducting field surveys dressed in the skirts that all co-eds wore.

"I would trudge down the mountain behind campus with my tripod over my shoulder and walk through a tunnel under the freeway. That got old, so I found a better solution. I drove to the site and changed into slacks in my car."

Denkler developed a strong attachment to State, and the feeling was mutual. She became freshman class secretary, president of Alpha Phi and a member of the homecoming court. Engineering students voted her Miss Aztec Engineer and built a float exclusively for her in the 1961 Homecoming Parade.

As graduation approached, career placement staff—perhaps concerned that the world was not ready for a woman engineer—arranged interviews for Denkler with four major corporations. All four offered her positions, and she joined Pacific Telephone & Telegraph, now PacBell, as a chief engineer.

Again, she faced opposition from some, but many recognized her ability. In 24 years at PacBell, Denkler held 27 positions, and was the first women to occupy most of them. Subsequent careers in insurance and marketing deepened her experience in ways that have made her a valuable mentor for young women.

Now retired, Denkler lives with her husband, Neal, in Palm Desert, where she serves on the boards of the College of the Desert Foundation and the McCallum Theatre auxiliary, and finds time for golf, Mah Jonng and travel.

Active in The Campaign for SDSU, the Denklers have made a planned gift and are members of the National Campaign Committee. "I realize my education at SDSU opened doors to opportunities in both business and public affairs and now in retirement," Denkler said. "During a recent tour of campus and the engineering facilities, I was awestruck by the sophisticated and far-reaching educational opportunities available to our students. I am grateful to be able to give back and say thank you."

Class Notes

1990s

'92 **Lt. Col. Thomas Fahy Jr.** (public administration) graduated from the Naval War College in Newport, R.I.

'94 **Ileana Ovalle Engel** (public administration) is director of government affairs for Cox Communications in California.

'96 **Chad Burns** (accounting) is managing director in San Francisco for the financial advisory and investment banking firm Duff & Phelps Corp.; A new book by sportscaster **Joshua Suchon** (journalism), "Miracle Men: Gibson, Hershiser and the Improbable 1988 Dodgers" (Triumph Books), publishes this spring; **Michael Wielechowski** (biology) is a shareholder in the newly established Charlotte, N.C., office of Buchanan Ingersoll & Rooney PC.

'98 **David Burcin** (master of public health) has been certified by the National Registry of Certified Microbiologists.

'99 **Kelly Senecal Crothers** (marketing) is vice president of marketing for MaintenanceNet; **Fernando Sanudo** (masters of public health) is CEO of the Vista, Calif., community clinic.

2000s

'00 **Brody Smith** (political science) was elected a partner in the law firm of Bond, Schoeneck & King, PLLC.

'04 **Angela Brooks** (English) is associate partner with executive search firm Sanford Rose Associates.

'05 **Louis Frick** (rehabilitation counseling) was honored as a San Diego local hero by Union Bank and KPBS.

'06 **Hallie Tremaine Balkin** (political science) is assistant counsel with the Marine Corps System Command in Quantico, Va.; **Joanna Mang** (English) was a winning contestant on "Jeopardy," earning $26,600.

'07 **Steve Gera** (MBA sports management) is special assistant to Cleveland Browns' head coach Rob Chudzinski

'08 **Lt. Jared Deiter** (mathematics) completed joint task force exercise aboard the guided missile destroyer USS Shoup.

Stiefel

Roberts

Amador

Ransom

The 2013 Monty Award Winners

The Monty Awards Gala is the annual signature event of the San Diego State University Alumni Association. This year's dinner and awards presentation will be held Saturday, April 20, at the Hyatt Regency La Jolla. For tickets, sponsorships and additional information, visit www.sdsualumni.org/montys

The Honorable Ronald D. Roberts • College of Arts and Letters

Ronald D. Roberts ('65, social science), is the Fourth District supervisor for San Diego County. An architect and former San Diego Planning Commission chairman, he is also a former city council member. Roberts is considered a pioneer in working with diverse local communities and helping San Diego State University's outreach over several decades.

Catherine M. Stiefel • College of Business Administration

Catherine M. Stiefel ('92, accounting) supports higher education and educational opportunities for underserved communities. In addition to her involvement with the Barrio Logan College Institute, she also serves on the Charles W. Lamden School of Accountancy Advisory Board in the College of Business Administration.

Sherrill L. Amador, Ed.D. • College of Education

Sherrill L. Amador ('64, business administration, education), Ed.D., is a career educator who spent more than 30 years as a college administrator including the position of community college president. A past president of the SDSU Alumni Association, she presided over one of the most significant expansions of lifetime membership in the organization's history.

Larry Banegas • College of Health and Human Services

Larry Banegas ('87, social work, MSW), president and founder of Kumeyaay.com, has served as a member of the Tribal Council for the Barona Band of Mission Indians and is a former director of social services for Southern Indian Health Council. He is also a respected teacher of Kumeyaay culture and tradition.

Mars Curiosity Rover Team • College of Engineering

Team members directly contributed to aspects of design, development, testing and operation of NASA's $2.5 billion program that landed the Curiosity rover on Mars August 5, 2012.


Brown


Blessing


Banegas


Calvin


Atkinson

College of Professional Studies and Fine Arts • Terry L. Atkinson

Terry L. Atkinson ('69, public administration), chief executive officer at Atkinson Management Consulting, is considered one of the premier banking figures in the business with more than 35 years of experience in the public finance arena. He is an active member of The Campanile Foundation Board of Directors.

College of Sciences • Kristian L. Brown, M.D.

Kristian L. Brown ('00, biology), M.D., Ph.D., is a surgeon at Detroit Medical Center and an adjunct assistant professor of biomedical engineering at Wayne State University College of Engineering. A supporter of the College of Sciences' Center for the Advancement of Students in Academia (CASA), his work has garnered numerous research awards.

SDSU Imperial Valley • Margaret Hunter Calvin

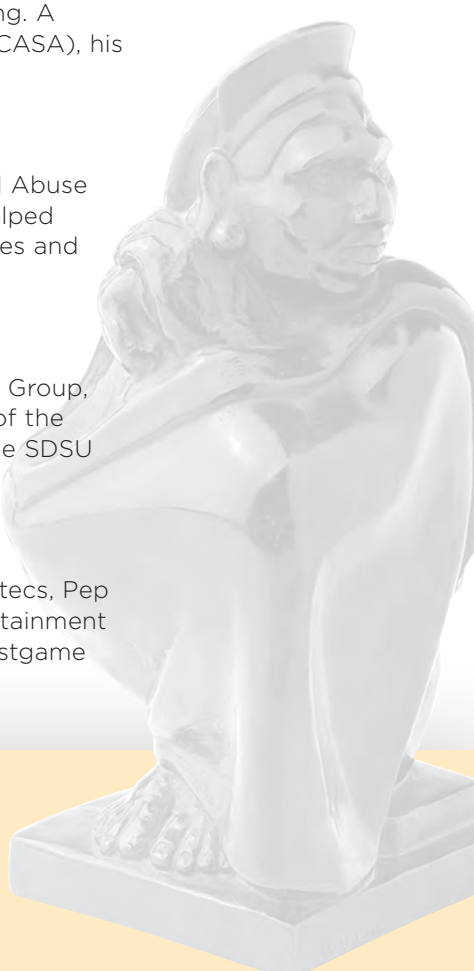
Margaret Hunter Calvin ('86, history) is president and co-founder of the Imperial County Child Abuse Prevention Council. Instrumental in raising awareness of child abuse-related issues, she has helped implement child care education courses, promoted accessible resources for at-risk communities and advocated for "re-entry women," who seek education and careers after starting families.

Distinguished Alumni Service Award • Edward W. Blessing

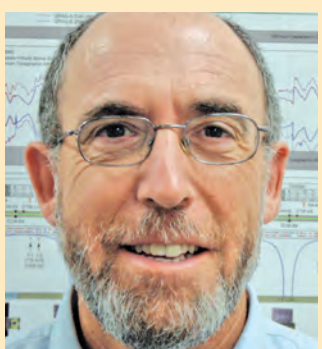
Edward W. Blessing ('60, interdisciplinary studies) is managing director of Blessing Petroleum Group, LLC. A member of The Campanile Foundation Board of Directors, he is also a past president of the Alumni Association, and has been instrumental in supporting the Alumni Center Campaign, the SDSU War Memorial and the Troops to College Fund.

Distinguished University Service Award • Bryan K. Ransom

Bryan K. Ransom ('93, music education), director of athletic bands, oversees the Marching Aztecs, Pep Band, Varsity Band, Winter Guard, Drumline and all SDSU instrumental ensembles. He is entertainment coordinator for the San Diego Chargers, and produces Super Bowl pregame, halftime, and postgame shows, plus Major League Baseball and International Tennis Federation events.



Jordan P. Evans ('93, aerospace engineering), Amanda Jeremiah Thomas ('96, aerospace engineering), Douglas J. Clark ('85, physics), Bonnie C. Theberge ('86, electrical engineering), Joseph D. Brown ('05, aerospace engineering), Mark S. Ryne ('80, astronomy), Brandon T. Florow ('05, aerospace engineering).



By Degrees

Timothy King | Hometown: Fremont, Calif. | Major: Biology

King, a senior, is a student supervisor in the SDSU Annual Giving Call Center, which supports The Campaign for SDSU.

Cold calling isn't everyone's idea of fun. Why did you apply for a job in the call center? As a freshman, I was looking for something easily accessible. The opportunity to work with other students on campus appealed to me. And the call center is fun. I enjoy talking to donors. Now that I'm a supervisor, I also like coaching and motivating the younger callers.

Tell us about some of the SDSU alumni you've "met" on the phone. I've had several conversations with a parent from San Jose. Like me, her son is a senior at SDSU. She asks lots of questions about the university, and is interested in hearing about my student experience. Another woman told me the story of meeting her husband on campus. They still come to football and basketball games. It's impressive how many alumni are still invested in State.

How has working at the call center changed your career goals? I am a biology major, but I'll be starting out in university development after graduation. I have a management scholarship from a company that operates university call centers. That means I'll train for nine months and be guaranteed a position as manager in one of the company's call centers around the country. At some point, I want to transition into fundraising for a nature conservation or environmental protection group, which would tie into my major.

To support The Campaign for SDSU, visit sdsu.edu/campaign

Photo: Sandy Huffaker, Jr.

Aztec for Life Checklist

- [x] Alumni Lifetime Membership
- [x] Season Tickets
- [x] Aztec Gear
- [ ] Annual Alumni Donation

• The CAMPAIGN for •

SDSU

Leadership Starts Here

Every Aztec, Any Amount, Every Year:

GIVE TO SDSU

sdsu.edu/campaign

SAN DIEGO STATE UNIVERSITY
Leadership Starts Here

360 Magazine
Address Corrections:
5500 Campanile Drive
San Diego, CA 92182-8045
alumnidata@sdsu.edu

Students Alex Warneke (left) and Lee Reeve

discovery starts here

Our marine biology students started something. Alex Warneke and Lee Reeve are finding solutions to environmental problems along the Southern California coast. At SDSU's Coastal Marine Institute, students like Alex and Lee get hands-on experience working alongside faculty researchers to explore the ecology of crustaceans, tropical fishes, kelp forests, and saltmarsh ecosystems. To learn more, visit sdsu.edu/leadershipstartshere.

Attend Explore SDSU Open House on March 23, 9 a.m.-2 p.m.

SAN DIEGO STATE UNIVERSITY
Leadership Starts Here