

360

SUCCESS STORIES

360

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SAN DIEGO STATE UNIVERSITY

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**SAN DIEGO STATE
UNIVERSITY**

Leadership Starts Here

FROM THE PRESIDENT



Photo: Wesley Beights/Daily Aztec

Many discussions about the purpose of college in today's media are based on a false dichotomy between intellectual and professional development. At San Diego State University, we view intellectual and professional development as complementary and mutually reinforcing aspects of the college experience. Above all else, college is a time for growth, and this growth should be intellectual, personal and professional. Our students, the future leaders of our society, should engage in multiple pursuits and stretch themselves to accomplish great things.

The Aztec experience integrates academic rigor and powerful life-changing opportunities—research, leadership and entrepreneurship training, and real-world experiences such as study abroad, internships and mentoring relationships. Co-curricular opportunities in athletics, the arts and cultural activities add to an environment that develops the whole student. This edition of 360 features a few of the many, many student success stories found at SDSU.

Our faculty and staff, with the support of our alumni and members of the broader community, play essential roles in making San Diego State a place where students

from all backgrounds achieve excellence. They develop and deepen our students' academic and research abilities, support their physical and mental well-being and serve as role models and mentors for academic, professional and personal success. In this edition, you will meet four new university leaders—Provost Chukuka Enwemeka, College of Business Administration Dean J. Dennis Cradit, College of Education Dean Joseph Johnson Jr. and College of Engineering Dean Morteza Monte Mehrabadi—who will collaborate with members of our community to build on these traditions of excellence.

My goal as president of San Diego State University is for each student to have a transformational experience that prepares them to meet the complex challenges of our society and makes them and our community proud of their accomplishments.

I hope you enjoy learning more about these experiences and our students in this edition of 360: *The Magazine of San Diego State University*.

Elliot Hirshman

FEATURES

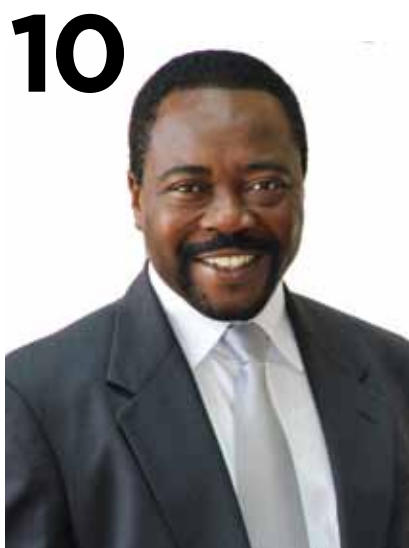
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Senior Brandon Ishikata

On the cover: *Olivia Shelvy, who graduated magna cum laude, was one of more than 9,000 earning degrees from SDSU in May.*

Compass





Herd the news?

San Diego State theatre professor Peter Larlham is an accomplished teacher of acting, directing and improvisation, but it's his non-academic service that caught the attention of the prestigious Phi Kappa Phi Honor Society. The organization made Larlham the first recipient of the newly created Ray Sylvester Phi Kappa Phi Distinguished Service Award.

The award specifically commends Larlham for his leadership of the Mnyakongo Primary School Project in Tanzania, which so far has built a school library that houses more than 8,500 books, helped secure electricity and running water for the campus, refurbished buildings, and bought goats to provide milk for the school lunch program.

Photo: Margaret Larlham

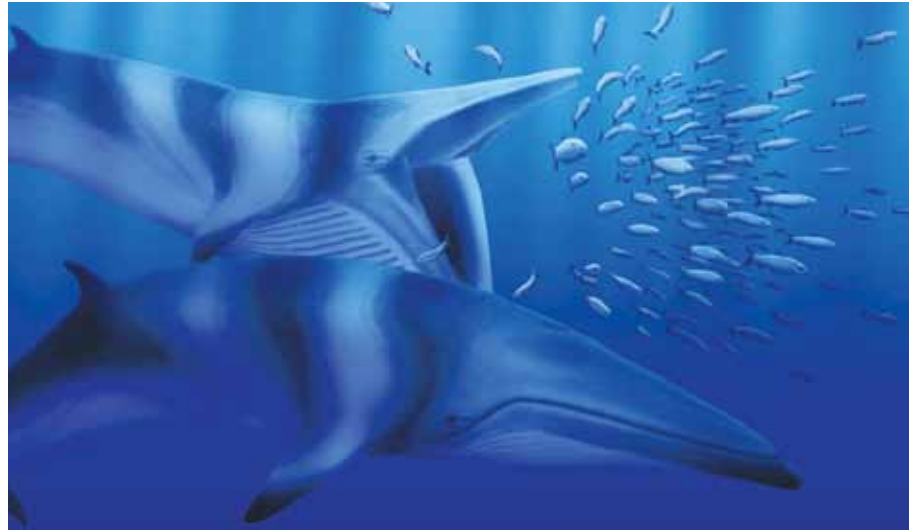


Photo: Courtesy of Robert Boessenecker

Whale tale

Ten years ago, a surfer in San Francisco's Half Moon Bay tipped off New Zealand geologist Robert Boessenecker to the existence of strange bones buried in the cliff side. Boessenecker investigated the bones and uncovered a species of extinct whale unknown to science. He christened the behemoth *Balaenoptera bertae*—"Balaenoptera" Latin for finned whale, and "bertae" for San Diego State paleontologist Annalisa Berta.

Berta is a well-regarded researcher in the field and the author of a tome on the evolutionary biology of marine mammals, and Boessenecker said he highly admires Berta's work.

Autism advance

According to the most recent estimates from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, one in 68 children is born with autism. For brain scientists, discovering how the cognitive pathways of the autistic mind differ from those of typical brains is a major research target. San Diego State psychologist Inna Fishman has made a key discovery in this area.

In a study published in *JAMA Psychiatry*, Fishman, working with fellow SDSU psychologist Ralph Axel-Müller, used brain imaging techniques to peer into neuronal connections between parts of the brain thought to play a role in social behavior and understanding social cues. The researchers compared imaging results from two groups of adolescents—those with autism and those with typically developing brains.

They found an abnormally high degree "cross-talk" in the brain areas of adolescents with autism, suggesting that the connections between these areas might be less specialized in their roles than in their peers without autism.

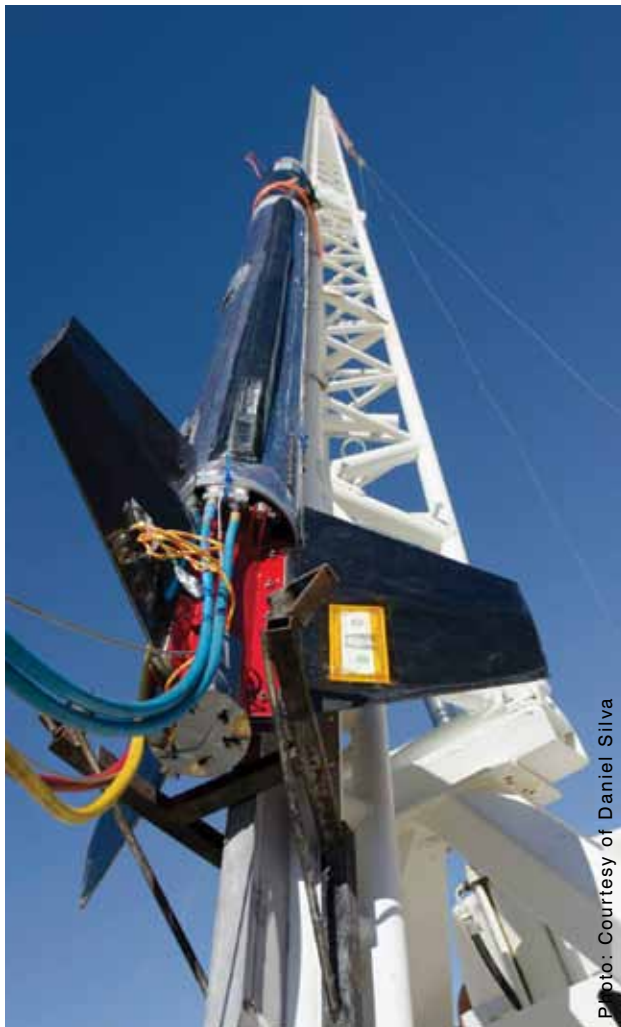


Photo: Courtesy of Daniel Silva

Funding the final frontier

Students involved with SDSU's Rocket Project are over the moon about \$25,000 in new funding for scholarships, materials, and mentorship costs related to careers in astronomy and space exploration. Galactic Unite, the funding arm of Virgin Galactic, provided \$20,000 of the funding, and NASA's Jet Propulsion Laboratory contributed another \$5,000.

The funding will support up to five scholarships per year worth between \$3,000 and \$4,000 for students in the Rocket Project.

The rocket team is presently building its latest rocket iteration, nicknamed Ender, which it hopes to launch to a maximum altitude of 10,100 feet.

Curtains rise

Last fall, the San Diego State Department of English and Comparative Literature set the stage for a partnership with one of San Diego's premier theatre companies, the Cygnet Theatre. That partnership has been renewed for a second act, giving SDSU students valuable exposure to careers in education and the theatre business.

Students in the program serve as ambassadors for the Cygnet Theatre, meeting with patrons after performances and connecting them with the cast and crew. They also gain teaching experience by presenting behind-the-scenes information about the plays to local high school classes.

"It's great for students because they are developing networks and relationships," said English department lecturer Edith Frampton, who heads up the partnership along with Peter Herman.

Bring on the brass

It's not quite 76 trombones, but the Marching Aztecs did take first prize in Yamaha's 2013 Quest for Music Education online competition, winning six new marching baritones valued at \$20,000. Bryan Ransom, director of athletic bands, entered SDSU into the competition, which required students and other Aztecs to visit the Yamaha Web site, answer questions about wind, percussion, and audio products, then vote for a deserving university marching band.



From left, Marissa Papet, Cindy Au, Nicole Castro.



Photo: Beth Chee

Willie Jefferson Horton Jr., who heard Martin Luther King Jr. speak at SDSU in 1964, joined professor Seth Mallios and SDSU president Elliot Hirshman in unveiling a plaque to commemorate the civil rights leader's visit to campus.

Remembering Dr. King

Fifty years ago, Martin Luther King Jr., spoke before thousands of students and community members gathered at what is now the Cal Coast Credit Union Open Air Theatre. To commemorate the historic anniversary, SDSU hosted contemporary civil rights thinkers, historians, and community leaders to share their memories of King and thoughts on his legacy.

During the event, SDSU unveiled a plaque to be installed at the entrance to the theatre bearing an image of Dr. King speaking on campus, as well as the most famous quote from his speech that day: "We must live together as brothers or we will perish together as fools."

Rebuilding as art

In March 2011, a 9.0 earthquake and its consequent tsunami ravaged Japan. The city of Kesennuma was further devastated by a chemical fire that burned for four days. A year later, city officials organized a worldwide design competition to collect ideas for rebuilding the city. The top 10 designs submitted for the competition will be on display until September 15 at SDSU's Downtown Gallery.

The exhibit, "Fading Memories," features the urban recovery plans alongside jewelry created by local artisans from broken pieces of pottery left in the wake of the tsunami.

"I call the exhibit 'Fading Memories' because our minds gradually forget the horrors of a disaster such as this," said SDSU professor of interior design Kotaro Nakamura, who curated the exhibition. "The forgetting is a protective mechanism; it must happen so that we can move on, but it also represents the survivors' suffering that still continues today, which is often forgotten by the rest of us."



Photo: Hallie Jacobs

Acclimatizing

Add green to the scarlet and black. In March, SDSU president Elliot Hirshman signed the American College and University President's Climate Commitment, joining more than 600 universities in pledging to model for the community novel ways to minimize global warming emissions and to instill in graduates a deep knowledge of the importance of lessening humans' impact on climate.

"As signatories to the climate commitment, we are pledging to work as a community toward the elimination of net greenhouse gas emissions and to promote research and education that builds a more sustainable world," Hirshman said.



A Step Up. Early career funding launches success.

By Michael Price

Building your research career in academia is tough work. Young faculty juggle numerous responsibilities during their early working years, and it can be tricky to find the time to apply for grants and actually do their research.

Some, however, are talented, driven, and fortunate enough to receive generous grants in the early stages of their academic lives, giving them the funding and time needed to establish their careers.

The two largest federal research funders in the United States, the National Institutes of Health and the National Science Foundation, award the prestigious NIH Career Development Awards (otherwise known as K Awards) and NSF CAREER Awards to promising scientists. These career-making awards typically help fund a portion of researchers' salaries and allow them to hire assistants.

Two SDSU researchers recently received these awards, and both are beginning to make their mark in their respective fields.

IMPROVING AUTISM CARE

When psychologist Amy Drahota finished her master's degree in psychology at SDSU in 2003, she knew she wanted to return to the university someday.

"I really appreciate the balance between research and teaching at SDSU," she said. "It's nice to be able to do both of those things, and have the opportunity to do both well."

After finishing her Ph.D. at the University of California, Los Angeles, in 2008 and working as a postdoctoral fellow at the University of California, San Diego, she leapt at the chance to take a job as an assistant research professor at SDSU.

Drahota works in a new field of social science called "implementation science," which takes a data-driven approach to examining the effectiveness of social policies and programs. She's among the first autism researchers to specialize in this burgeoning discipline.

The novelty of the field and Drahota's specific expertise led the National Institutes of Mental Health to give her a K Award to study the implementation of research-based autism treatments at community organizations.

The majority of people with autism, which affects 1 in 68 children, see community providers for their behavioral health care, but there's little data on the quality of that care.

Drahota is developing a model known as ACT SMART (Autism Community Toolkit: Systems to Measure and Adapt Research-based Treatments) to help these providers better recognize their staffing and infrastructure needs and develop strategies to provide evidence-based interventions.

She said the K Award has been instrumental in her success so far at SDSU, eliminating immediate worries about funding and paying for training opportunities for her to develop new skills and build partnerships with the community. She's presently in the third year of her grant and running a pilot study of the ACT SMART model.

"With K Awards, your goals can shift as you collect data. I've been able to take time truly developing my expertise," Drahota said.

THE AMAZING REGENERATING WORM

SDSU biologist Ricardo Zayas's research is a little... squishier. He studies the regenerative properties of tiny, non-parasitic flatworms called planarians, specifically the species *Schmidtea mediterranea*.

These rice grain-sized animals are noteworthy because they can recover from extremely traumatic injuries. An unusually high percentage of their cells—between 10 and 20 percent—are stem cells, allowing them to repair damage to their bodies quickly and efficiently.

Learning more about how these creatures produce and take advantage of their stem cells could open up new avenues for human disease treatment.

"If we can understand them better, it might have applications for treating cancer, neurodegenerative diseases and other diseases related to damaged cells," Zayas said.

Zayas seeks to answer a specific question: Which genes that regulate the degradation and recycling of cellular proteins are involved in tissue regeneration, and what are their targets? It's a hot problem in the field, he said.

Last year, NSF awarded Zayas a CAREER Award to help him find the answer. The funding has allowed him to set up a lab and hire graduate and undergraduate students. In a new course Zayas will begin teaching in 2015, students will generate data to be used in his research, giving them valuable research experience.

Like Drahota, Zayas said he is thrilled that SDSU affords him the opportunity to merge his passions for teaching and scholarship.

“With K Awards,
your goals can shift
as you collect data.
I’ve been able to take
time truly developing
my expertise.”
- Amy Drahota



WANT TO KNOW WHAT
HAPPENS WHEN YOU CUT
A PLANARIAN IN HALF?

FIND OUT IN OUR VIDEO
INTERVIEWS WITH THE
FEATURED RESEARCHERS.
[SDSU.EDU/HORIZONS](https://sdsu.edu/horizons)



CHANGE AT THE TOP



A veteran academic leader and pioneering researcher is the new provost and senior vice president for Academic Affairs.

Chukuka S. Enwemeka, distinguished professor and former dean of the College of Health Sciences at the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee, joined SDSU July 1. He has more than 20 years of academic leadership experience, including 10 years as tenured professor and chair at the University of Kansas Medical Center and more than 11 years as a college dean.

Distinguished professor and dean of the College of Health Sciences, University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee

Tenured professor and chair, University of Kansas Medical Center

Post-doctoral researcher at NYU's Rusk Institute of Rehabilitation Medicine

Leading authority on the use of lasers and monochromatic light for therapeutic purposes

Enwemeka received bachelor's and master's degrees from the University of Ibadan in Nigeria and the University of Southern California, respectively and earned his Ph.D. from New York University before doing post-doctoral research at NYU's Rusk Institute of Rehabilitation Medicine.

He is a leading authority on the use of lasers and monochromatic light for therapeutic purposes. In pioneering studies, Enwemeka and his team demonstrated, for the first time, that certain wavelengths of LED blue light kill the deadly methicillin-resistant *Staphylococcus aureus* (MRSA), suggesting that blue light may be a viable alternative to bacteria-resistant antibiotics.

What drew you to academia as a young man?

It was during my second year at the University of Ibadan that I made up my mind to emulate the lifestyle of my professors. I was full of admiration for them. They seemed to have this incredible amount of knowledge.

Many would teach without any notes; everything came straight from their heads.

What were some of your earliest impressions of the United States?

I found that research in America must be focused on not just identifying a problem, but also finding the simplest solution. This insight enabled me to understand why this nation is so good at finding solutions to practical problems, and why Americans do not waste time on things that don't work. We look for the most common-sense approach to resolving issues.

What attracted you to SDSU?

SDSU's focus on student success is very impressive to me and it is something I think I can assist with. Academic institutions nationwide have not done a very good job with student success. We blame it on the

grade schools and the high schools, but just look at how we evaluate ourselves. We are four-year colleges and yet, nationwide, we use the six-year graduation rate to measure success! We need to help students achieve their goal of graduating with a degree in four years. I am equally attracted to SDSU by its strong focus on research, proven dedication to internationalization and the teacher-scholar faculty model, devotion to community engagement, and demonstrated commitment to diversity.

Tell us about your family.

We have five children, including three adults who are ages 33, 29 and 28. The oldest lives in Kansas City; he studied engineering. The second is a journalist in Boston; and the third is an engineer working for SpaceX here in California. We also have two young daughters who came with us to San Diego. My wife, Roselyn, will be joining SDSU as assistant director of special programs with the International Student Center.

SDSU's New Deans

J. Dennis Cradit, College of Business Administration

J. Dennis Cradit served since 2006 as dean of the College of Business at Southern Illinois University. In 2012, he was tasked with additional responsibilities as deputy to the chancellor for innovation and economic development.

He led SIU's efforts to instill innovation and entrepreneurship into the curriculum, writing a plan for campus-wide implementation and integrating the university's initiatives with regional economic development efforts. A native Texan, Cradit has a Ph.D. in cognitive and social psychology from the University of Iowa.

Joseph F. Johnson Jr., College of Education

Joseph Johnson joined SDSU in 2005 as a professor of educational leadership and executive director of the National Center for Urban School Transformation, which helps urban schools to achieve exceptional academic results.

Johnson has served as a school district administrator in New Mexico, a state education department official in Texas and Ohio and director of Student Achievement and School Accountability at the U.S. Department of Education. He received a master's degree from SDSU and a Ph.D. from the University of Texas, Austin.

Morteza Monte Mehrabadi, College of Engineering

Morteza Monte Mehrabadi came to SDSU in 2007 as chair of mechanical engineering and became dean earlier this year. He received a Ph.D. from Tulane University, where he taught for 16 years before becoming department chair. His research has been supported by the National Science Foundation and the Department of Energy.

Mehrabadi has been a visiting faculty member at the Laboratoire de Mecanique des Solides, Ecole Polytechnique in France; at Tohoku University in Japan; at the University of California, San Diego; and at the Naval Research Laboratory in Washington, D.C.

Thousands of SDSU success stories reached a happy ending this spring when 9,271 young men and women took part in Commencement 2014.

Each student's scrapbook will differ, but a few key elements define the SDSU experience. Aztecs are entrepreneurial; they are leaders; they seek out internship and mentoring experiences; and they engage in research and creative endeavors.

This issue of *360: The Magazine of San Diego State University* looks at student success through the lens of San Diego photographer Tim Mantoani.

SUCCESS STO



RIES

LEADERSHIP



Energized for the upcoming academic year are newly elected Associated Students executive board members (from left) Alex Padua, Kevin Hancock, Corey Polant, Jacqueline Karczewski and J. Cole.

“Through my leadership experiences, specifically with Associated Students, I’ve learned how to manage responsibility, create a vision and bring it to reality. Leadership has taught me to believe and trust in myself and to collaborate successfully with my peers.”

—Jacqueline Karczewski '15

Garrett Bornand, a graduate student in professor Fletcher Miller's mechanical engineering lab, studies how wind patterns and materials influence the twists and turns of wildfires. The work helps firefighters stay a step ahead of the flames.



RESEARCH & CREATIVE ENDE

“Working one-on-one with professors taught me how to think like a scientist. I learned that research is an ongoing cycle; one asks questions, and rather than complete answers, the results inspire more questions. My scientific curiosity is rarely satisfied.”

—Phillip Silva '14



Abracadabra! Creative costume design by master of fine arts student Jordyn Smiley transformed actors into animals for the theatre department's production, "Jungle Book."

Photo: Chad Shelton



In the intimate space of the University Art Gallery, candidates for the SDSU master of fine arts degree present their thesis exhibits to an appreciative audience. "Eyes Like This," pictured at left, is graphic artist Minae Kim's allegorical answer to her young daughter's questions about identity and heritage.

AVORS



Phillip Silva, '14, is headed to Yale University this fall to continue his research on drug abuse and neuropharmacology, which was guided by SDSU professor Jennifer Thomas (in top center photo). "My involvement in undergraduate research had a tremendous impact on my life," he said.



In professor Tom Huxford's biochemistry lab, Linda Honaker, '14, works with the most advanced equipment to measure molecular interactions in solution. Honaker's undergraduate research earned her a spot in Harvard University's molecular & cellular biology Ph.D. program.

In a previous career, Tita Gray created mentoring programs for corporate clients. Now, she puts that experience to work teaching and mentoring students in her management classes in the College of Business Administration.



Francisco Ruiz-Tatum and Wendy Bohn gained real life experience in construction engineering through internships at Clark Construction, made possible by Clark's vice president of regional operations, Carlos Gonzalez, '97, '00.



A graduate of SDSU's Sports MBA program, Roberto Castro, '99, right, is manager, event operations, for the San Diego Padres. Current students like Matt Thomas, left, intern with Castro to learn the mechanics of MLB club operations.





María Luisa Zúñiga is associate professor of social work and adviser to the SDSU Latino Student Social Worker Association. Her strong research ties and training collaborations in Yucatan and Baja California provide internship and mentoring opportunities for Aztec students.



“ A mentor can be the catalyst for success; not just someone who gives advice, but someone who inspires, engages, and coaches you to be your best. A mentor prepares you to accept that your destination may not be what you want, but instead what you need. ”

—Tita Gray, lecturer and Ph.D. candidate

MENTORING



A prolific author and winner of multiple outstanding faculty awards, history professor Edward Blum doesn't confine his teaching to the classroom. Joining him (second from right) in a lively post-classroom debate are Marco Alvarez, Sydney Wolfe and Anthony Rodriguez.



Founded by Kevin Gelfand, '11, and Martin Reiman, '12, Shakesmart grew from a campus kiosk, where SDSU could grab a healthy shake after working out, to a company with six locations in California, including one in the new Conrad Prebys Aztec Student Union.



ENTREPRENEURSHIP

SOLO Eyewear's CEO Jenny Amareneni, '11, and COO Dana Holliday, '10, lead a company whose profits have restored vision for more than 10,000 people through eye surgeries and prescription glasses.



An Aztec team is competing to build a real-life version of the portable diagnostic tricorder familiar to Trekkies worldwide. MBA student Lambert Ninteman said the team will take its model to market whether or not it places first in the \$10-million XPRIZE Foundation competition.





Photo: Jeff Ernst

Courtesy of ONEHOPE Wine



Social entrepreneurship startups by Aztecs include ONEHOPE Wine, which has donated more than \$1 million from its wine sales to charitable causes. Tom Leahy, '02, and Blake Petty, '04, are among the company founders.

“I can’t imagine another university where our XPRIZE team would have access to such great faculty and resources. SDSU is dynamic, globally engaged and ready for the challenges of the 21st century. And so are we.”

—Lambert Ninteman,
MBA student and
XPRIZE team captain.



After a bruising fall from his board one night, skater Drew Page saw the light. With guidance from SDSU’s Zahn Innovation Center, Page—an entrepreneurship major—teamed up with engineer Jennifer Wood, '14, to create Shredlights, super-bright mini head-lights for skateboards.

Aztecs in Motion

Strokes of Genius. Two stand out in a crowded field of scholar-athletes.

Macklin's parents, Ken and Nicola, were Division I All-American athletes in football and track respectively.



San Diego State set a school record this year with its highest score ever on the annual Academic Progress Report released by the NCAA.



That adds up to a lot of success stories, but the most outstanding belong to the Aztecs named student-athletes of 2014.

Baseball outfielder Greg Allen and swimmer Mikaela Macklin won the honors by demonstrating excellence in academics, athletics, leadership and character. Both student-athletes are destined to be enshrined in the Aztec Hall of Fame for their achievements

in the pool and on the field. But they also shine in the classroom with GPAs above 3.5 and multiple-year spots on the Mountain West All-Academic teams.

Power in the pool

Macklin set all kinds of records during her swim career at SDSU. She holds school titles in the 200- and 400-meter individual medleys, 200-meter breaststroke and 800-meter free relay.

This year, she won the Mountain West Senior Recognition Award—determined by MW coaches—as part of the 800-meter freestyle relay championship team that set the division meet record.

The May '14 graduate was MW Swimmer of the Year in 2013 and qualified for the NCAA championships in three events last year.

She was honored as a MW scholar-athlete and a member of the MW All-Academic Team in each of her years at SDSU.

Macklin also qualified for the NCAA championships this year, earning honorable mention All-America honors by finishing 12th overall in the 200-meter individual medley.

Her accomplishment helped the Aztecs place 27th of 51 teams competing in the NCAA championships, the highest rank ever achieved by the SDSU swimming and diving team.

Macklin's athletic spunk spilled over into the classroom. Graduating with a 3.74 GPA, she received the Most Outstanding Student award from the Department of Journalism and Media Studies at commencement.

Department faculty recalled Macklin's work ethic, initiative and capacity for

Allen's favorite athletes include former MLB great Jackie Robinson and Padres outfielder Cameron Maybin.



leadership. In one class, she volunteered to call the White House press secretary for a spontaneous telephone interview.

Through her internship work with the California State Games last summer, the grassroots U.S. Olympic Committee program increased its social media presence by 10 percent on Facebook and 23 percent on Twitter.

Flair on the field

No crystal ball necessary to predict a bright future for Greg Allen.

The Aztec outfielder was selected by the Cleveland Indians during the sixth round of the MLB draft in June based on his .307 batting average and his team rank of third in hits (77), second in runs scored (52), and first in stolen bases (25).

The prowess of Allen and teammates catapulted Aztec baseball to a MW championship this year and earned SDSU a berth in the NCAA baseball tournament for the third time in six years.

Allen's individual achievements include a spot on the 2013 NCAA regional All-Tournament team and two years on both the MW academic All-Conference team and the MW All-Tournament team.

He is also a two-time winner of the prestigious Arthur Ashe Jr. Sports Scholars Award, which honors undergraduate students of color who exemplify the standards set by tennis great Arthur Ashe Jr.

Among players and coaches, Allen is known as a gifted communicator. Mark Martinez, recently named executive head coach of Aztec baseball, described him as intelligent and

mature, with the ability to defuse situations through give and take.

"Greg does have a little bit of Eddie Haskell in him," Martinez said. "You'll be debating, and he'll hit you with a zinger—nothing hurtful—but it catches you off guard. He'll get you to laugh at yourself."



A business management major with a 3.52 GPA, Allen expects to train with the Indians' minor league system this summer before returning to SDSU in the fall to complete his degree.

—Coleen L. Geraghty

**“We have
a good
partnership
with SDSU.”
-Mark Filanc**

The Ties that Bind

Industry support shapes future real estate, construction engineering professionals.

On the first day of class each semester, Ken Walsh tells his construction engineering students they're going to make a lot of money when they graduate—and he intends to ask them for some of it.

It's Walsh's way of cultivating Aztecs who will give back to San Diego State University, and he has good reason to believe he is planting seeds in fertile soil.

Walsh knows that many of his students will find their first jobs in San Diego. Chances are they will join the close-knit industry whose philanthropic vision has fueled the growth of SDSU's J.R. Filanc Construction Engineering and Management (CEM) program.

Across campus, in the Corky McMillin Center for Real Estate, students have numerous opportunities to interact with industry professionals who will hire and mentor them as they build their careers.

The co-existence of a construction engineering and management major in the College of Engineering and a real estate major in the College of Business Administration's finance department benefits SDSU students in both areas of study.

Not only are San Diego industry leaders financially involved in

these programs, many also serve as guest lecturers, mentors and eventual employers for the newly minted professionals graduating from SDSU.

CROSS-FERTILIZATION

The McMillin Center's unique Day 1 program offers monthly Saturday workshops in the offices of real estate professionals, where students learn specific skills that supplement their academic portfolios, such as residential site planning, valuation and commercial property management.

Students enrolled in the J.R. Filanc Construction Engineering and Management program find internships through SDSU alumni and acquire real-world knowledge during field trips to construction sites managed by local Aztecs.

Mark McMillin, '79, president and CEO of the Corky McMillin Companies, is chair of the McMillin Center's advisory board. He played a key role in the \$1.5-million family gift that established the center.

A donor to both the real estate and CEM programs, McMillin sees opportunities for “cross-fertilization” between the two.

“It's important for construction engineering majors to learn aspects of finance and for real

estate majors to understand the practical side of construction,” said McMillin. “SDSU can offer students a complete set of skills.”

SHOW OF SUPPORT

Mark Filanc, president and CEO of J.R. Filanc Construction, also sees a natural synergy between the two programs as well as an opportunity for San Diego business leaders to unite in supporting them.

“We need to be sure all factions of the building and construction industries realize the benefits and understand how they can become involved in the growth of these programs,” he said.

A gift from Filanc’s parents, Jack and Jane, helped establish the CEM program in 2005, while funding from other members of the Associated General Contractors (AGC) enabled SDSU to hire Walsh as AGC-Paul S. Roel Chair of Construction Engineering.

In a recent show of industry support, nearly 400 people attended the third annual CEM gala in April, doubling last year’s attendance and raising \$146,000 for SDSU.

“The industry has a clear, united vision of how we can help the program grow,” Filanc said. “We have a good partnership with SDSU.”

Building Excellence, Brick by Brick

Though he has won far more prestigious honors in his 30-year career, Steven Black still relishes the memory of an award he received as a student in the College of Business Administration.

Black, '77, was enrolled in a class taught by Jim Belasco. At the end of each semester, the management professor would invite students to his home for a competition testing their business acumen. Divided into groups of four or five, they wrestled with problems requiring critical thinking and the application of business skills.

Black teamed up with friends, including a few fraternity brothers from Sigma Alpha Epsilon.

“No one gave us much of a chance of winning,” he recalled, “but as the afternoon wore on, we kept making our best decisions and ultimately, we prevailed. Of course, we went out and celebrated.”

The power of teamwork is not the only lesson Black learned at San Diego State. Accounting 1A revealed a new “language of numbers and concepts” that made perfect sense to the young business student, setting him up to become an accounting major, a CPA and eventually, a successful real estate developer and investor.

His recent gift of \$1 million creates an endowment to provide academic scholarships for undergraduates majoring in real estate at SDSU so they can forge their own paths to success.

Students would do well to look at Black’s career as a model. He has been involved in the development of more than 20 million square feet of commercial and residential projects.

That’s equivalent to about 23 Petco Parks and includes the Cisco Systems European headquarters in Amsterdam and a new high-rise corporate headquarters for Semptra Energy in downtown San Diego.

Black is currently the managing member of Cisterra Partners LLC, which was named Developer of the Year in 2007 by Ernst and Young.

The collaborative nature of the work is Black’s ultimate satisfaction. His advice to SDSU students: Take risks, learn from your mistakes, be engaged, build relationships, find a mentor and always move forward with optimism and confidence.

Giving Back

Looking for ROI?

The President's Leadership Fund has an 11-year record of success.

A record 47 Aztecs graduated from the University Honors Program in May and, in a sense, the program itself is graduating too.

In another year, it will have completed the transition from honors program to a full-fledged Honors College, thanks in no small part to an early financier, the President's Leadership Fund (PLF).

With support from an expanding circle of donors, the PLF invests in new and strategic programs or projects that often grow to become major university initiatives. PLF benefactors have given more than \$500 million over 11 years to fund 254 initiatives.

The fledgling University Honors Program was one of PLF's first investments in 2003, receiving \$250,000 over five years to develop courses and support a faculty adviser.

The funding also enabled seven students, including Joaquin Ortega, '06, to attend the National Honors Council Conference in Chicago. Ortega said that opportunity and the guidance he received from honors adviser Jung Choi were crucial to his SDSU education.

"The positive and uplifting experience of the honors program was a big factor in my decision to give back to the PLF," said Ortega, currently

a mechanical engineer with SANDAG. "PLF has the flexibility to support unique programs and experiences for students."

Members of the President's Leadership Fund make annual unrestricted contributions to provide seed money for investment in innovative programs or projects that state funding does not support.

Recent projects that have grown and developed with PLF seed money are:

- A prototype developed by engineering professor Mahasweta Sarkar that links wireless devices to connect people with similar interests at large conventions or job fairs
- A program to increase students' understanding of the concepts introduced in introductory calculus by incorporating technology into lessons and providing peer tutors
- Aztec Entertainment, a web streaming channel operated by professor Timothy Powell's television production class to host live-streamed and recorded events, including performances by SDSU students and the KPBS series "Live at the Belly Up."

The PLF can help launch new ventures, recruit and retain distinguished professors and students, increase on-campus and off-campus learning opportunities and deepen SDSU's commitment to serve the San Diego community.



Teachable Skills

Learning to lead is part of the curriculum at SDSU.

It may be true that leaders are born and not made, but leadership skills can also be taught, and Sean Kashanchi, '11, was an apt pupil.

As a student, Kashanchi led Sigma Phi Epsilon's community service efforts and held increasingly responsible roles with Associated Students (AS), including executive vice president.

Leadership opportunities abound at San Diego State University for receptive students. The Center for Student Life and Leadership offers an 18 to 24-month leadership certificate program, a variety of leadership workshops and an annual Leadership Summit.

"Student leadership development has tremendous momentum at San Diego State," said Timothy Quinnan, associate vice president for Campus Life and Leadership.

Kashanchi learned his leadership lessons well, and together with fellow AS alumnus Matthew Keipper, '08, he is applying them to create a campaign initiative supporting leadership training at SDSU.

The two Aztecs contacted dozens of former AS alumni and collected more than \$50,000 to create the Dan Cornthwaite Leadership Endowment, supporting leadership training and activities for AS executives.

Kashanchi said students benefitting from the gift will honor Cornthwaite, whose guiding hand helped create the newly opened Conrad Prebys Aztec Student Union before he retired after 30 years as AS executive director.

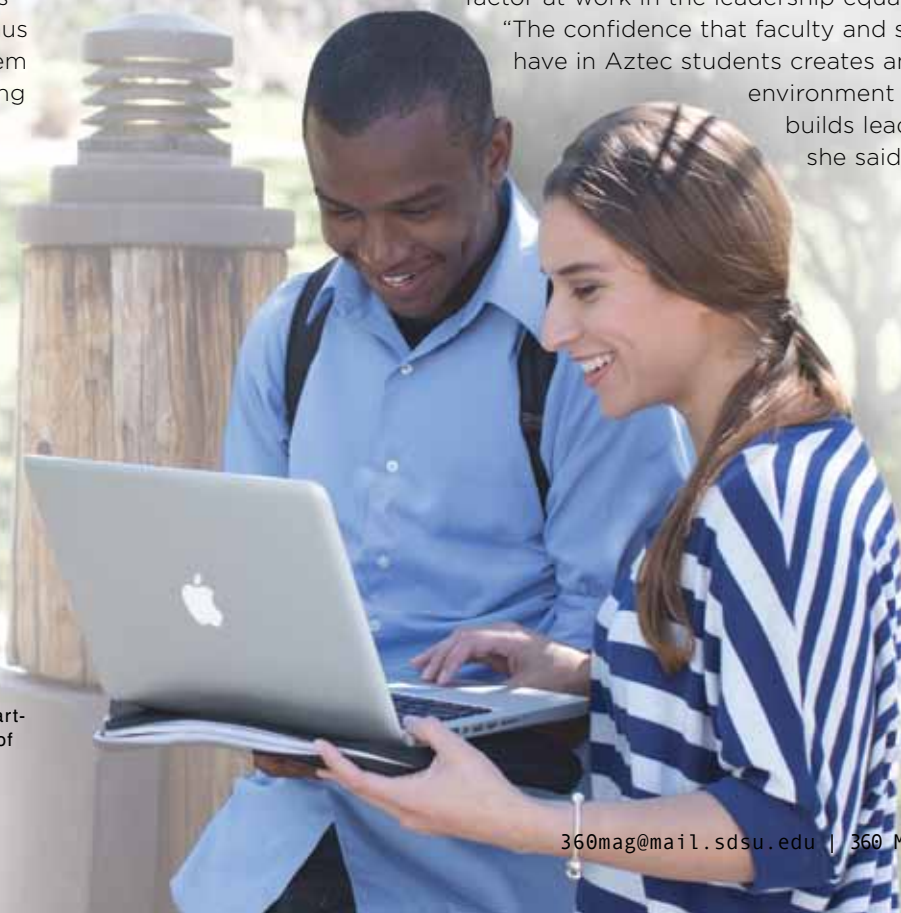
2014 graduates Jordan Harrison and Savanna Tierney were Quest for the Best winners. She served as a peer mentor in the psychology department and he was an AS executive and founder of a business fraternity chapter.

Gifts to support leadership activities and training—for AS executives and a variety of other student leaders—are a key component of The Campaign for SDSU.

The largest campaign gift received so far—a \$20-million endowment from philanthropist Conrad Prebys—includes scholarships for student leaders. Other major donors to leadership initiatives are the Aztec Parents Association and PepsiCo, sponsor of Quest for the Best.

The students chosen annually as Quest for the Best winners represent SDSU's standout leaders who have excelled academically while serving the campus and community.

Born leaders? Maybe so, but Quest for the Best winner Savanna Tierney identified another factor at work in the leadership equation. "The confidence that faculty and staff have in Aztec students creates an environment that builds leaders," she said.



ALUMNI ENGAGEMENT

2014 - 2015

ALUMNI BOARD of ADVISORS

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President: Elsa Romero '84

President Elect: Perette Godwin '86

Immediate Past President: Tim Young '91

Liaison to the Campanile Foundation: Bill Earley '86

Vice President, Alumni Engagement: Katie Hansen '03

Vice President, Alumni Recognition:

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Every Any Every Liaison: Leo Morales '09

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'95; Dan Guevara '70; Brian Hayek '09; Ryane Hughes
'02, '05; Kathleen Lang '05, '07; Mark Mays '69;
Chanelle McNutt '13; Steve Nelson '96; Chris Parks '92;
Todd Vitale '86; Stacey Wolfson '10

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First President: 1931 Vesta Muehleisen

For a full listing of past presidents, visit:

sdsualumni.org/pastpresidents

NON-ELECTED ADVISORS:

President: Elliot Hirshman; **Vice President, University Relations and Development:** Mary Ruth Carleton;
University Senate Chair: David Ely; **Associated Students President:** J. Cole; **Aztec Athletics:** Mandy McKinley

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Ryan DeLong '05

Facility Assistant: Mike Lopez '09

Parma Payne Goodall Alumni Center Event Coordinator:

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Supervisor, Engagement Center: Bryan Walker '11

Assistant Director, Affinity Groups: Dion Akers '08

Career Development Liaison: Diane Barragan Marin

Program Coordinator: Jen Ranallo

Alumni Engagement Coordinator: Christy Andrade

Communications Specialist: Tobin Vaughn

Data Control Technician: Robin Breen Rust

Student Assistant: Abby Sterk

1970s

'75 **Roberto Zarate** (M.A. counseling) was appointed by Gov. Rick Perry to the Texas 2036 Commission, charged with identifying the future higher education and workforce needs of the state.

'79 **Michael McGranahan** (geology) has published a historical novel based in San Francisco and entitled "Silver Kings and Sons of Bitches."

1980s

'82 **Vicki Capps** ★ (accounting) is chair of the audit committee and a member of the board of directors of Otonomy, a clinical stage biopharmaceutical company based in San Diego.

'83 **Scott Heath** (journalism) is vice president/station manager of the Fox News San Diego television station.

'84 **Marylou Wilson** (education; '89 Ed.D.) is the new district superintendent for the St. Helena Unified School District in California.

'85 **Joseph Pum** (accounting) is assistant vice president, corporate audit, in the corporate division of Pacific Life Insurance Company.

'86 **David Wohl** (political science) is an associate attorney at Wallin & Klarich, a law corporation in Tustin, California.

'87 **John Heber** (marketing) joined Stearns Weaver Miller Weissler Alhadeff & Sitterson, P.A. as a shareholder in the firm's Miami office.

'88 **Christian Berke** (business information systems) is assistant vice president, database management, in the life insurance division of Pacific Life Insurance Company.

1990s

'91 **Adam Day** ★ (political science), assistant tribal manager for the Sycuan Band of the Kumeyaay Nation, was appointed to the California State University Board of Trustees; **Mary Ann Barnes** (M.S. nursing) is the new president of Kaiser Permanente's Hawaii regional operation; **Thad Trent** (finance) is vice president and chief financial officer for Cypress Semiconductor Corp.

'92 **Michael Brownlee** (journalism) is co-anchor of NBC4 Southern California's early-morning weekday newscast "Today in LA."

'94 **Greg Risling** ★ (journalism) is public information officer for the Los Angeles County district attorney's office; **Julie Labonte** (civil engineering) is vice president and director of program management for MWH Global, a Colorado-based company; **Craig Giangregorio** (international business) joined SupplyPro, Inc., a provider of inventory management solutions; **Suzanne Weinstein** (communication) has published "Women In Sync: Secrets Every Woman Should Know."

'96 **Valerie Chereskin** (M.B.A.), founder of Chereskin Communications, was named 2013 PR Professional of the Year by the Public Relations Society of America – San Diego chapter.

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

★ = life member

Ask an Aztec

Vanessa Henderson, '05



Vanessa Henderson, '05, is executive director at MSCI, a New York City-based provider of investment tools to clients ranging from large pension plans to boutique hedge funds. A native of Walnut Creek, California, she majored in marketing and minored in political science

Tell us the highlights of your professional career.

In 2005 I was hired by fellow SDSU alum John Orendain, who at the time was a branch manager at Morgan Stanley in Del Mar, California. Wealth Management is where I began my career in financial services, later transferring to New York City and a job in institutional sales. A year or so later, my company asked me to manage our Canadian business—a responsibility that lasted for three years and yielded great business opportunities and further global expansion for our firm. More recently, I am very proud of the sales team I manage, a team of a dozen extremely talented, driven and highly dependable men and women. I am lucky to work with them.

What are your proudest achievements?

Making it to New York City and (so far) surviving—personally and professionally. I have a wonderful network of friends and colleagues, many of whom have adopted me as their extended family. This New York community has made my life on the East Coast truly wonderful and fulfilled.

What's your favorite college memory?

I had many wonderful college experiences, but graduation day is my

favorite memory. My family was with me, standing tall and proud with smiles that spanned ear to ear. I was proud of myself and thankful for my hard work and dedication. It's a wonderful memory. Sometimes I think we don't give ourselves enough credit for a job well done.

Who was your favorite professor?

My favorite college professor is Dr. Massoud Saghafi. He was one of my upper division business professors, instructing on global marketing practices. Dr. Saghafi was not only incredibly intelligent and insightful, but also someone I could depend on for candid feedback and post-graduation career advice. He was very direct and to the point, and I appreciated that.

What advice would you give current sdsu students?

WORK HARD. Work harder than you ever thought possible. Constantly set achievable goals for yourself and meet them. Persevere. Pave the way. Own your actions and take accountability for your mistakes. Ownership builds character and others will respect you for it. GO FOR IT and HAVE FUN!

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

I am currently reading "The Art of Possibility" by Rosamund and

Benjamin Zander. The title pretty much speaks for itself. The idea is that we can be our greatest obstacles to achieving success. My favorite book..? I probably shouldn't admit this, but it's "The Hunger Games"—a story of thrill and adventure, a fun read.

What quality do you value most in friends and colleagues?

Honesty. Your real friends will give it to you straight and invaluable colleagues and employees will do the same, in a respectful and (hopefully) polished manner.

If you won the lottery, what would you do with your winnings?

I guarantee there would be a few items on my list, but on the top would be an action to financially seed a trust dedicated to helping the homeless and mentally ill. No man, woman or child should have to spend a night vulnerable, neglected and alone on the streets.

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

I would sign up to be a lead-singing vocalist at an amazing concert at the Viejas Arena. No joke! I've always wanted to have an amazing singing voice.



ALUMNI PROFILE

All Rise for This Aztec

The shadow of Mao Zedong's Cultural Revolution had barely receded when the Hon. J. Clifford Wallace, '52, first met China's chief justice at a forum in Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam.

Judge Wallace was new to the ranks of the Asia Foundation, and the near-celebrity status he enjoys today was still years ahead. He introduced himself to the Chinese official with the words "you don't know me," and to his astonishment, the chief justice replied, "Oh yes, Judge Wallace, I know all about you."

Like most high court officials in China during the 1980s, the chief justice was a former national security official.

Thirty years later China is a country transformed, and Wallace, a senior judge on the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit, can rightly claim a sliver of credit for the nation's shift toward a more open society.

His steadfast resolve to strengthen judiciaries worldwide has taken him from his home in San Diego to China, Israel, South Africa and more than 60 other countries on six of the seven continents.

A cover profile of him in the August 2009 issue of *California Lawyer* quotes retired U.S. Supreme Court Justice Sandra Day O'Connor.

"It's staggering," she said. "No one has done what he has done in terms of improving judicial systems around the world."



Hon. J. Clifford Wallace, '52

The healing process

At its most basic and understated, Wallace's role has been that of an author of guidelines for reform. But he has also acted as crusader—Wallace was a key figure in creating a judicial institute in Bangkok, Thailand, to train new judges in Laos, Cambodia and Vietnam.

His current work in Uganda will help define the role of the courts in developing tolerance for the country's diverse religious groups.

"The judicial system has to be part of the healing process in countries wracked by political and religious unrest," Wallace said.

Growing up in a poor, dysfunctional San Diego family, Wallace drifted through high school, "getting by with Cs by reading the dust jackets of my textbooks."

Three years in the Navy tapped a reserve of "horsepower" he never knew existed. For reasons he still can't explain, he decided to become a lawyer and San Diego State accepted him through the GI Bill.

National champion

"I was very fortunate at San Diego State to meet Professor Generales, who was teaching a course about the United Nations. He spoke several languages and he opened my eyes to the world," Wallace said.

With newfound resolve, Wallace received top grades as he earned an economics degree with a minor in political science. He joined the debate team, partnering with Richard Roddis, a lifelong friend who later became dean of the University of Washington Law School. The two were undefeated nationally as juniors and both went on to study law at University of California, Berkeley.

At his SDSU commencement, Wallace received an honors ring, awarded to graduates who brought national or international distinction to the university.

The senior judge is 85 now, but his zeal for upholding judicial reform burns as bright as ever.

Though some have criticized him for failing to push developing countries harder and faster toward democratic reforms, Wallace's steady efforts should not be underestimated.

"In developing countries, the freedom of the people depends upon a sound judicial system as a check on a strong executive," he said. "Although we're just putting in one brick after another, this is the basis of the democratic process and of a better way of life. Unless someone shows me a shortcut, I will continue with my long, slow process."

In Memoriam

1934: Marscia Menvielle; **1936:** Virginia Wilcoxson; **1938:** Jane McCorkell, Louis Smith; **1940:** Mary Hardie Howard, Mary Kennedy, Mildred Young Ryckman; **1941:** Judith Emery, Samuel Harvey, Vera Howley; **1942:** Robert Chamberlain, Foss Corley, William Cornett; **1943:** Donald Berg, Richard Davis, Winona Richards Grant, Beatrice Kellogg, Grace Licursi, Robert Menke, Edwin Swann; **1944:** George Robinson, Jene Zenner; **1945:** Edward Thomas; **1946:** Meryl Cook Patterson, Margaret Taylor; **1947:** Melvin Grant, Kenneth Hale; **1948:** Robert Lynch, Austin Mason, Phyllis Miller, Jose Ramirez, Edward Roche, Janice Wilder Thompson; **1949:** James Bennett, Alberta Richter Carter, Wallace Criswell, Patricia Royce, Donna Knox Sefton; **1950:** Ernest Agee, Frank Chaboudy, Ruth Leamer, Kathy Birdsall Pelta, Jack Pignoli, Marjorie Whitelaw; **1951:** John Anderson, Charles Baxter, Lilyan Garabedian Chooljian, Robert Fassler, Jack Hamlin, Walter Henderson, Thomas Pine, Hugo Sahlein, Florree Smith, Thomas Trainer; **1952:** Ann Ryan Bixby, Thomas Butts, Gene Pohl, William Slater, Kenneth Sunderland, Beverly Whitcomb; **1953:** Robin Escovado, Theodore Johnson, Janet Moore, Fred Rose; **1954:** Allen Rogstad; **1955:** Joanne Roddis; **1956:** Jennie Barlow, Donald Hegerle; **1957:** Gerald Dawson, Edward Philbin, Robert Wynn; **1958:** Robert McKewen; **1959:** Robert Gillette, Robert Moesch, Perry Pollock, Charles Yates; **1960:** Warren Cormier, Robert Penneman; **1961:** Lori Menard; **1962:** Robert Hein, Harold Henson; **1963:** Ruth Attebery, Mary Ann Shekleton; **1964:** Frank Arrington, Stephen Meek, Pat Thomas; **1965:** Dale Keller, Farrel Patton, Edward Phillips; **1966:** Herbert Dickard, Margaret Zulkoski; **1967:** Peter Hughes, Lynn Lacey, Frank Piersall, Richard Saunders; **1968:** John Adams, Eileen Billings, Grady Collins, Norma Kelly, Charles Newhall, Linda Radmore; **1970:** Linda Berg, Mosselene Brittingham, Francis Dohm, John Green, Arden Honrud, Gary Kaku, Earl Thompson, Rodney Weber; **1971:** William Hoyman, Ann Leonard, James William Smith, David Spisak, Christine Weid; **1972:** John Brickley, Jerome Roebuck, Gayla Stormer; **1973:** Mildred Goulet, Larry McLeland, Janet Munzenmaier Carolynn Romagno, Elizabeth Sandstrom, Lynn Wollery; **1974:** Joy Daugherty, Joan Ross; **1975:** Phyllis Jensen, Joseph Martinez, Linda Shipman, Robert Spinner, Sandra Lee Witt; **1976:** Robert Balinger, David Fraser, John O'Neill, Charles Rosser, Mary Slawinski, Charles Smith, Ruben Valenzuela, Robert Winford; **1977:** William Krotzer, Mary Landa; **1978:** Lynn Raymond Barton, Robert Thomas Miller; **1979:** Kevin Beresford, Suzanne Ione Bond; **1980:** Ford Mudgett, Michael Smock, Joy Tassi, Kenneth Unitt; **1981:** James Downs, Patricia Brown Johnston, Marvin Langsam, Lynne Lester, Michael Thompson, Annette Wellman; **1982:** Patricia Debold, Pamela Finkel, Louis Pfrimmer, Georgi Risko, Franklin Tims; **1983:** Mark Sandifer; **1984:** Steven Foppiano, Carl Schoelkopf; **1985:** Patricia Culhane; **1987:** Pamela Cantor, Kathleen Lounsbury, Brian Schlador; **1988:** Gunnar Holmquist, Tim Matsen; **1989:** Greg Conitz, Steven Nunn, Richard Stutts, Laura Smith White; **1990:** Bethany Duncan, Ralph Johnson; **1991:** Michael DeAngelis, Karen Bovee Martin, Lee Pearson, Gregory Stapleton Smith; **1992:** Francisco Aguilar, Jonna Stekette; **1993:** Rick Adams, Mark Bustamante, Martina Matzner; **1995:** James Corr, Debra Hickey; **1996:** Henry Van Oudheusden; **1997:** Julie Botte, Tiffany Crowther, Darla Hardy, Laura Sweetman; **1999:** Illyana McManus, Amy Radovcic, Benjamin Soderholm; **2000:** Michael Koch, Deanna Louis, Jorge Salas; **2001:** Darin Steffey; **2002:** Aaron Ward; **2003:** Kenny Melton; **2004:** Erin Weston; **2005:** Avelina Sanchez; **2007:** Kerensa Donselman, Martha Longenecker; **2008:** Tsitsi Mutseta; **2009:** Angela Sahyoun; **2010:** Thomas Bittner; **2012:** George Richardson; **Year Unknown:** Donald Allen, Ronald Flydal, John Gronholt, Donald Koppenhaver, Donald Reeves, Louis Smith, Theresa Stanfield.

Class Notes

1990s

'98 **Morgan Jassenoff** (real estate) was named general manager and vice president of finance for the Radisson Hotel Atlanta Northwest in Marietta, Georgia.

'99 **Michael McMahon** (economics) is vice president of Phoenix Energy Technologies in Irvine, California.

2000s

'01 **Dennis Cisterna III** ★ (political science) is a senior executive with FirstKey Lending, a portfolio company of Cerberus Capital Management; **Julie Fox Scott** (new media studies) is an account executive for Ainsworth Game Technology headquartered in Las Vegas, Nevada.

'02 **Darren Brehm** (finance) has joined the board of directors of the United Spinal Association; **Michael Marion Jr.** (public administration) will join Drexel University Sacramento in September as executive director and associate vice provost.

'04 **Amy Anuk** (M.B.A.), senior vice president of business development with Encore Capital Group, was elected chair of the Certification Council for DBA International, a nonprofit trade association.

'05 **Peter MacRae** ★ (political science) has published "The Poppies of Mohammed," a novel about the ties between the Afghan heroin trade, al Qaeda and the Taliban.

'08 **Kathryn Pegan** (Au.D.) is an audiologist with Athens Ocone Audiological in Georgia.

'09 **Steven Beitashour** (communication) played for the Iranian soccer team in the World Cup this summer; **Allison Carmen** (biology) is CEO of Material Mix, an online tool for monetizing industrial recyclables.

2010s

'11 **Justin Woods** (public administration), a cryptologic technician with the U.S. Navy, was recognized as Bluejacket Sailor of the Year and accepted into Officer Candidate School in Rhode Island.

By Degrees

Brandon Ishikata

Hometown: Elk Grove, California | **Major:** Liberal Studies

What are you most excited about as you get ready for senior year? I'm excited about contributing to campus life in a number of ways. As an SDSU Ambassador, I am a tour guide and orientation leader for new and prospective Aztec students and their families. As a new member of Aztec P.R.I.D.E., I will represent the Office of the President at donor and alumni events. In addition, as I begin a second year as senior resident adviser in the residence halls, I will

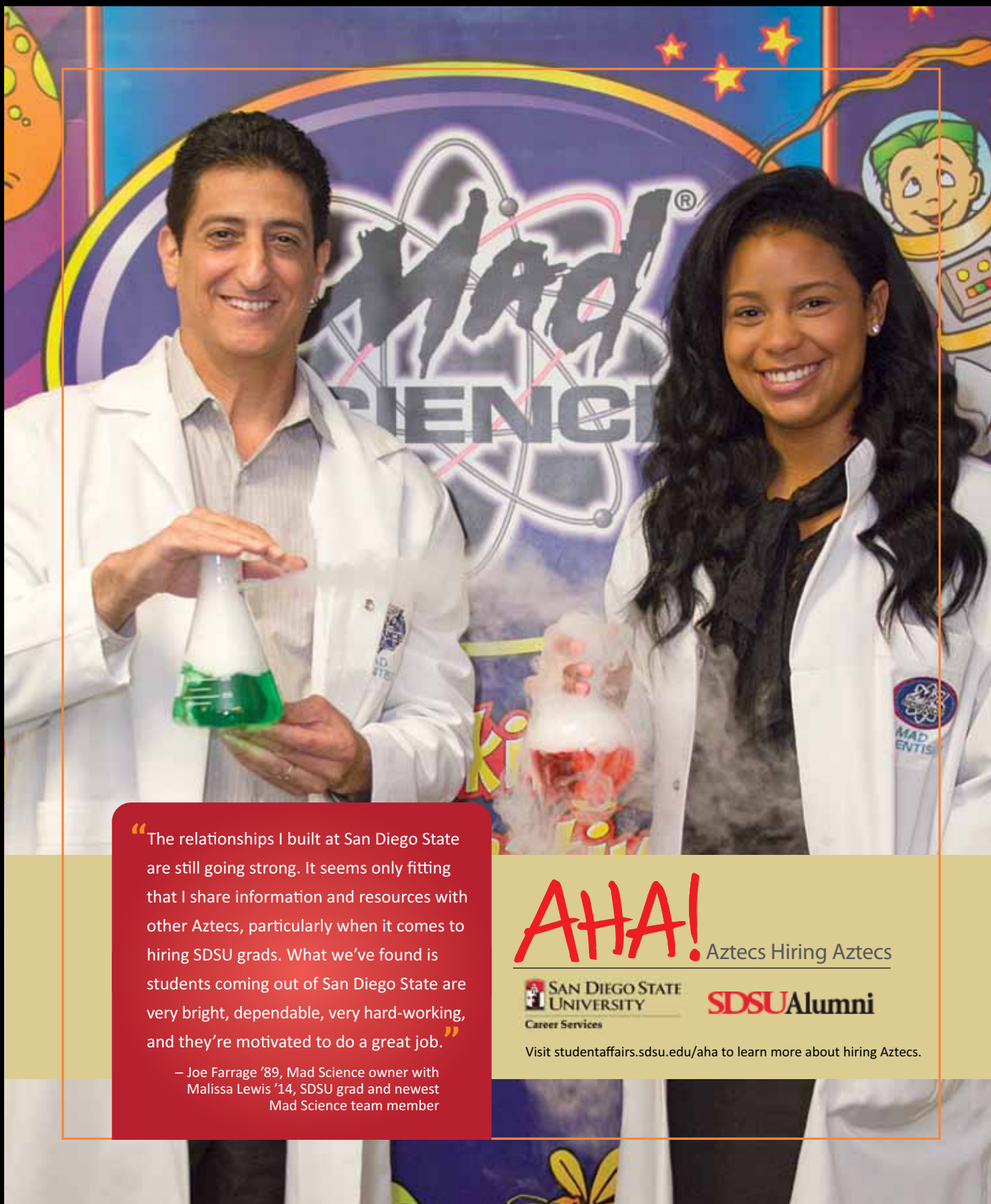
continue to help the next class of Aztecs adapt to college life. I believe college is transformational, and I enjoy being part of that change in other students' lives.

What has been your defining Aztec experience so far? I have been able to develop my leadership skills at SDSU through my role as senior resident advisor. The experience integrates conflict resolution, community building, learning about diversity and creating and participating in academic and social programming. I feel it has also prepared me for my participation this summer in the Kakehashi Project, a study tour of Japan designed to give Japanese American students a deeper appreciation for the country and its culture.

What are your career goals? As a liberal studies major and a dancer/choreographer specializing in numerous genres, I think it's important to infuse the arts into the K-5 curriculum. After graduation, I plan to earn a master's degree in education and a multiple subjects teaching credential to become an elementary school teacher.

Who on campus has influenced you most? Kara Bauer, associate director of residential education. She is energetic and strives to know each staff member personally. Kara lives by the motto "You matter." When I was chosen as an outstanding student in this year's Quest for the Best awards, I acknowledged Kara as my most influential mentor.





“The relationships I built at San Diego State are still going strong. It seems only fitting that I share information and resources with other Aztecs, particularly when it comes to hiring SDSU grads. What we’ve found is students coming out of San Diego State are very bright, dependable, very hard-working, and they’re motivated to do a great job.”

— Joe Farrage '89, Mad Science owner with Malissa Lewis '14, SDSU grad and newest Mad Science team member

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