

WINTER 2021

SDSU

MAGAZINE



leading the moment

HEAD BASEBALL COACH
MARK MARTINEZ ON GUIDING
HIS TEAM THROUGH
UNCERTAIN TIMES

11 COMMUNITY
CHANGE AGENTS

A **TRAILBLAZING**
CONTACT TRACERS
PROGRAM

50 COVID-19
RESEARCH
PROJECTS

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CHANGE AGENTS

Meet the people on campus living the Equity and Inclusion in All We Do priority of SDSU's strategic plan every day — and inspiring others to do the same.

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Natalie King-Shaw

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[SDSU.EDU/MAGAZINE](https://sdsu.edu/magazine)

Photograph: Sandy Huffaker

SDSU

MAGAZINE

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Editor: **Lisa Haney**

Designer: **John Herr**, Proof of Life Design

Writer/Editor: **Jeff Ristine**

Contributors: Cherish Broker, Aaron Burgin, Aleah Jarin, Michael Klitzing, Seth Mallios, Padma Nagappan, Victor Nava, Lizbeth Price, Leslie Reilly, Gabriela Romero, Ryan Schuler, Tobin Vaughn, Kellie Woodhouse

Photographers: Scott Hargrove, Sandy Huffaker

Cover photo: **Sandy Huffaker**

OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT

Adela de la Torre
President

Brittany Santos-Derieg
Chief of Staff

La Monica Everett-Haynes
Associate Vice President of Strategic Communications and Public Affairs and Chief Communications Officer

SDSU ALUMNI

Jim Herrick
Assistant Vice President

UNIVERSITY RELATIONS
AND DEVELOPMENT

Adrienne Vargas
Vice President

Tammy Blackburn
Director of Marketing and Communications

We welcome mail from our readers.

SDSU Magazine
Strategic Communications and Public Affairs
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San Diego, CA 92182-8080

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Photograph: Sandy Huffaker



FROM THE



PRESIDENT

HELLO — AND WELCOME TO YOUR NEW MAGAZINE! Long-time readers will notice this first issue of SDSU Magazine for 2021 has a fresh look and an old name, restoring the classic title used until spring 2003. The new content approach and design are more reflective of our one SDSU community. My hope is that the many moving stories, major news highlights and bold new graphics will inspire as much Aztec pride in you as it does in me.

After a year that will be remembered for its painful upheavals, change is also a theme of many of the articles featured inside.

The centerpiece highlights 11 visionary agents of change who are working to improve the lives of others (p. 12). Their powerful ideas on equity and inclusion set examples of resilience and achievement for us all. They are boldly leading the moment — stepping up to important challenges, unwilling to leave the needed change to others. They are resilient, and they are powerful.

The same is true of our cover story subject, Head Baseball Coach Mark Martinez, who has a legacy of preparing athletes for professional teams and is sustaining a program with safety and care in the time of COVID-19 (p. 10). You will also see stories about philanthropists and alumni donors who have responded to today's economic challenges with generous and impactful gifts (p. 7 and p. 26).

In these stories — and others throughout — I see connections with our new strategic plan and its priorities: SDSU as a premier public research and border institution, as a champion for sustainability, equity and inclusion, with students at our core.

Finally, change is in the air at SDSU Mission Valley, where we bid a fond and respectful farewell to the Aztecs' old stadium (p. 20) and get a glimpse of what's to come (p. 4). The pandemic may have complicated the 2020 football season, but it hasn't slowed down our student-athletes. I look forward to the day (soon!) when we can all safely gather to cheer on all of our teams.

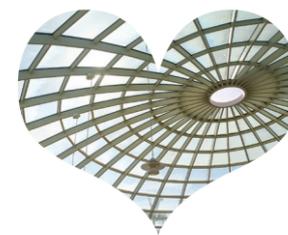
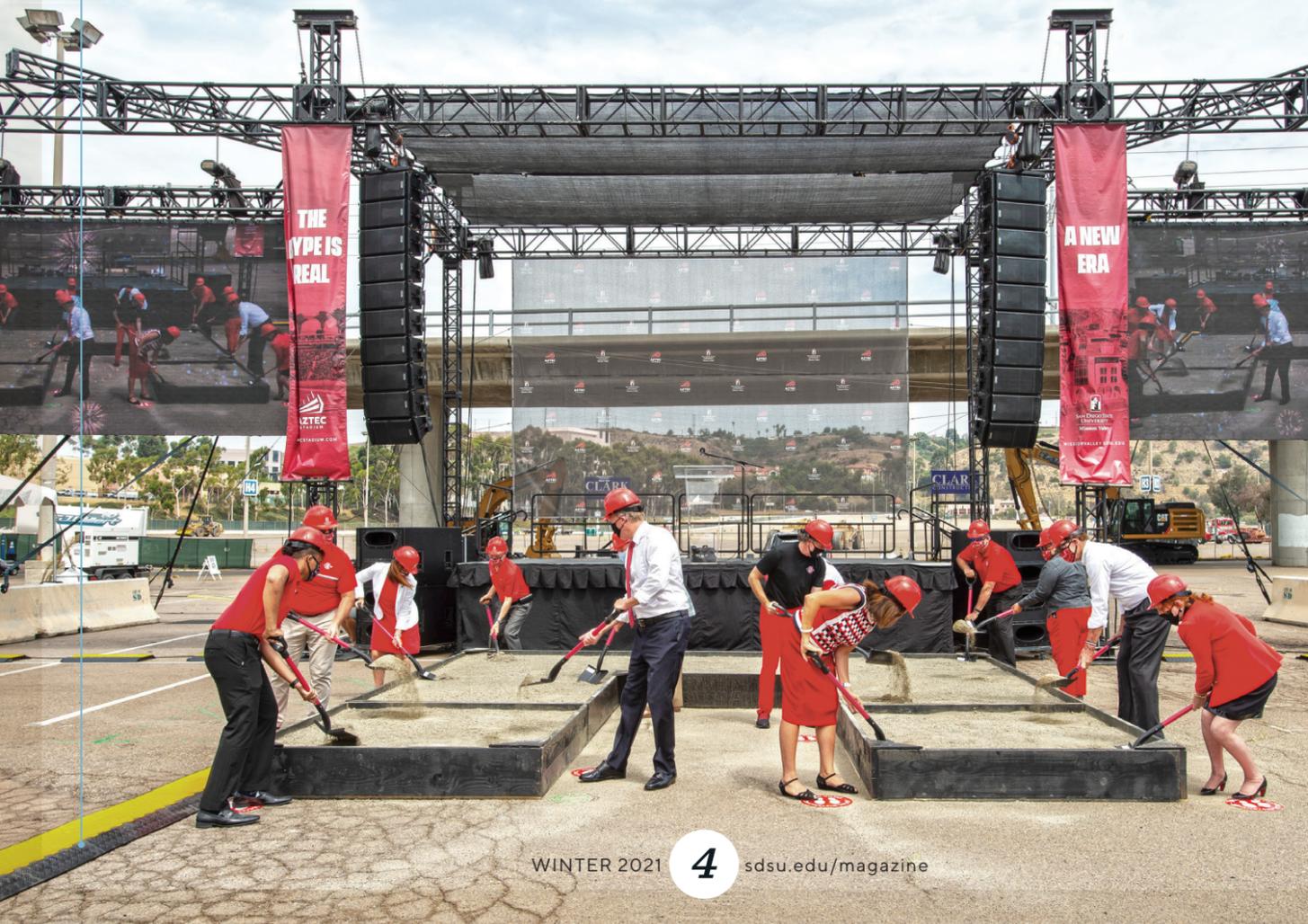
In the meantime, COVID-19 vaccines are rolling out nationwide as I write this, and I can't help but feel confident for the year ahead.

Welcome to 2021, and to a brighter future. ●

ADELA DE LA TORRE, PH.D.

MISSION (VALLEY) ACCOMPLISHED

ONCE A CONCEPT, NOW A CONSTRUCTION SITE. SDSU Mission Valley, the university's boldest expansion since moving to its present day campus in 1931, is well underway. First order of business was excavation and preparation of the foundation for a new 35,000-capacity stadium in the northwest quadrant of the former SDCCU Stadium parking lot. By mid-December the bowl itself was taking shape, on track to be ready for the Aztecs' 2022 home opener. A river park, an innovation district, housing, a hotel and retail shops will follow over more than a decade of development, made possible by a 2018 public vote, approval from California State University and months of negotiations over the purchase from the City of San Diego. In an August ceremonial groundbreaking, SDSU President Adela de la Torre was thinking big. "We begin the work to expand SDSU's educational, research and entrepreneurial missions," she said. "It will become the signature project that defines the future not only for SDSU, but for higher education in California." —*Jeff Ristine*



HAPPY BIRTHDAY, DEAR LOVE

THE MALCOLM A. LOVE LIBRARY

TURNED 50 IN THE FALL. Librarians and library staff marked the milestone with a list of "50 Books SDSU Loves." The campus community was invited to kick off the effort by submitting their personal favorites. The recommended reading that resulted was a mix of fiction and non-fiction from a diverse bench of writers. Topping the list: "Kindred," by Octavia E. Butler, a 1979 novel of slavery and time travel. Other classics include "To Kill a Mockingbird" by Harper Lee and F. Scott Fitzgerald's "The Great Gatsby." For more modern tastes, there's "Little Fires Everywhere" by Celeste Ng, published in 2017, and Michelle Obama's 2018 memoir, "Becoming." —*Jeff Ristine*



Photograph: Nicolas Hoffman

Top left photograph: Gary Payne. Top right: Scott Hargrove



NEW PROGRAMS AT SDSU IMPERIAL VALLEY

A FOUR-YEAR LIBERAL ARTS DEGREE

WILL BEGIN IN FALL 2021, becoming the third full-time program the campus offers, along with psychology and criminal justice. Through the latter, SDSU Imperial Valley has supported and grown the area's law enforcement workforce, with many alumni advancing in their careers with the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation, U.S. Customs and Border Protection, California Highway Patrol, as well as local city and county law enforcement entities. Now they'll have the opportunity to further grow their careers with a master's degree program in homeland security, which also starts in fall. "Our goal is to give local students a chance to attend and earn a four-year degree or graduate degree at a top-tier university without having to leave the valley," Dean Gregorio Ponce says. "Offering these new degrees will help us achieve our goal of doubling our enrollment to 2,000 over the next few years. This academic year we had a record breaking headcount of 1,075." —*Victor Nava*

FIVE THINGS TO KNOW ABOUT SDSU GLOBAL CAMPUS:

- 1.** It's the new name for the College of Extended Studies, which has been helping students meet their career and life goals for more than 40 years.
- 2.** Its mission is to bring SDSU to all learners — especially working adults — no matter where they're located, through online courses, off-site programs and other non-traditional means.
- 3.** It offers more than 40 degree and certificate programs.
- 4.** Concierge-style service makes it easy to register for classes online without having to call around to various departments or fill out repetitive paperwork.
- 5.** Alumni Lifetime Members get a 20% discount (contact alumni@sdsu.edu) on select professional development certificate programs such as project management, grant writing and the business of craft beer. Cheers!



SDSU-MEXICO RELATIONSHIP GROWS

A NEW PACT PAVES THE WAY FOR EXPANDED BINATIONAL COOPERATION ACROSS A WIDE RANGE OF INITIATIVES.

The non-binding memorandum of understanding (MOU) between the university, the Secretariat of Public Education of Mexico and the Secretariat of Public Education of Baja California will serve as a framework for future academic and research collaborations and other partnerships. It was announced at SDSU's RE:BORDER binational conference in November.

"This is an historic moment for our university," President Adela de la Torre says. "We've long embraced our proximity to the U.S.-Mexico border as a unique opportunity for mutually beneficial collaboration and partnership. This agreement builds off that success and sets San Diego State on a course to become the premier binational university in the U.S."

The RE:BORDER conference itself served as the first collaborative project between the parties, El Colegio de la Frontera Norte and Universidad Autónoma de Baja California. The second annual two-day event, exploring mobility and migration in the transborder region, was held virtually because of the COVID-19 pandemic and drew more than 1,200 registrants. Organizers took full advantage of being limited to a virtual realm, offering real-time translation of English and Spanish for a truly bilingual conference.

—Michael Klitzing



THREE NEW ECO ACCOLADES:

CITY OF SAN DIEGO RECYCLER OF THE YEAR

The award recognizes 2019 efforts and the university's role in helping the city achieve its own waste reduction goals.

THE PRINCETON REVIEW'S 2021 GREEN COLLEGES

The list honors the most environmentally responsible colleges, based on 25 data points including campus policies and academic offerings.

HUAXYACAC HALL CERTIFIED LEED GOLD

The newest residential community received the designation in August, joining five other residential facilities, as well as additional campus buildings.



VIRTUAL SUCCESS AT SDSU GEORGIA

THE CAMPUS, BASED IN TBILISI, HELD A VIRTUAL CAREER FAIR IN OCTOBER. The two-day event attracted 27 companies. Students did more than 100 interviews and some received offers and began working immediately. A previous event was held in late spring. "One of our goals in hosting the virtual career fairs was to demonstrate to employers that they can continue to hire new employees — who can bring new ideas and resources to their organizations — during the pandemic," says Dean Halil Güven.

83

Students enrolled in SDSU Global Campus Microsite Degree Completion Programs at Southwestern College and San Diego Mesa College during the fall.



HAL BROWN'S FIGHT CONTINUES

A \$500,000 GIFT FROM SAN DIEGO PHILANTHROPISTS

Malin Burnham and Bob Payne ('55) in December established the Hal Brown Career Learning and Understanding Biases (HB CLUB) program. Named for noted civil rights and community and economic development leader Harold K. Brown ('59), the program is designed to further the success of SDSU's Black/African American students in becoming the next generation of community and business leaders.

The trio first teamed up on a program addressing biases in 1998 but disbanded their efforts after a few years. Then came 2020 and its series of high profile killings of Black Americans, most notably George Floyd. Paying special attention were Brown, Burnham and Payne, who soon reconnected. Burnham says, "I think that what we are doing here is an extension of what we came together to do more than 20 years ago." —Tobin Vaughn

Left photograph: Harold K. Brown Papers, Special Collections and University Archives, San Diego State University Library. Right: Tim King.



A HOPEFULLY! IF WE TAKE IT ONE DAY AT A TIME. 2020 was hard. We used to say train wreck, but kids now refer to it as a dumpster fire. All our routines have been reinvented as enormous changes happened with the coronavirus pandemic. Add to that social unrest and political divisiveness, and life can feel out of control. When things feel out of control, it can cause stress.

Our research shows stressors do not necessarily lead to negative outcomes, and having a support network and some sense of control does reduce stress. Here are some tips for handling stress: Identify the source of stress (harder than it sounds), such as a heavy workload, then try to do something to address that directly. You can also work to alleviate the symptoms — with therapy or deep breathing techniques — which may not fix things but will make it manageable. Another technique is to change how we respond to stressors — mindfulness training, and reframing a stressor and putting a positive spin on it can help.

Reframing 2020 positively is beneficial: the world has slowed down, some folks have gotten more time with family, learned how to meet challenges and grow. But we can't ignore the dark side: pressures of juggling work and family, losses, fear. It's OK and quite normal to feel negative emotions. Just acknowledging and naming emotions, and writing them down can be helpful. If you try to run away from it, that actually gives it more power. So take the time to feel it and process it.

When a day starts out badly, people want to write off the whole day or week. Our brains are designed to identify patterns. So when two bad things happen in a row, we tend to think it's all going to go south. But we are basing this on very little data, and focusing too much on the negative. Just knowing this about ourselves is a start. Do a mood check.

If 2021 starts out challenging, don't write off January or the whole year. Honor where you are, and start from there. Set tiny goals, give yourself grace when you falter, celebrate every small step. This is how we build resilience. —as told to Padma Nagappan

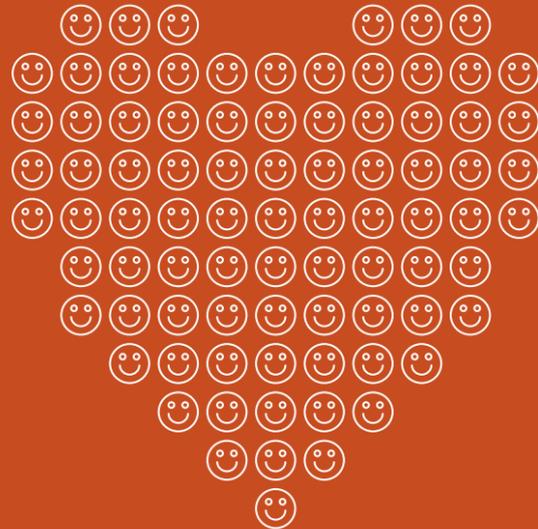
ASK A RESEARCHER



LISA KATH, ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR OF INDUSTRIAL-ORGANIZATION PSYCHOLOGY



344,137/
Pounds of food the Aztecs Rock Hunger food drive raised for San Diegans in need.



\$127 MILLION/ Philanthropic gifts in 2019-20. A 10% increase over last year, despite the pandemic.

1,716/ DISTANCE LEARNING PACKETS THAT THE PRISON ARTS COLLECTIVE SENT TO 12 PRISONS TO KEEP ARTS INSTRUCTION GOING DURING THE PANDEMIC

141/ Units of blood (impacting 423 patient lives) donated at the fourth annual Aztecs for Life blood drive held in November to benefit the American Red Cross.

137,437 emails, 10,900 calls, 25,786 texts/

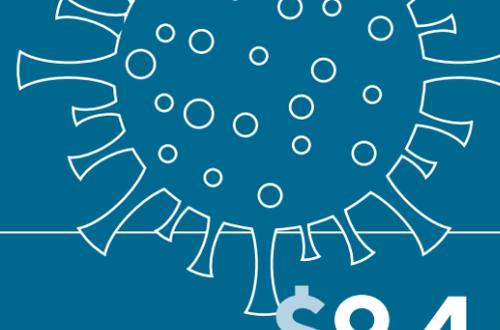
The SDSU Connects team made since the COVID-19 pandemic began to proactively reach out to students to address concerns and provide resources.



Percentage of student-athletes who registered to vote for the 2020 election.



Aztec standout guard Malachi Flynn went to the Toronto Raptors in the 29th pick of the NBA draft.



/COVID-19 research projects

\$9.4 MILLION

Total research grants, including a \$5 million National Institutes of Health-funded project to increase the uptake of testing in underserved communities.



NUMBER OF PROJECTS, TACKLING THE NOVEL CORONAVIRUS FROM EVERY ANGLE ... IN ALL SEVEN COLLEGES, INCLUDING:

Smell and taste loss

College of Health and Human Services

How K-12 students perceive their schools' pandemic response

College of Education

Social behaviors, travel and public health policies during the pandemic

College of Arts and Letters

Virus detection in wastewater

College of Engineering

How weather affects case counts

Fowler College of Business

Loneliness trends during the pandemic

College of Professional Studies and Fine Arts

Whether the virus thrives in the environment

College of Sciences

More than 200 San Diego citizen scientists answered the call to receive a test kit and conduct sampling by swabbing surfaces in their neighborhoods.





LEADING THE MOMENT

Since being named the late Tony Gwynn's successor in 2014, Mark Martinez has become the fastest head baseball coach in program history to log 100 wins (in 2017) and the fastest in Mountain West history to win three conference tournament championships (in 2018). He's had 44 players drafted during his total tenure at SDSU, with nine of those picks making the major leagues. Under his watch, the baseball program has reached its highest academic progress rate, highest team GPA and highest total of scholar-athletes in its 84-year history. He's been recognized for starting education training for players and coaches around healthy relationships and consent. Now he's stepping up to the plate to guide his team through uncertain times.

Interview by [Lisa Haney](#) and [Ryan Schuler](#) | Photograph by [Sandy Huffaker](#)

What is it like leading a team through the pandemic and these strange times for sports?

It's been hard — for everyone — really since last March. To have everything slam stop was an emotional punch in the gut. It was difficult to tell our guys, "Our season's over." To see the faces of our seniors, and everybody, it was just heart-wrenching.

We did have a slice of normalcy during the fall with our afternoon practices. For our administration — from the president all the way through our athletic directors, our sports liaison, our training staff, everybody — to make that happen was a blessing. It's a lot of moving parts and everything is different every single day.

We'll find out what the spring looks like. There are plans to play. If we get that opportunity, that's great. But ultimately you want to be safe and make sure everyone's healthy.

How are you prioritizing health for your players?

We're asking them to exist in a bubble — to consider their roommate as their family pod and avoid gathering with others. It's a big ask of 18- to 22-year-olds, because they're very social and that's part of their growth and development. They're also doing daily wellness questionnaires, temperature checks whenever they're on campus and weekly testing. We're

"WE'RE GROWING YOUNG MEN. WHEN THEY LEAVE SDSU, WE WANT THEM TO BE PREPARED TO BE SUCCESSFUL AND TO BE LEADERS."

organizing patterns on the baseball field, so there's not too much cross traffic or gathering. Baseball is kind of a socially distanced sport as it is, so we're lucky in that sense.

We hear you have a "super team" this year. What's your forecast for the upcoming season?

We're a veteran team. We had built a really nice foundation into last year and the pieces were in place to become a Top 25 program. Because last season was shortened, we now have three super seniors in Ryan Orr, Jacob Cruce and Mike Jarvis. That's a huge win. And we have a group of nine super talented signees coming in who need that leadership. We'll see how it plays out. But I think we're very talented. We're experienced throughout the field and on the mound. We're asking our older guys to do what we had planned last year: Make some noise and break down the door of having San Diego State in the national conversation — not just short-term, but long-term. Their focus is getting to Omaha and playing for a national championship. Hopefully we're on schedule to realize some great dreams.

How are you setting goals and expectations for players given all the uncertainty at the moment?

It's the same message from when they come in the door, as freshmen: Each day, in itself, is a competition. You got to win

each day. And if you win today, then you go to bed and you get up the next day and win the next day. And along the way, you can set yourself some mini goals. The other long-term things that you want to realize will take care of themselves.

So many of your players — including Casey Schmitt and Anthony Walters last year — have gone on to realize their dreams of being drafted. What's the key to making it to that level?

There are guys that come in here with über amounts of talent. The biggest thing is understanding how to harness that talent into a day-to-day process, and embracing the process and those things that help you grow as a young person. Guys like Stephen Strasburg, Greg Allen, Alan Trejo, Seby Zavala and Ty France, who are playing in the big leagues right now, epitomize what we're trying to do — which is to have players understand that being a well-rounded person creates reward. The guys who struggle are the guys who really try to stay in that narrow path: It's just baseball. We try to create opportunities for those guys, and open up that tunnel — whether it's a broader focus on their academics, working on their social skills or doing community outreach. I tell our guys all the time, if you follow this path, there is unbelievable reward on the backend. And it's not just being a Major League Baseball player.

You're known for coaching your players both on and off the field. What's your coaching philosophy?

We don't coach baseball players, we coach people. We're growing young men. When they leave SDSU, we want them to be prepared to be successful and to be leaders. We're trying to take advantage of a very small window of opportunity in their lives to impact them and teach them life skills.

In the wake of the George Floyd killing and the widespread protests that followed you started an alumni group to address systemic racism. How did that get started and why is it important to you?

We all saw the images of the events taking place last summer. It ripped my heart out. I started calling baseball alumni who I consider close friends to say, "I love you, man." We started meeting on Zoom. It's myself, former Aztec players Tony Gwynn Jr., Chris Gwynn, Quintin Berry, Greg Allen, Alan Trejo, our Associate Head Coach Sam Peraza and Assistant Coach Joe Oliveira. We even had Adam Jones [five-time MLB All-Star and SDSU baseball signee] join from Japan. We talk about: We have a family here and it's very safe. But what happens when you leave Tony Gwynn Stadium? What is it like for a Black player to walk down the street at night after practice? It's conversational, not confrontational. The mission is to make change and make the world better. ●

This interview has been edited and condensed for clarity from two conversations.

change agents

Meet the **doers**.

Those at SDSU who are doing the **hard work** to bring about community change on and off campus.

They are **creating** opportunities for more voices to be heard.

Launching initiatives to help **improve** lives.

And working to **diversify** the workforce.

They are living the strategic plan priorities of Equity and Inclusion in All We Do and We are SDSU, taking responsible action with all communities in mind — and **inspiring** others to do the same.



Photograph: Sandy Huffaker

NATALIE King-Shaw

SOPHOMORE PSYCHOLOGY MAJOR WHO STARTED THE BLACK LIVES MATTER ALL THE TIME PHOTOVOICE PROJECT

As systemic racism became increasingly visible last summer, I became increasingly restless searching for ways to be active in the social justice movement while socially distancing. In a moment of fate, I was invited to a virtual PhotoVoice exhibit highlighting the experiences of mothers of children with medical complexities, and it inspired me to create a similar project to share and validate Black stories.

I proposed my idea to the researcher for the exhibit, Melanie Sonsteng-Person, a Ph.D. candidate at the University of California, Los Angeles, and her colleague Dominique Mikell, also a Ph.D. candidate at UCLA. Then I immediately shared my vision with my older sister, Samantha, who is a senior majoring in Women's Studies at Washington State University. Since we were young, Samantha and I have had fascinating conversations about identity, and how its different aspects have shaped our experiences. Our conversations have allowed me to understand the multitude of Blackness that is often overlooked, and the experiences that are often invalidated. Together, we started to build our research team, and the Black Lives Matter All the Time project was born.

Our team is composed of six SDSU and WSU undergraduates, working alongside our UCLA colleagues. Since September, we have met weekly to discuss photos and experiences guided by five themes we encounter in our daily lives: identity, community, oppression, wellness, and resistance. Using our common focus to highlight the multidimensional experiences of Black students attending predominantly white institutions, we prepared and presented a virtual photo exhibit in November. Going forward, we aim to continue to use our voices to create recommendations for both SDSU and WSU to better support and allow Black students to thrive.

In a system that profits off of our silence, revolution is dependent on our voices. This project has shown me that in validating our voices and stories, we create spaces with a revolutionary capacity for healing, and a revolutionary vision for the future.



JACOB
**Alvarado
Waipuk**

TRIBAL LIAISON, ASSISTANT
PROFESSOR OF AMERICAN INDIAN
STUDIES AND PH.D. CANDIDATE

Howka! I am IPAI Kumeyaay from the village of Ahmukatlatl, known as San Pasqual Reservation.

I came to SDSU straight from the rez and graduated in 2014. As a student, I noticed there was a lot of work to be done on our campus to be more inclusive to our Indigenous population because at the time we were nearly invisible on campus. So I was motivated to start teaching here in 2018 and to become the tribal liaison in 2020.

In my role, I build relationships with local tribes, American Indian and Indigenous populations and create pathways for Indigenous students to succeed in higher education. I want all our American Indian, Indigenous students to feel welcomed and at home when they step foot on our campus.

Since being here we have passed a few resolutions to help accomplish that goal. These include raising the Kumeyaay Nations flag on campus forever; including SDSU's Land Acknowledgement on our syllabi on our San Diego and Imperial Valley campuses and opening our new Wa Hahme Native Resource Center.

We have also created a Kumeyaay Committee to guide the creation of the Kumeyaay Mural and Sculpture. I am very excited about this, and so are our elders. This project involves the entire Kumeyaay Nation, and whatever we create will be here forever. Anyone who walks on our campus should know the land they step upon is the land of the Kumeyaay Nation.

To honor our people now, is to honor all the hardship and atrocities that we have gone through. We must not be forgotten — our legacy, history and stories must be remembered and told from our perspective. We're the prayers of our ancestors, answered, and I carry them very close to my heart and I know this is what they wanted me to do.

Eyay e'Hunn. (My heart is good.)

JESS
Whatecott

ASSISTANT PROFESSOR
OF WOMEN'S STUDIES,
INCREASING INCLUSIVITY FOR
TRANS AND NON-BINARY
STUDENTS

"Service to others less fortunate than yourself" was an important message I heard in my family and church growing up. Social justice was always a part of who I am, and the community I built became part of my chosen family.

Before I became a professor, I had another life as a community organizer. I organized in solidarity with people in California prisons and I helped to build community responses to violence that don't rely on bars and cages. My involvement in social movements for justice was an education all on its own, intertwined with the education I received in school.

I am now working to pass on the knowledge to others. This starts in my classroom and goes beyond. I recently collaborated with Anne Guanciale and Wesley Palau from the Pride Center, and colleagues Catherine Clune-Taylor and Amira Jarmakani to design a training for faculty about how to create a welcoming and inclusive space for trans and non-binary students. I also convened a working group in my Department of Women's Studies on racial justice and community engaged pedagogy. In pursuit of justice and liberation, we share resources and deepen our skills to address anti-Black racism in our curriculum and in the classroom.

I use my teaching skills to return to the community to offer popular political education. I participate in Free Them All San Diego, a coalition that formed early in the pandemic to advocate for releasing migrants from detention centers.

There are hundreds of ways to be a part of movements for change. We need all kinds: dreamers and artists, teachers and people willing to learn, organizers and people willing to show up in the streets, healers and parents. It doesn't matter how you show up — it just matters that you do.

Left photograph: Scott Hargrove. Right: Sandy Huffaker.



PAIGE
Hernandez

CIR DIRECTOR OF STUDENT RETENTION
AND SUCCESS, COMMUNITY ADVOCATE

At the Center for Intercultural Relations, we focus on academic support, retention and basic needs support for historically marginalized students. So my role is to connect students with resources for their success. I got into this work while I was getting my master's in postsecondary educational leadership and student affairs at SDSU. I always knew that I wanted to be in some sort of helping profession.

My job at SDSU and the students are my priority. But I think it's really important that we, as SDSU leaders, not only invest in the institution, but within the local community. The work — especially around racial inclusion and social justice — doesn't necessarily stop at SDSU. Many students stay in San Diego after graduation and become a part of the community.

I moved to Pacific Beach (PB) about a year ago and was looking for people to connect with in the community. I realized that our PB community organizations and social media pages were not really geared toward people of color (POC). So I started an Instagram account, @blackbrownpb, to highlight Black, Indigenous and POC businesses, history and events.

With the rise of this pandemic and police brutality, I wasn't quite sure where I could go if I'm having a mental health issue or if I want to connect with a group of like-minded Black folks outside of SDSU. Inspired by the work of the Economic Crisis Response Team on campus, I compiled and publicly shared a Google Doc with resources for Black San Diegans. Last summer I also co-started an online petition to rename a community park in PB after Black educators. Nearly 3,000 people have signed and the initiative is moving forward.

I'm just trying to get more involved with my community in PB, so I'll be running for a board seat for one of the community organizations too. —as told to Lisa Haney



REKA Barton

AN EDUCATION PH.D. STUDENT
RESEARCHING HOW YOUNG BLACK
STUDENTS PROCESSED 2020

I taught elementary school for a decade, mostly in my hometown of Alexandria, Virginia. During that time, I saw Black and Latinx students being taught from a curriculum that just wasn't culturally relevant to them. It made me wonder: Why are we using this, and how does this impact achievement? Ultimately, these questions led me to SDSU. As a doctoral student, I'm motivated to center and amplify the voices of children who have been overlooked or dismissed in the past.

2020 was a bizarre year. The first few weeks of COVID-19, followed immediately by incidents of racial injustice nationwide, were exhausting for me. I thought, "If I'm feeling this, how are kids feeling?" That's what inspired my current research. I'm working with the amazing Dr. Marva Cappello, professor and director of the program, for a study on visuals in crisis — specifically how young Black students are processing this moment.

We're asking our first- through sixth-grade participants to describe "2020" in their own words, and then draw their description using art supplies we've provided. In the next phase, we'll curate images from 2020 that correspond with the themes of their drawings. Then we'll engage the students in a conversation about the selected images. So far, we're seeing that these students miss their friends. They are not enjoying online learning. And some have mentioned being Black — via referencing protests and marches on TV, and the crayon hues they used to draw themselves.

I think for most people, academia seems so far away from human behavior and everyday life. Being a Black female in this space, I want to remind everyone that our students' voices are powerful and valuable. —as told to Michael Klitzing

CYNTHIA Torres

UNDOCUMENTED RESOURCE
CENTER DIRECTOR

My mother, Maria del Socorro, came to the United States undocumented in the early '50s. She met my dad, Benjamin, who was born in National City and worked at the Dr. Pepper soda company. With time, my mother became a citizen. I remember as a kid going with her to her classes to learn English.

Looking back, I really appreciate how much my mom went through and how far she came, not just distance-wise, but she only had a sixth grade education. Yet she took that risk to come here to a foreign country and became a hard worker. After my dad became disabled, my mom got trained to open a childcare facility from our home. She took over as the head of household. She and my dad were humble, hard workers who wanted a better life for their children.

I feel that, when I do my work on campus now, in a way I'm doing it in memory of my mom and dad. I help support and assist students who are undocumented — or have family members who are — with any type of immigration questions they have, and assist them with navigating the maze of higher education. I also work closely with the Emergency Crisis Response Team to help students who are having an immediate food or housing crisis. And I work with our legal partners at the Jewish Family Services of San Diego to assist students with immigration questions, applying for DACA or steps for naturalization.

Being so close to Mexico, there are a large number of Mexican individuals, but we also have folks from Asia, Canada, Europe, and Central and South America. They share a fear of revealing their status — a fear of being bullied, or separated from their family, or having violence aimed at themselves or their family members. Many feel alone. At the URC, we offer them programs and activities to continue to grow a strong connection to each other as well as the SDSU community.

I am honored to work with a group of students who are resilient and my heroes. I see them as my kids and there is such a feeling of fulfillment when I see them graduating and being successful. —as told to Lisa Haney



Photograph: Courtesy of Reka Barton

Left photograph: Sandy Huffaker, Right: Courtesy of Jerry McCormick and Aleah Jarin



JERRY McCormick

ALEAH Jarin

JOURNALISM LECTURER (LEFT) AND
STUDENT (RIGHT); FOUNDERS OF THE
NEW NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF BLACK
JOURNALISTS CHAPTER

McCORMICK: The San Diego Association of Black Journalists and I have been trying to get a NABJ student chapter at San Diego State for a long time. What we found was that there weren't a lot of Black students in the journalism department. Now the right people have come together at the right time. Look at 2020, diversity is definitely needed in this country. Especially now that we're in a virtual world, it's more important than ever for students to stay connected and NABJ SDSU is a way for that to happen. I think [Aleah] was the right person to lead this effort, [she] seemed to be super passionate and hardworking like I am. I think together, and with the officers in this group, we're going to make this successful. I hope this group will show the students, particularly students of color, that journalism is a viable field to go into. The student chapter of the National Association of Hispanic Journalists at SDSU was first and now we're following in their footsteps. I only hope that other groups will form and grow. —as told to Aleah Jarin

JARIN: When I first came to SDSU in fall 2019, I began to feel discouraged not seeing many people who looked like me within the School of Journalism and Media Studies. Once I learned SDSU had never established an NABJ chapter, I knew this had to change. I saw a need to create a space where other aspiring Black journalists could be supported, seen and heard. Diversity is always needed, especially in today's age. Jerry has been like a mentor to me and I cannot thank him enough for all his help with starting this club. I'm honored to be a part of history by creating this chapter and I'm so happy future Black students interested in journalism now have the opportunity to join this historic organization at SDSU. I encourage others to always create the content you want to see. We need more resources like these to encourage diversity and inclusivity and to give people a sense that they belong.



ANN Huynh

A SCHOOL PSYCHOLOGY GRADUATE
STUDENT WORKING TO DEFUND
THE POLICE IN SCHOOLS

As an educator, I believe it is my duty to fight for social justice at every level — whether it's through advocating for a child on a micro level or advocating for policy changes on a macro level.

In response to systemic racism sustained by ongoing police violence, students and educators across the nation have organized to call for the defunding of police in schools. In San Diego, a group of Black youth have spearheaded the movement to defund school police in the San Diego Unified School District (SDUSD). After attending the students' actions and seeing the lack of educators supporting the movement, I felt it was imperative to rally the support of faculty and students at SDSU.

As educators, we have the power to advocate for policies and practices that promote safe, equitable and just schools. As such, I led the effort to send a letter to the SDUSD superintendent expressing our solidarity with Black youth organizers and supporting the call to divest from school police and to invest in services that will serve the needs of Black, Indigenous and People of Color (BIPOC) students. A total of 50 SDSU educators signed the letter, including 15 faculty members from the College of Education and 35 graduate students from the school psychology program.

It is my hope that my colleagues will continue to stand in solidarity with youth and actively work to dismantle systemic racism and invest in BIPOC communities. I am currently completing my school psychology internship in Los Angeles and have joined a group called Students Deserve. This student-led group has already succeeded in defunding the Los Angeles Unified School District (LAUSD) police budget by \$25 million, and we are continuing to organize to fully defund the LAUSD school police. As students and educators working together, we are working toward this goal through rallies, speaking at school board meetings, phone banking, education and other actions.

BRANDON Lim

'20 ALUMNUS; CO-COORDINATOR,
THE SDSU SOCIAL JUSTICE SUMMIT

Looking back at 2020, the COVID-19 pandemic, the Black Lives Matter movement and party politics were among the sociopolitical events that dominated public discourse. They exposed systemic inequities across race, class, gender, public health and industry. While my academic background and extracurricular involvements informed my social justice advocacy, these events helped me merge that passion with purpose.

I collaborated with Claudia Martinez and Eunice Flores in Career Services for the inaugural SDSU Social Justice Summit, funded by an Aztec Parents Fund grant, in November. In March, they approached me seeking input from social justice-minded student leaders. After submitting a workshop proposal, I reconnected with Claudia in October, and she graciously asked me to volunteer.

I helped co-coordinate the summit because I believed in its mission — to help students facilitate conversations around social justice and how it intersects with career, everyday life and society. In my summit workshop, I was honored to share my lived experiences as a proud member of the Asian Pacific Islander Desi American (APIA) and LGBTQIA+ communities. I reflected on how, as students developing our careers, we can leverage our cultural capital to create meaningful social change.

I hope that we continue that dialogue as a society. I believe we have a collective responsibility to elevate the narratives of people from historically marginalized and underserved communities — people who have cultivated resilience through failure, frustration at the lack of authentic representation and inclusion, and the determined resourcefulness to effect positive social change. Only then can we restore justice in the spirit of diversity, equity, inclusion and community solidarity.

“We can leverage our cultural capital to create meaningful social change.”

Photograph: Courtesy of Ann Huynh

Left photograph: Sandy Huffaker. Right: Courtesy of Kaye Sweetser.



KAYE Sweetser

PROFESSOR OF PUBLIC RELATIONS
WORKING TO INCREASE DIVERSITY IN PR

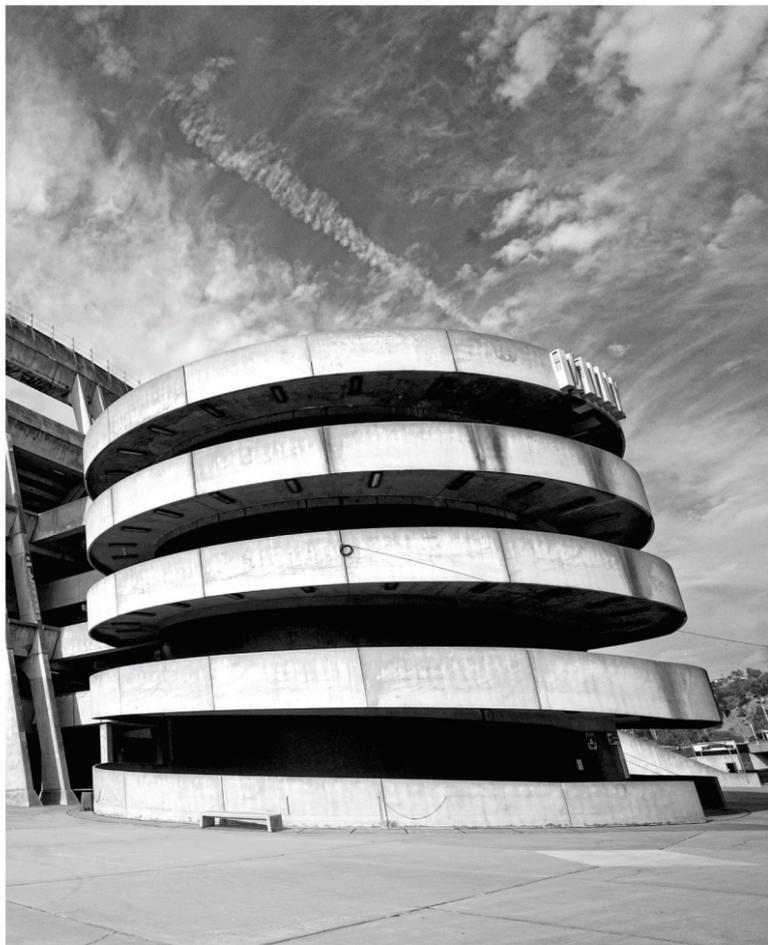
I have the honor of serving as the director of SDSU's Glen M. Broom Center for Professional Development in Public Relations, which is committed to improving the PR profession. A major area of focus is increasing diversity and inclusion. The PR profession has attracted only 10% of its total force to be diverse. As communicators, we can't do our jobs if we don't have the voices of all people among us. We're working to move the profession so that it can catch up with the nation's demographics. Until then, we will work to help students see that there is a place for them within this profession.

The center has a Black Mass Communication Scholars database and the Broom Speakers Bureau, both of which make it easier for professors to bring underrepresented voices into their classrooms. We've promoted these tools nationally to 250 media schools so far. The center also supported six students from Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCU) and Hispanic-Serving Institutions (including SDSU) in the class of 2020 as they transitioned into their careers. Further, the Broom Student Fellows program is expanding to an HBCU campus this spring: The "Broomie" fellows at SDSU will welcome a cadre of PR seniors from Hampton University in Virginia.

After listening and reflecting on social injustice last summer, we were ready to take further action. In August 2020, the center put on the Scrub Your Syllabus webinar. Nathian Shae Rodriguez, assistant professor of media studies, and I shared ideas and asked attendees to consider questions, such as: "Are you using inclusive language? How many readings or assignments highlight successful cases, scholars or professionals from communities of color?" PR faculty from 67 universities and 31 states attended. We were encouraged to see these ideas spreading across the nation.

Personally, I am motivated by trying to reverse generations of inequity that some Americans have experienced. I know that I cannot make up for the deeds of the past, but I know that change can begin when one person stands up.

—as told to Gabriela Romero ●



FAREWELL, OLD FRIEND

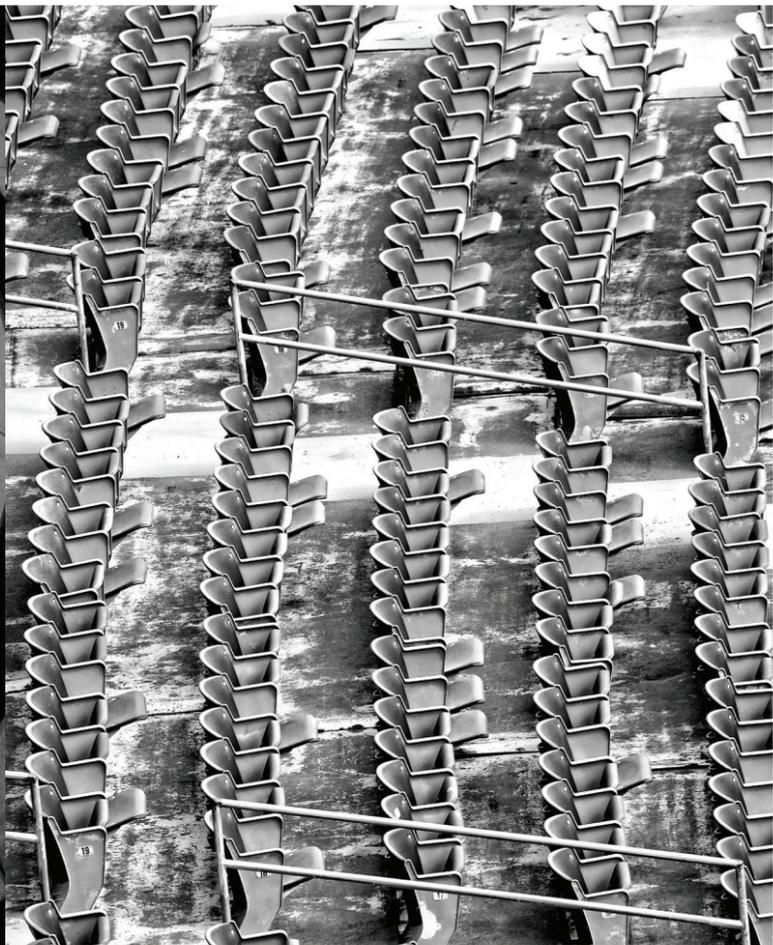
SAN DIEGO STADIUM, JACK MURPHY STADIUM, QUALCOMM STADIUM, SDCCU STADIUM (1967-2020), RIP

IT OPENED IN 1967 AS PLAIN OLD SAN DIEGO STADIUM and closed 53 years later after three name changes, three NFL Super Bowls, two World Series and MLB All-Star Games and sold-out tour stops by The Who, the Stones and Beyoncé. And, of course, hundreds of Aztec football games.

Ken Ables was there for the first game in 1967 (16-8 win over Tennessee State) — and the last time the Red and Black took the field in 2019 (13-3 win over BYU). “I went to my first season there when I was 10 and I went to my last season there when I was 62,” Ables says. “I took my wife there when we were first dating, and brought my kids to their first games.” He also watched hundreds of games with his father, renowned Aztec superfan Tom Ables, who attended 788 home and away games from 1946 until his death in 2017. “We had the same seats [in Mission Valley] from start to finish: Club Level, section 36,” Ables says.

Together they wrote the book — “Go Aztecs” — on SDSU football history, so Ables is pretty much a stadium historian as





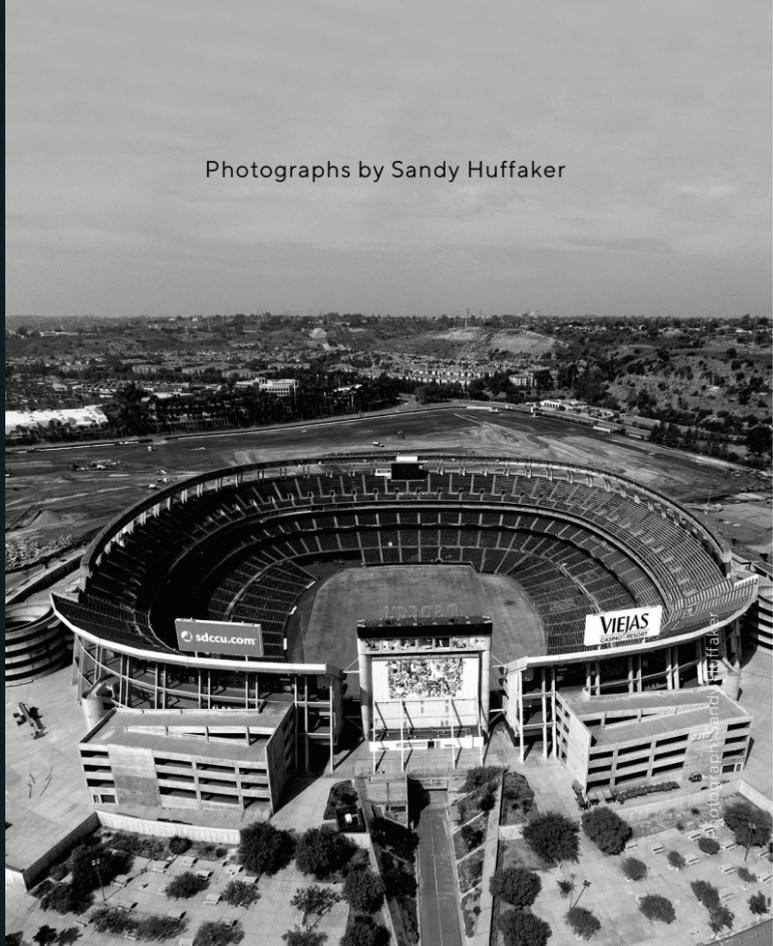
well. "I can remember when it was brand new," he says. "In its original configuration it really was quite nice. It was expanded a couple of times, and it kind of lost a little bit of its charm each time, and it just got neglected."

By the end, the stadium's two original major-league tenants — the San Diego Chargers and the Padres — were both long gone. With the Aztecs temporarily relocating to Carson for home games, demolition of SDCCU Stadium got underway in November 2020 in order to accelerate construction for Aztec Stadium and SDSU Mission Valley.

There's plenty of anticipation for the new stadium that will be built in time for the 2022 season. "I'm excited for a right-sized stadium that will be completely packed with Aztec fans, and the energy that that's going to bring for our student athletes," says John David Wicker, director of intercollegiate athletics. Football Head Coach Brady Hoke agrees. "It's going to be a great venue," Hoke says. "Something that will really stick out in our recruiting." Still, he took a moment to recall the 2010 Poinsettia Bowl (35-14 win over Navy) on a heavily rain-soaked field as a favorite highlight, and to give the stadium its due reverence. "It was home, it felt like home," Hoke says.

Ables says, "It had a fun run." — *Jeff Ristine*

Photographs by Sandy Huffaker



MORE THAN A TRACE

SDSU-TRAINED CONTACT TRACERS ARE WORKING HARD TO HELP STOP THE SPREAD OF COVID-19 IN SAN DIEGO — AND DELIVERING FOOD, RESOURCES AND REASSURANCES TO THE MOST VULNERABLE FAMILIES IN THEIR COMMUNITIES.

By Padma Nagappan

Illustration: John Herr



ABIGAIL LOPEZ CALLED A WOMAN WHO HAD BEEN IN CLOSE CONTACT WITH SOMEONE WHO TESTED POSITIVE FOR COVID-19,

to advise her to quarantine for two weeks. The news was the last straw and the woman broke down, crying.

The single mother of three children earned money cleaning houses and had already lost clients who didn't want to let her inside during the pandemic. Struggling to make ends meet, she desperately needed money for that month's rent. Two weeks without work would hurt mightily. And now there was the added stress she might have the novel coronavirus.

It was the kind of heartbreaking but all too familiar situation contact tracers like Lopez encounter on a daily basis as they make calls to try to stem the spread of COVID-19: overwhelming need, job loss, high anxiety.

Lopez, like the woman she called, identifies as Hispanic and speaks fluent Spanish. She was able to form an instant rapport with the woman, assure her and connect her with local resources for rental assistance. As she continued to check in on the woman during the quarantine period, she realized the difference she was making in her life. "She had someone to talk to, to unburden herself and to find the financial support she needed," Lopez says. "A lot of people are really grateful when we call them."

A MODEL PROGRAM

Lopez is one of dozens of tracers in the Communities Fighting COVID! contact tracing program, a partnership between SDSU and the County of San Diego Health & Human Services Agency (HHSA) that began in June 2020. The university received a \$3 million contract to recruit and train contact tracers from the very communities they will serve — Latinx, Black, Tagalog- and Arabic-speaking. Most are bilingual and receive training as community health workers.

"When health workers really understand the nuances of cultural aspects they can relate better to people," says Hala Madanat, interim vice president for research and innovation at SDSU and a leading public health expert. "Our community health worker tracers are able to make connections and establish trust with the people they are calling, which is effective in getting people to follow the advice to quarantine."

Madanat and Corinne McDaniels-Davidson, director of the SDSU Institute for Public Health, conceived of the program, in close partnership with Nick Macchione, director of HHSA. In the early days of the pandemic, it was clear to them that minority populations would be disproportionately impacted by the coronavirus. They designed the program to address socioeconomic concerns, language barriers, and, in some cases, inherent distrust of the health care system amongst San Diego's diverse communities. It now serves as an open source model for organizations partnering with the county on tracing and education efforts.

The training program for the tracers incorporates advice from a community advisory board drawn from each of the four communities, and was reviewed by public health faculty. Tracers receive 12 hours of training split over three days via Zoom and reading material. They also receive ongoing training as the situation with the virus and local cases evolves.

The county sends the tracers lists of people to call on day one and then check in with a week later for those that are high risk, which is 60% of the calls, and again on day 15 as a final follow-up.

On the calls, tracers advise contacts to quarantine and assess them for symptoms. They then send them a daily symptom log to maintain for self-reporting, and quarantine instructions.

EMPATHY AND TRUST

Lopez applied to be a tracer because she was drawn by the opportunity to make a difference within her Hispanic community, which has been deeply impacted by the pandemic. Latinx residents are three times more likely than white residents to become infected with COVID-19, and they account for 61% of local hospitalizations, according to county figures.

Even so, Lopez, a recent college graduate living in Escondido, has been surprised by the high number of cases referred to the program. On average, she calls 10 new contacts a day, in addition to the families she is following up on as well as connecting those in need with local resources. Each case involves several family members, making for a busy workload. She also goes into the community for home visits about eight to 10 times a week to contact people who don't answer the phone and to drop off food for people in need. When COVID-19 cases surge, home visits increase to several a day.

Like Lopez, Crista McAfee felt being a tracer was her calling. She has faced many personal health issues and relied on her family, friends and neighbors to get through those testing times. She wanted to help her African American community in the same way.

"Many Black people have a deep distrust of the government and believe that the government and medicine has failed them, given their long history of unfair treatment and ignored medical issues," McAfee says. She is also aware the current wave of unrest fueled by social injustice compounds their suspiciousness.

McAfee begins her calls saying she is with SDSU and can provide resources to help them navigate the upcoming quarantine period.

"I let them know that I'm African American and I'm concerned about the rates at which our community is dying," McAfee says. "That puts them at ease, they are then more open to communicating. When you're gathering data, it can be so cold, but if you turn it into a conversation, it can be more friendly."

Some young folks call her 'Auntie Crista' and she scolds them because they're not taking the health guidelines seriously. Older adults are often grateful to speak with someone who is Black, she says. McAfee finds it's important to meet each person where they're at.

One particular family stands out in her mind. A young man had been living with his 100-year-old grandmother until she tested positive for COVID-19 and was hospitalized. He moved in with his aunt's family but, to keep them safe, had to isolate himself in their garage, which had no access to running water or a bathroom.

While visiting the family, McAfee observed how stressed the aunt was, pulled in different directions between her elderly ill mother and her nephew who had no place to go. Through a county program for those unable to quarantine safely in their living situations, McAfee arranged a free hotel room for the nephew, which solved a lot of the family's problems.

"What a blessing it was to bring relief to this woman and her family," McAfee says. "You could see it in her face. It's the best feeling in the world to have a work day like that."

When she made the follow up call on day 15, she learned the grandmother had recovered and was back home and cooking for everyone. The nephew said he was grateful for all the help — the free hotel room



"A LOT OF PEOPLE ARE REALLY GRATEFUL WHEN WE CALL THEM."
—ABIGAIL LOPEZ

program comes with three meals a day, internet access and daily nurse check-ins — she arranged. Afterward, McAfee broke down crying, moved by their story and their palpable relief, before calling her program manager to share the happy news. Moved by the impact her work is having, McAfee, who took communication courses at SDSU in the past, is now considering pursuing a degree in public health.

"THESE ARE PEOPLE WHO WOULD HAVE BEEN LOST TO TRACING. BUT WE WERE ABLE TO REACH THEM BECAUSE WE HAVE PEOPLE WHO ARE LINGUISTICALLY AND CULTURALLY CONCORDANT." —HALA MADANAT

EMBODYING SDSU VALUES

McDaniels-Davidson oversees the day-to-day operations of the program and acts as liaison with the county. She helped build the training program and revises it as the program evolves, offering ongoing training to tracers to keep them up-to-date on the latest COVID-19 research.

McDaniels-Davidson and her team vet tracer candidates for their willingness to serve their community, their knowledge and familiarity with the barriers their communities face, and their communication skills and empathy. "Our tracers are able to de-escalate situations when contacts are upset, and persuade them to comply with quarantining," she says. "This isn't just a job for them, the help they offer feeds their souls."



"WHEN YOU'RE GATHERING DATA, IT CAN BE SO COLD, BUT IF YOU TURN IT INTO A CONVERSATION, IT CAN BE MORE FRIENDLY."
—CRISTA MCAFEE

Photographs: Sandy Huffaker

Designed and launched to answer the need of the hour, the contact tracing program harks back to the values SDSU embodies. "SDSU at its core is about community," McDaniels Davidson says. "This program exemplifies that in a way that gets to what we are about — we are here to teach, we are here to do research, and improve the lives of San Diegans."

In a pandemic, it's crucial not to lose people to follow-up, Madanat emphasizes. As the SDSU program proved its effectiveness, the county shifted contacts who failed to respond after three attempts to the university, which deploys health workers into the community for home visits. Tracers like Lopez make home visits for such cases, and they have a success rate of 100% in some communities, and about 80% with others, for getting people to quarantine.

"These are people who would have been lost to tracing," Madanat says. "But we were able to reach them because we have people who are linguistically and culturally concordant."

OVERWHELMING NEED FOR BASICS

Over and over, Lopez and other contact tracers see some common problems with which their community members struggle. The need for food comes up so often — because people can't go to the grocery store during quarantine or don't have money to buy food — that the tracers came up

with the idea of organizing a food drive.

SDSU program managers and faculty helped them make it happen by fast-tracking the approval process, and spreading the word via outreach to public health faculty and students, through SDSU social media channels, and also via the county's own tracers and employees who donated food. They raised more than \$2,400 and hundreds of pounds of dry and canned goods. As a result the tracers are able to do food drops for families in need.

Other community members need financial assistance to pay rent, or they may be too scared to go to a clinic because they're undocumented or lack medical insurance.

The majority of Lopez's calls are with women, many of them single mothers who worry about missing work, securing food and keeping their families healthy and safe. "We see how much pressure they face daily," Lopez says. "They constantly worry about providing for their families if they fall sick or lose their jobs."

Not everyone is receptive to the tracers. Some rebel against the idea of quarantining, which adds new stress to an already stressful time for families, Lopez says.

One father of two didn't want to quarantine because he needed to work in-person. Lopez convinced him of the necessity by drawing on the health communications training she received, and then helped him apply through CalWORKs for public assistance.

"The program taught me how to make people comfortable, especially when they have language barriers," Lopez says, "to help them take care of themselves." ●

why we give

...to support faculty



Left photograph: Derek Skalko, courtesy of Peggy and Eric Johnson. Right: Sandy Huffaker.

THE DONORS: Peggy Johnson ('85, B.S. electrical and computer engineering) and Eric Johnson ('86, M.S. electrical and computer engineering)

THE GIFT:
\$3.1 million
cash

THE PURPOSE: Creates the **fred harris* Chair in Digital Signal Processing (DSP)**, named after harris, a professor emeritus who taught electrical and computer engineering at SDSU for more than 50 years. The gift will fund a worldwide search and hiring of a prominent DSP expert, as well as their educational and research activities. It is one of only five endowed College of Engineering faculty positions and the largest cash gift in the college's history.

ABOUT THE JOHNSONS: They met at SDSU and have been married for more than 30 years. Peggy is CEO of Magic Leap, a wearable spatial computers company, and a former executive at Microsoft and Qualcomm. Business Insider named her the No. 1 Most Powerful Female Engineer of 2017. Eric was the founder and CEO of the successful start-up Tourmaline Networks and is now an angel investor in tech start-ups.

WHY THEY WANTED TO GIVE BACK:

Most of us — if we were lucky — had a professor who profoundly influenced us. For Eric, that professor was harris. "He was very good at making very difficult concepts understandable," Eric says. Tasked with designing an aspect of satellite communications at his first job, Eric was able to take a theory harris taught him and easily apply it. "Within six months we had a satellite communication system up and running," he says.

Peggy never had harris in class. "But Eric never stopped talking about him," she says. "He still talks about how something fred taught him has stuck in his head. Those are the teachers that we need to celebrate."

"The impact that San Diego State has had on both of our lives — we can't overstate it," Peggy says. A chance visit to the College of Engineering building changed the course of her education and career. As a first-year business student, she was delivering mail as part of the campus job she had to help pay for her education. Two women in the office — visibly

excited to see a female student — asked if she was there to talk about engineering, Peggy says. "No one had ever said, 'What about engineering' to me," she says. "Not my high school counselor, not my math teacher." The next day she changed her major. "Even though there were very few women at the time it was a very welcoming department," she says.

Peggy went on to become not only a top engineer but a business leader. "Everything I learned in engineering from a problem-solving perspective helps even today to solve business problems," she says. "From Qualcomm to Microsoft — and even today at Magic Leap — I've used that cognitive ability."

It's that solid engineering foundation that formed the basis of their success that the Johnsons hope the fred harris Chair will continue to bring to future students. "I believe engineers are a direct path of making life easier and better for everyone," Eric says. "I view this gift as a way of promoting more talented engineers from San Diego State." —Lisa Haney



FIVE THINGS TO KNOW ABOUT *fred harris:

1. He changed the spelling of his name to all lowercase in 1967 so people remember it.
2. He has more than 400 ties with cartoon characters that he wears to keep his students guessing.
3. His motto is: "If you're not having fun, you're probably not doing it right."
4. Other scholars have cited his seminal 1978 paper, "On the use of Windows for Harmonic Analysis with the Discrete Fourier Transform," more than 8,000 times.
5. The chair in his honor is "the nicest compliment anyone's ever given me," he says.

"I WOULD LIKE TO THANK PEGGY AND ERIC JOHNSON FOR THIS TRULY TRANSFORMATIONAL GIFT THAT RECOGNIZES THE LEGACY OF FRED HARRIS' 50+ YEARS OF SERVICE TO THE COLLEGE."
—EUGENE OLEVSKY, Dean of the College of Engineering

classnotes



LOVE IN THE TIME OF CORONAVIRUS

These Aztec couples found creative ways to safely celebrate their unions in 2020.

1. Myra Jurado ('19, B.A. interdisciplinary studies) and **Zaide Diaz** ('16, B.A. interdisciplinary studies), married on June 12 at a friend's home near SDSU. (Photo at Presidio Park.) **2. Ido Moscovici** ('09, B.A. integrated marketing communications) and **Kathleen Fernando** ('13, B.A. interdisciplinary studies), married on April 4 at Del Mar Bluffs. **3. Jeanette Reyes** ('11, B.S. business administration, management) and **Eddie Chavez** ('11, B.M. professional studies), married Aug. 18 in Oxnard. **4. Tiffany Hines** ('19, B.S. recreation and tourism management) and **Jalen Hines** ('17, B.S. recreation and tourism management), married on Oct. 3 at Louis Stelzer County Park. **5. Kendra Straub** ('18, M.A. communication) and **Brandon Rivera** ('16, M.A. communication), married Oct. 8 at San Diego's Office of the City Clerk. **6. Ruth Schneider** ('56, B.S. business) and **Roland Schneider** ('56, B.A. industrial arts), celebrated their 65th wedding anniversary on Sept. 10 at the Golden Village Palms RV Resort in Hemet, California. **7. Jose Tomimatzu** ('18, B.S. electrical engineering; master's candidate) and **Ashley Tomimatzu** ('17, B.S. child and family development; '19, M.S. child development), married on June 12 (Loving Day, which marks the day in 1967 when the U.S. Supreme Court struck down state bans on interracial marriage) in Santee. **8. Tenisha Eastman** ('16, B.A. psychology) and **Joseph Dodson** ('16, B.A. political science), married on Nov. 6 in San Diego. **9. Randy Reyes** ('11, B.A. international business) and **Cindy Cosio-Reyes** ('07, B.S. kinesiology), married on July 18 in Gilroy, California. **10. Ryan Schuler** ('13, B.A. journalism; MBA candidate) and **Maggie McCormick** ('14, B.S. environmental engineering), married on July 18 in the backyard at McCormick's parents' home in San Diego.

Photographs by: Bree Hulan (1), Emmanuel Velasco (2), Patricia Reyes (3), Amber Spence Photography (4), Martina Mirco (5), Kara Lukasuk (6), Ruben Martel (10). Courtesy of the couple (7-9).

1950s

'52 **J. CLIFFORD WALLACE*** (B.A. economics) completed 50 years as a federal judge in October. He was first appointed to the District Court in the Southern District of California in 1970. Two years later he was appointed to the United States Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit, where he continues to serve on the court, including five years as the Chief Judge from 1991 to 1996.

1970s

'74 **VERN TURNER** (M.S. biology) published two new novels, "Demon Slayer" and "A Hero's Journey."

'75, '78 **JAMES BARBER** (B.A. public administration; MPA) retired in 2020 after 34 years of purchasing management and 11 years of fleet management in local government in National City, California; Tucson, Arizona; and Las Vegas.

'76, '92, '03 **SHERRILL JOSEPH** (B.A. English literature; M.A. education; credential in education administration) published the second of her The Botanic Hill Detectives Mystery series, "Eucalyptus Street: Green Curse."

'78 **KAREN McCLINTOCK** (B.A. liberal studies) is the first female president and CEO of LSIA, a Detroit-based investment management firm.

1980s

'86 **SUE GANZ-SCHMITT*** (B.A. business - marketing) published two new picture books - "That Monster on the Block" (winner of the 2020 Northern Lights Book Award for Humor) and "Now I'm a Bird." She is a board member of the Los Angeles Regional Council for SDSU and a member of the scholarship committee.

'86 **SCOTT GEDIMAN*** (B.A. journalism - public relations) chief of public and legislative affairs at Yosemite National Park, completed 30 years with the National Park Service and was named the "Professional of the Year" by the Public Relations Society of America's Central California Chapter.

'89 **ANNETTE RICHARDSON EROS** (B.A. journalism) became president of Carondelet High School in Concord, California.

1990s

'91 **SCOTT PANSKY*** (B.A. journalism with an emphasis on public relations), co-founder of communications firm Allison+Partners, was elected to The Lymphoma Research Foundation's national board of directors.

'96 **INNIS CASEY** (B.A. communications), a photographer in Los Angeles, released the book "Quartraits: Portrait of a Community in Quarantine," which includes intimate images of families, single parents, teachers and Hollywood celebrities.

2000s

'00 **ROBERT ROBINSON*** (B.S. accounting), managing partner at Hickman Robinson Yaege, LLP law firm, was named to the San Diego Business Journal's 2020 "SD 50" list, highlighting top leaders making a difference.

'04 **LISELLE DeGRAVE** (B.A. public relations) is the co-host of the PRessing On podcast,

which received a Best in Show award from the Public Relations Society of America (PRSA) and a Bronze Bernays Award from the PRSA San Diego Chapter.

'06 **DYLAN M. ASTE*** (B.S. computer science) recently received the Younger Federal Lawyer Award from the Federal Bar Association and was named to SD Metro's "40 Under 40" list. He is an assistant United States attorney serving as the civil opioid coordinator.

'08 **VERONICA POLNICK** (B.S. hospitality and tourism management) an attorney at Jackson Walker law firm in Houston, was named to Super Lawyers' "2020 Rising Star" and The Best Lawyers' "Ones to Watch" lists.

'08 **JENNIFER L. STAFFORD** (B.A. psychology) wrote a therapeutic poetry book - "The Restructuring, Who Are You?" - to support people with emotional healing.

2010s

'10 **HALEY BISHOP** (B.A. theatre performance) stars in Shudder's feature film "Host," which was created in 12 weeks during pandemic lockdown in the U.K.

'12 **ZANDER KEIG** (MSW) was named National Social Worker of the Year by the National Association of Social Workers and the World Professional Association for Transgender Health Harry Benjamin Distinguished Educator of the Year.

'13 **NICOLLETTE CARDWELL** (B.A. journalism and media studies) was promoted to an associate of the firm TMP Architecture, Inc. in Bloomfield Hills, Michigan.

'13, '20 **KATIE HOWLAND** (B.A. international security and conflict resolution and political science; MPH epidemiology) was selected as one of the 20 American Eagle Outfitters Aerie Changemakers. With the \$20,000 prize, she's creating the first school library in Sinjar, Iraq for survivors of the Yazidi genocide, in collaboration with Nobel Peace Prize Laureate Nadia Murad.

'13 **TRACY PHAM** (B.S. accounting) is a tax manager at San Diego accounting firm Lavine, Lofgren, Morris & Engelberg, LLP.

'16 **OSAMA ALKHAWAJA** (B.A. political science) graduated from the University of Chicago Law School in June 2020 and is a leader in the nonprofit Paltrek, a travel program for graduate students to directly engage with leaders in Palestine and Israel.

'16 **ADAM KEMP** (B.S. accounting) is an audit manager at San Diego accounting firm Lavine, Lofgren, Morris & Engelberg, LLP.

'17 **J.J. LEWIS*** (M.A. educational leadership), superintendent and CEO of Compass Charter Schools in Thousand Oaks, California, was named to the San Fernando Valley Business Journal's "Valley 200" list in 2020 and 2019.

'18 **EDGAR BRITO*** (B.A. political science) wrote a novel, "The Forsaken: First Strike."

'18 **TALENA HANDLEY*** (B.S. business administration) is the founder of Girlie Garage, a San Diego-based virtual automotive repair consultancy, offering second opinions on auto shop quotes, help finding fair pricing and DIY videos.

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throwback



Ted Giannoulas ('76), costumed at a 1975 campus rally, will make the 2022 calendar. Don't be a chicken! Send in your submissions.

NEVER A BORING DAY IN SDSU HISTORY

Contribute your favorite moments to a 2022 calendar project.

By Seth Mallios

When you're an archaeologist who loves to dig and your summer excavation is canceled because of COVID-19, you spend a lot of time staring at the calendar and thinking about next year. When you're a historian who delights in searching collections of old documents and the archives are closed because of COVID-19, you spend a lot of time staring at the calendar and thinking about next year. When you're a curator who's poised to unveil the most important artifacts of a 20-year research project and your exhibition is postponed until the spring because of COVID 19... well, you get the point.

All of this staring at calendars had a silver lining. I pondered whether something significant happened every calendar day in San Diego State

University history. Fueled by this query and challenge, I set out constructing the Today in San Diego State History: 2022 Daily Calendar, pulling memorable moments from Jan. 1 to Dec. 31 over the last 124 years.

I aimed for a mix of entries showcasing student life, academics, athletics, alumni and campus events. Some were obvious; they were the undeniable milestones of the institution.

March 13, 1897 — when California Governor James Budd signed the bill authorizing the creation of the State Normal School of San Diego — was the starting point for San Diego State and this project. There were momentous campus visits by global dignitaries: President John F. Kennedy's commencement address at Aztec Bowl (June 6, 1963) and the Rev. Martin Luther King, Jr.'s protest speech in the Open Air

Theatre (May 29, 1964). Likewise, the beginning of the nation's first Women's Studies Program at SDSU (Feb. 2, 1970) was absolutely integral.

Sports fans will appreciate Marshall Faulk's 386-yard rushing game (Sept. 14, 1991), Stephen Strasburg's no-hitter in his final home appearance (May 8, 2009), volleyball star Laurel Brassey's debut as the first woman to play a men's Division I college sport (Feb. 8, 1974), and many others.

Meanwhile music lovers can debate how to rank campus concerts including Ella Fitzgerald at Peterson Gym (Oct. 1, 1961), the Canned Heat/Grateful Dead/Santana/Lee Michaels proto-Woodstock mega-show at Aztec Bowl (May 11, 1969), Bob Marley at the OAT (July 24, 1978), Adele at Viejas Arena (Aug. 18, 2011) or any one of Jimmy Buffett's 28 concert appearances from Sept. 3, 1975 (The Backdoor) to March 10, 2012 (Viejas).

It is worth emphasizing that even though the calendar includes the day that Ted Giannoulas ('76) first donned a chicken suit for a Padres game — the April 9, 1974 KGB radio gig that would evolve into a career as the world famous San Diego Chicken — it's only 90% complete. It is missing a most critical element: you! Send a detailed description of the most important dates in your SDSU history my way at smallios@sdsu.edu before March 1, 2021. If I use your unique submission, I'll send you a free calendar. ●

Professor of Anthropology Seth Mallios is the university history curator and director of the South Coastal Information Center at SDSU. He is the author of 10 books, including Born a Slave, Died a Pioneer: Nathan Harrison and the Historical Archaeology of Legend.



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