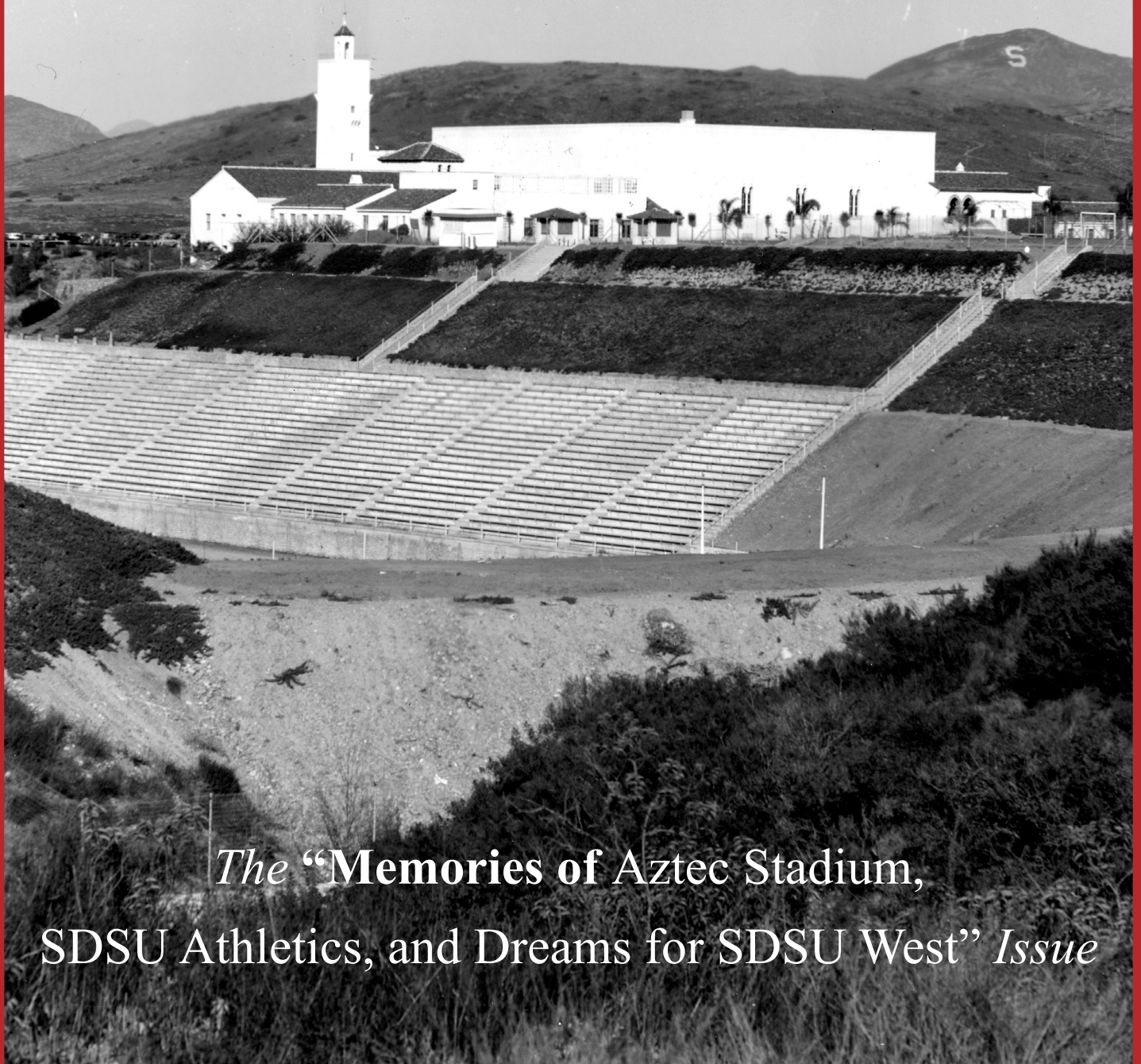


PostScript

Fall/Winter 2022/23

Volume XXXVI No. 2

SDSU Retired Faculty/Staff News



*The “Memories of Aztec Stadium,
SDSU Athletics, and Dreams for SDSU West” Issue*

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Celebrating under the gazebo, Oktoberfest, 2022

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Nancy Farnan, College of Education

In my messages, I often talk about the Retirement Association's events and scholarships, and this message is no different. Although I try not to repeat myself, I like to mention the awarding of scholarships, which is central to our organization. In addition, we are also a social organization that offers events and activities that we think members will find interesting and enjoyable.

We have traditional activities like July's Day at the Races, where we reserve tables with food service and a great view of the track, all under a sheltering overhang that keeps us from feeling the direct heat of the summer sun. Oktoberfest was once again a fun time at Santee Lakes with catered German fare and hosted beverages. The weather was perfect; but even in years when it's been inclement, we hold the event in a large, sheltering gazebo with lots of seating space at large picnic tables, all right by a lake. Then there's music by a wonderful vocal and instrumental team that performs a wide repertoire of songs. Upcoming is our Holiday Luncheon on December 8, and I hope to see many of you there. In addition, we have Interest Groups for members to join: a Walking Group, Golf Group, and Bridge Group. You can read more about them at our website retire.sdsu.edu. If you'd like to join a group or start a new one, please send an email to us at retire@sdsu.edu. Finally, Past President Dean Popp has recently organized tours of the Carillon at SDSU, which have been added to because of demand. (Only about 10 people can attend each tour because of the relatively small physical space.) If you are not familiar with the historic Carillon, you can read about it at https://retire.sdsu.edu/carillon_project.

As we look toward the New Year, we are planning to offer a series of seminars on a range of topics that focus on thriving in retirement, as well as on challenges that can appear in our retirement lives. Please watch for more information. Also, as we look into 2023, the Retirement Association will hold our annual Valentine's Day Luncheon and, in the spring, our Annual Spring Luncheon and Business Meeting. It is at the latter event that we meet our 2022 scholarship recipients.

Cover: View of Aztec Bowl stadium, Hardy Tower, the Women's Gymnasium (now the Exercise and Nutritional Sciences Building), and "S" Mountain in the distance, 1937.

OUR MISSION

To serve the mutual benefits and interests of retired and near-retired faculty and staff. To facilitate continuing contributions by members to the furtherance of the scholarly and other professional objectives of San Diego State University.

Speaking of scholarships, you likely know that we provide scholarships to SDSU students who have a relative who works or has worked (that is, retired from) at SDSU. You also likely know that support for students is at the heart of our mission as an association. Here are a few statistics you might find interesting. In 2021-22, San Diego State University awarded \$5,189,261 in scholarships. The average award across approximately 700 scholarship offerings was \$2498 for 2077 recipients. The university's goal is for all scholarship monies to be awarded, and in 2021-22, 98.6% of all funds were dispersed to students.* This is an excellent award percentage that is due, in large part, to the new PeopleSoft system that allows students to apply through a general scholarship portal and from there be automatically matched to relevant scholarships.

Our SDSU Retirement Scholarship is called an "apply-to scholarship," which simply means that qualified students are sent to our application site to add any additional information we ask for, including information regarding their SDSU family member. What the new system does that's different is that students do not have to search for scholarships to which they can apply; they are automatically sorted into qualifying categories, thereby removing the research for appropriate scholarships that students had to do previously. In the last award cycle, our association awarded seven scholarships for a total of \$30,100. If you would like to volunteer to read applications for SDSU scholarships in the upcoming year, please let us know at retire@sdsu.edu. In previous years, 20-25 of our members have reviewed applications for various scholarships across the university. We do this in collaboration with Academic Affairs and the Financial Aid and Scholarship Office, and it is a wonderful way we, in retirement, can continue to contribute to SDSU. Our volunteer reviewers comment that it is an interesting and rewarding process for them, as well, as they read applications from SDSU's amazing students. We currently have a three-member Scholarship Committee, whose Chair and Co-Chair sit on our Board. That committee reviews applications just for our Retirement Association scholarships.

I wish you all a wonderful end to 2022 and beginning of 2023, and I hope to hear from you about your ideas for joining our volunteer groups. I look forward to seeing you at an upcoming event!

*Data gathered from San Diego State University's report: Fiscal Year 2021-22, Impact of Philanthropy♦

SAVE THE DATE: BORREGO DESERT ESCAPE 2023

Borrego Desert Escape 31.0 will be here before you know it, Monday, March 20-22 with departure after breakfast on Thursday morning, March 23. It provides a wonderful three-day opportunity for relaxation, puzzling, desert flower walks, or hikes for the more adventurous, golf and great companionship with the high point being a belated Saint Patrick's Day celebration complete with a corned beef and cabbage dinner on Tuesday night. A heavy hors d'oeuvres potluck supper on Monday night, Wednesday dinner (menu to be announced) and breakfast on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday mornings round out the planned meals. Lunches will be on your own.

Reservations may be made by calling 1-805-691-8086. This is a central reservation number for various locations so it will be important to mention that you are with the SDSU Retirement Association group, and that the reservation is for Palm Canyon. Rates are \$134.00 per night for the Double Queen Standard and King Standard rooms with a "small" \$18/night resort fee added on for the first time this year and which we managed to get waived in past years.

Our centenarian Retirement Association Charter Member, Lucille Wendling, has already made her reservation and she says if she can plan ahead, you can too!!

For questions you are welcome to contact Rinda Young at rindayoung@cox.net or just ask other RA members about their experiences with the Escape.♦



Look forward to possible sightings of Peninsular Bighorn Sheep during Desert Escape. This lamb and ewe were spotted at Yaqui Pass in October.

PROFILE: SDSU SCHOLAR ATHLETES

FOWLER MBA STUDENT-ATHLETE AIMS HIGH

San Diego State basketball player Alexandria “Alex” Crain may only stand 5’9”, but don’t let her small stature deceive you. “I plan to dunk on someone this season,” said Crain, who transferred to SDSU this year from Texas Christian University.

In addition to being a junior guard for the Aztec women’s team this year, Crain also has her hands full as a first-year Fowler College of Business MBA student. Her situation is a little unusual in that she is eligible to play college basketball for two years (which is why she is listed as a “junior” on the roster) even though she earned her degree in political science from TCU after the end of last season. While Crain said that her TCU scholarship allowed her to take extra classes during the summer, the substantial number of Advanced Placement (AP) tests she took while being homeschooled during high school allowed her to earn college credits she earned before she even set foot on campus. “During my first advising meeting at TCU, the academic counselor was shocked to see that I was able to be classified as a junior before I even

took my first class,” said Crain, who is a native of McKinney, Texas. Because she has already earned her undergraduate degree, Crain is eligible to play for the Aztecs



Alexandria Crain

immediately and is projected to be one of the Aztecs’ starting guards when the season opens with a game against Washington on November 25. However, Crain came close to not competing in any sport at all.

“My mom and dad were both athletes

and they encouraged me to try different sports from a young age,” said Crain. “Nothing really struck a chord with me at first. It wasn’t until I picked up a basketball that I finally found a sport that got my full attention. It also helped that my mom played college basketball and coached for a while, so she was able to teach me the ins and outs of the game.” Since she eventually wants to pursue a career in the sports business industry (“I would love to get an internship with a team in the NFL or NBA”), Crain said she chose to enroll in SDSU’s MBA program to prepare her for this role. However, this may be a long-term goal for Crain since she plans to study for the [LSAT](#) and attend law school after earning her MBA. Eventually, her MBA and her law degree may go hand-in-hand with her ultimate career goal: “I want to get all the educational tools I will need in order to best serve athletes in their careers on and off the court.”♦

Thanks to the Fowler College of Business for permission to use this article.

NATHAN MENSAH SHINES ON COURT, IN CLASSROOM

One of the reasons the San Diego State University’s men’s basketball team is expected to do well during the upcoming season is the return of Nathan Mensah. The Aztecs’ 6-foot-10 forward is among the team’s leaders in total rebound percentage (#2), block shots in a career (#3) and in a single game (#2 tie).

Mensah, now a fifth-year senior, was initially unsure about returning this season though he had a year of eligibility remaining. He earned his bachelor’s degree in marketing at SDSU’s Fowler College of Business last spring, but after talking to his family, chose to return for an MBA.

On the court or in the classroom, he has set high expectations for himself. Mensah has been named an Aztec scholar-athlete four times and is a recipient of a Jim Malik Award for spring 2020. The Malik Award goes to SDSU student-athletes who achieve 4.0 GPAs in a semester.

His role as an outstanding collegiate student-athlete was never something he aspired to during his childhood in Accra, Ghana. Mensah didn’t consider playing basketball, he spent his youth playing soccer. But after a growth spurt in his early teens, his cousin

advised him to switch sports and he was an immediate success.

On his first plane ride to America, Mensah, then 15, realized he wasn’t sure of his fate. “I was excited for the opportunity, but



Nathan Mensah

I had a lot of questions and I wondered if I made the right move,” said Mensah, whose family remained in Ghana. “Once I landed in New York, I met my first high school basketball coach and he put me at ease with my decision.”

While attending high school in Massachusetts, Mensah began thinking about the possibility of attending college. “SDSU be-

gan recruiting me during my sophomore year of high school and Coach (Brian) Dutcher made me feel like family,” said Mensah. “I also wanted to play someplace with nice weather.”

After completing high school in Nevada, Mensah arrived at SDSU hoping to achieve success both academically and athletically. He was off to a good start: As a first-year student, he played in all 34 of the Aztecs’ regular-season and postseason games and was named an Aztec Scholar-Athlete for the first time.

Mensah plans a career in marketing in the financial services industry. “I chose to earn a degree in marketing because as a basketball player, you have to market yourself,” he said. “I also thought that marketing would be a good degree to pursue once I’m done with basketball.”

But for now, Mensah is happily concentrating on maintaining good grades, continuing his internship, and dreaming about propelling the Aztecs deep into the NCAA Tournament.♦

Thanks to the SDSU News Center for permission to use this article.

THE SAN DIEGO STATE UNIVERSITY MISSION VALLEY PROJECT

Nikhil Varaiya, Emeritus Professor, Department of Finance, SDSU

Below is a brief description of the San Diego State University (SDSU-MV) Project drawn from a recently completed Instructional Case Study, **The San Diego State University Mission Valley Project: An Expanding Vision of a University** (coauthored with my colleague, Anurag Mehrotra). This case study was initially developed for use in a senior undergraduate finance course in the BSBA (Finance) Program in the Spring 2022 semester at SDSU; a copy of this case study can be obtained by sending an email to nvaraiya@sdsu.edu.

SDSU commenced the construction of a new stadium for its football team, the Aztecs, in Mission Valley, San Diego, California in summer 2020. The new construction resulted from SDSU's inability to use the current stadium in Mission Valley after 2018; SDSU had used it from 1967 onwards. With the demolition of the existing stadium, the new stadium, Snapdragon Stadium, was completed in time for the Fall 2022 Aztec Football Season. Construction of the new stadium required acquisition of land surrounding the stadium site in Mission Valley. Stadium construction would thus become an integral part of the SDSU-MV Project. The SDSU-MV project had two components: (i) Site Acquisition and Development, and (ii) Stadium Construction.

The Site Acquisition and Development component would cost \$350 million; the Stadium Construction was estimated to cost \$310 million, for a total project outlay of \$660 million. These outlays would be funded by bonds issued by the California State University (CSU) System beginning 2020; the Stadium Construction would in part be paid for by philanthropic gifts. With the addition of the financing costs to the project outlay, the total cost of the project was likely to exceed \$1 billion. In addition to the new 35,000-person football stadium, the SDSU-MV Project would create through public-private partnerships 1.6 million square feet of office and research space, 4,600 housing units with a 10% set aside for low-income households, 80 acres of parks and open space, a 400-room hotel, and 95,000 square feet of retail space, and several thousand parking spaces.

The case study is a vehicle for students to address key issues arising from the SDSU-MV Project: How would the project transform SDSU's traditional academic mission of teaching and research? What would be the organizational structure through which activities in the SDSU-MV project be implemented? How would the debt created to fund this project be serviced given that "SDSU officials have repeatedly promised they will not raise student tuition or fees"? What would be the composition and magnitude of the revenue sources to cover the project's operating expenses and service the debt created to initiate and complete this transformative project? What would be the risks of this transformative project and how would these risks impact the project's stakeholders?♦

NEW MEMBER SPOTLIGHT Cynthia Hicks-Droske

PostScript (PS): What did you do as your career at SDSU? When did you retire?

Cynthia Hicks-Droske: (C): I was an Account Administrator/Grant Specialist in the Research Foundation. I retired in February 2021.

PS: Where did you grow up and what brought you to San Diego? If you are from San Diego, what kept you here?

C: I grew up in San Diego/Point Loma. We live in paradise! Friends and family also live here in San Diego.

PS: Do you have a memory about SDSU that stands out and that you would like to share?

C: My memories of SDSU are the people. They made working a daily pleasure.

PS: Do you have a hobby, special interest or volunteer activity you would like to share?

C: I enjoy creating craft projects and decorating. My husband and I volunteer for the Feral Cat Coalition's TNR (trap, neuter, return) program. We've trapped cats for the program.

PS: What was the last book you read? Do you recommend it? If so, why; or if not, why not?

C: *Blood and Roses* by Mark Dawson (Beatrix Rose trilogy). I recommend it if you enjoy fast-paced thrillers about a deadly assassin.

PS: Do you have a favorite quote? If so, why is it your favorite?

C: "That which does not kill us makes us stronger."

PS: What are you looking forward to in retirement—any special plans; or if you've been retired, what have you enjoyed doing?

C: Retirement is going well and my husband and I have become night owls. It is great setting your own time lines and managing your days, filling them with as much or little as desired! We plan to do more traveling in the future.♦



Cynthia Hicks-Droske

NATIONAL CHAMPIONS



1966

San Diego State Aztecs Football Team



San Diego State College Aztec football team, 1966

A SPOOKY OCTOBER NIGHT IN AZTEC BOWL

Em Cummins, Emeritus Professor of Counseling

An avid Aztec football fan for more than a half-century, I attended nearly every home game for 46 years. But when the Aztec eleven took the field on October 29, 1966 they were participants in the most unusual second half I ever saw in my life.

Having joined the faculty that fall, I purchased season tickets and didn't miss a single home game in either the Aztec Bowl or Balboa Stadium. (They didn't begin playing in Mission Valley until Jack Murphy Stadium opened in 1967.) Don Coryell was head coach, Joe Gibbs his assistant, and the defensive coordinator was John Madden. Quarterback Don Horn and wide receiver Haven Moses were an electrifying duo, and prospects for a winning season were high.

Having attended all the games during my grad student years at Michigan State, I quickly shifted my loyalty to the Aztecs when they won their opening game 45-0 on September 17 against Mexico Polytechnic in the Aztec Bowl. Then after four more victories on the road, Air Coryell returned home undefeated to play Fresno State.

A bizarre weather pattern unfolded that chilly October night, etching this weird evening into my memory for all time. During the second half a dense fog descended—in Carl Sandburg's familiar words—"on little cat feet." Wafting over the campus it gently settled into the Aztec Bowl, eerily blanketing the field and causing it to disappear. Nearly all of us fans began leaving after the third quarter because the field became spookily invisible. I still recall hurrying across the end zone lest we run into any players.

The Aztecs won 34-13 that night and finished the season 11-0. They went on to defeat Montana State 28-7 in the Camellia Bowl, which in those years was hosted in Sacramento. They finished the season ranked #1 by both the AP and UPI Small College Football Polls. And to cap it off they were voted the NCAA College Division national champions. (San Diego State College later became SDSU in 1974 by state legislative action.)♦

SDSU AZTECS VS. FLORIDA STATE SEMINOLES

Leif Fearn, Teacher Education

I wasn't there. I heard the story from someone who was. I think perhaps I read about it in the newspaper. There are certainly readers who were there or whose memory is better than mine.

There was a home-and-home football series between San Diego State and Florida State in the 1970s. When teams played San Diego State, they had to be ready for Don Coryell football, which meant quarterbacks who could thread needles and drop footballs down a stovepipe from fifty yards. Also, this was the 1970s, an era in some parts of the country where culture had not yet left the nineteenth century.

San Diego State football was good. There were Aztec football graduates who played for money on Sundays. And Don Coryell was the coach. He pretty much invented the passing offense that today permeates college and professional football. And those San Diego State football players came from many backgrounds and in more than one skin color. Don Coryell didn't seem to care what a player looked like so long as he could play Don Coryell football. And he



Coach Don Coryell with football players during a night game

loved his players.

Florida State football players seemed not to understand the San Diego State football program. They also seemed not to understand Don Coryell when they referred in their newspapers to San Diego State football players in ugly racial terms. Coach Coryell didn't respond to the Florida State players' ugly racial references to his players. He just did what he always did during game week, which was to prepare his team to

prevail. But it turned out he was enraged.

There was the regular opening kickoff, and while I don't have the progress of the game in my memory, there came a moment late in the second half when San Diego State, well ahead, punted on fourth down and prepared to play defense. The story goes that the defensive coordinator went to Coach Coryell and asked something like, "What do you want us to do?" And Coryell, it was reported, turned to the defensive coach and scowled, "I don't give a damn what you do. Just get me the ball back!"

And the defense did get the ball back. And while protocol allowed the team so far ahead to "play it out," Don Coryell dropped two more scores on Florida State that night, and had there been ten more minutes to play, he'd have dropped as many more scores as he could on those players from Florida State, with their ugly racial language.

It's just a story as I heard and remember it. I don't even know that it's accurate as I told it. But it's a good story about Dan Coryell. I'd like it to be true. I'd like to know that the playing field at San Diego State was ahead of the rest of country in something more important than just a football game. ♦

AZTEC BOWL

Ed Deaton, Mathematics

President John Fitzgerald Kennedy received the first honorary doctorate from SDSU, SDSC at that time, in Aztec Bowl on June 6, 1963.

After that all other events pale. I have my two tickets to the ceremony! I wish I had pictures, but I do not.

I bought my first season football tickets in 1961. In the faculty section, fifty yard line naturally. As years went by I increased my number of tickets to take care of my children, who spent the games running around the stadium, never watching the game. There were many memorable games, but I remember a game against Fresno State where the fog was so bad the radio announcer had to come to the side line to try to see the plays. If a team punted, the receiver just tried to stay out of the way of the ball.

Lynn, my wife, and the mother of our three children, graduated in Aztec



President John F. Kennedy and SDSC President Malcolm A. Love

Bowl as did two of our three children—Bruce in music, Janice in Spanish and classics.

It is possible, probable, that I am wrong on some of my dates.

Mea culpa. ♦

IN MEMORIAM

Christopher Probett
Business Administration
September, 2021

Carolyn Sakai
Counseling and Psychological Services
December, 2021

Madeleine Scott
French and Italian
June, 2022

Marianne Kochanski
Academic Affairs
October, 2022

Sally Roush
SDSU President Emeritus
October, 2022

ADVANTAGES, BENEFITS, AND AN EARWORM

Tom Donahue, Benefits/ERFSA

For some time this column has been offering practical discussions of the advantages and benefits which inhere for all the years of our lives in an academic setting. This time we present a discussion of the real-world effects which come about as a result of knee replacement surgery. In the most recent practice, that surgery takes place in a stew of medications selected for their age-appropriateness: in my case (for those with a straightforwardly overt curiosity) the meds included hydrocodone, tylenol, gabapentin, meloxicam, prilosec, levothroid, metformin, rosuvastatin, losartin, Gatorade, and baby aspirin, as just the most notable. It will come as no surprise that this brew coming just after surgery brings a risk of touch and go delirium, which I hereby caution you about in advance.

The touches of delirium come rafting in on tides of anxiety, as one might expect. My own sloshing about in all this occurred with a memory of high school basketball, and a tournament game we lost because a sacroiliac injury kept me from loping out to defend a spot on the floor from which my assigned man was a deadeye shooter. Then there were also the chills attached to the time my typist chose to pull an all-nighter on the evening before my dissertation was due in flawless form at ten in the morning some fifty-five years ago. Or that occasion during a paper which I gave at Cornell University, with the sudden discovery that I had to wing it right in the middle of an argument about dialects, because I discovered I had omitted a crucial page in the presentation. Or consider the recent time when our former chief national executive chose to keep state secrets back for possible sale at \$250 million apiece.

But wait. Surely that is a delirium-induced canard at this point. It might be better to think in positive terms, particularly when we might predict a positive outcome. We might recommend the hiring of a cadre of 250 well-chosen young people, situated in the White House for the time that the executive in question returns, and given the charge of identifying and warning against presidential missteps and blunders. Some of these people could be chosen for their stout conservatism, with the special task of cautioning against slip-ups: pawky monks, to the last person. Others might be chosen because they share the sneering disrespect of the executive himself and they would deliver punky mocks just as well. But we may be assured that any such private deliberations, occurring just as we enter surgical recovery in our open-in-the-back pucky smocks, will show the careful thinking that characterized us throughout our careers. We will be showing the advantages and benefits of the scrupulous considerations and rational planning we have mastered throughout academic life. And mind you, if you are getting a knee replacement, have it done before you are 82.

If you have recommendations for future columns, even if they are less fun than this one was, send them to: donahue.thomas@ymail.com ♦

TREASURER'S REPORT

Gordon Shackelford, Treasurer

SDSU Retirement Association Accounts as of June 30, 2022

RA Scholarship Endowment Fund ¹	\$257,555.98
RA Scholarship Fund ²	\$33,988.97
Operating Account	\$15,749.36
Activities Account	\$7,238.79
Travel Account	\$7,120.01
RA Sub-total	\$321,653.11
Bohnsack Scholarship Endowment Fund ¹	\$52,896.86
Bohnsack Scholarship Fund ³	\$3,165.35
Bohnsack Sub-total	\$56,062.21
Total Assets	\$377,715.32

Foot Notes:

1. RA and Bohnsack Scholarship Endowment Funds are invested in the SDSU Research Foundation's Investment Pool. This fund produces both growth in market value (+4.1% per year over the last 5 years) and cash payments (typically, 3.7% each year over the last 5 years) to the Scholarship Funds.

2. As of June 30, 2022, \$28,000 in Scholarships had been obligated, but not yet drawn from the RA Scholarship Fund.

3. As of June 30, 2022, \$2,100 in Scholarship had been obligated, but not yet drawn from the Bohnsack Scholarship Fund.

The Retirement Association funded seven \$4,000 scholarships, of which, approximately two and a half were funded from income from the RA Scholarship Endowment Fund and four and a half were funded from 2021/22 donations to the RA Scholarship Fund.

Thank you all, for your generous donations of much needed scholarship support for SDSU students related to past and present employees of SDSU and its Axillaries.

And a special thank you to Robin Fishbaugh for her years of service as RA's treasurer. ♦

SNAPDRAGON TOUR

Leif Fearn, Teacher Education

I have never been on a construction site like SDSU Mission Valley. It is hard to describe, perhaps not unlike the building of Istanbul's Blue Mosque or the Roman Colosseum, or a Giza Pyramid, but with heavy equipment, power tools, and moving parts. Yes, moving parts, hundreds of complex parts moving simultaneously as in a huge dance in which no one and nothing seems to bump into another. There are enormous holes and mounds, paved and unpaved roads, and trucks and scores of diesel-powered golf-like carts going hither and thither, each occupied by hard-hatted people who dig and inspect and level and compare what they see with the blueprints in their heads. And speaking of blueprints, the construction office is a center of many 50x12 trailers, connected into offices and planning rooms, all, it appeared, equipped with walls of whiteboard divided into squares which are festooned with post-it notes that appear to be jottings about who is doing what with whom, where, and for what purpose.

The old stadium's concrete has been ground into pebbles used as base for various levels on which roads are laid, buildings built, and a football field laid out for a covering of sod. The rebar from the old stadium's concrete has



SDSURA group touring Snapdragon, June 15, 2022

been taken away to be melted down for constructions elsewhere. Electrical engineers have laid out cables with wiring everywhere. Plumbers have laid piping across the enormous construction site.

But none of that is why we were there. We wanted to see the stadium, brilliantly named "Snapdragon." As we rode in our little carts from the southwest area of the construction site, we wound ever-closer to the northwest corner, the stadium site. We stood at the north edge of the stadium, the seat-

ing everyone can see from Friars Road to our right and left, and the stadium floor before us. We could see irrigation fixtures in the field below and two goal-posts, both of which can be removed when the stadium is used for events other than football games. There will be at least one more foundation layer on which sod will be laid down to "bite into" the under-layer over a period of, perhaps, two to three weeks.

We've all heard there would not be a bad seat in the house. There isn't a bad seat in the house, and every seat is closer to the field than were most of the seats in the old stadium, because the layout is steep, so the top row of seats is closer to the field than were club-level seats in San Diego/Jack Murphy/Qualcomm Stadium. All the seats have arms and backs, but not padding, and it appears there is more room for legs than we get on most airplanes.

It was a terrific tour. We thank the organizers and the well-informed construction personnel who squired us around. For me, this might be the best foot forward for the university since I arrived on campus over five decades ago. I hope I am here when it is all done, when the buildings and parkland are finished and occupied, when there is a name (SDSU West) attached, and San Diego State remains the unqualified flagship of the largest public university system in the world. ♦



Sunshine, a cool breeze, and Santee Lakes made the perfect setting for SDSURA's 2022 Oktoberfest celebration. Around forty-five members and friends gathered on October 21 to enjoy Brautwurst, beer (courtesy of Michael Brooks and Dan Gilbreath), good conversation, and the feel-good tunes of our favorite duo, *Sentimental Journey*. Thanks to everyone who attended and especially to those who helped with set-up and clean-up, brought wine, ice chests, sodas, and water. A special thanks to Dean Popp for his expert coordination of the event.

LEST WE FORGET

DR. PHILIP HALFAKER

Cliff Bee, Teacher Education

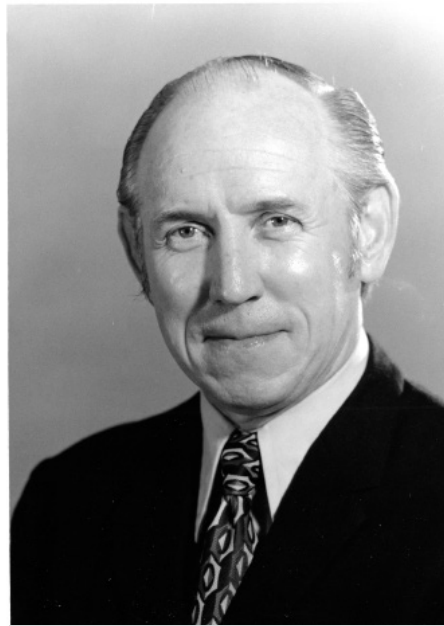
So many people knew Phil Halfaker, and knew him in so many ways. I first met Phil during the summer of 1969 when I joined the secondary education faculty at San Diego State College.

Phil was a Hoosier, having grownup in Danville, Indiana. As a teenager, he became involved with camping and other outdoor activities. He was a Boy Scout and achieved the high honor of becoming an Eagle Scout.

Following graduation from Danville High School, he enlisted in Naval flight training. During his time in the Navy, Phil really got a taste of academic life by studying at the Naval Training Schools in Minneapolis and Pensacola. Following his discharge from the Navy he attended Ball State Teachers College where he received his Bachelor's in Business Education. Phil was on his way to San Diego State, but first he took a position as a teacher of Business Education in Coldwater, Ohio. He also kept busy as the basketball coach, directed the junior class play and the school newspaper.

Phil's next move was a return to Ball State for his Master's Degree in Administration. With this degree in hand, he moved his family to Vicenza, Italy where he became the principal of Vicenza American High School. This experience was followed by another move—this time to Stuttgart, Germany where he served for two years as the principal of Stuttgart American High School.

Returning to the United States, Phil enrolled at Indiana University and completed his doctoral degree in Secondary Education and Cur-



Phillip Halfaker

riculum---and, this led the Halfaker family to San Diego. Many of you knew Phil from this time forward by teaching and working with him. Others were touched by his teaching, his leadership, and his overall concern for his fellow man. A brief listing of just several of Phil's many special experiences and activities at San Diego State include being:

- *The Coordinator of the Department of Secondary Education.*
- *A member of the San Diego City Schools Board of Education (8 years).*
- *The President, San Diego County Association for Student Teaching.*
- *The President of Patrick Henry High School's Parent Advisory Committee.*

■ *The President of Education Improvement Associates, a professional corporation.*

■ *A member of the California Department of Education Interscholastic Federation Study Commission.*

■ *A member of the SDSU/ Brazil Project.*

■ *A professor at the Instituto Tecnológico de Tijuana.*

I guess that best of all virtues might be that Phil loved coming to our campus. He loved his work and the people around him. Several of us would go to the "Commons" for coffee and he would invariably state how lucky we were to be in San Diego and to have the job we have at SDSU. Phil never expressed otherwise. He'd say, "What could be better?" He loved his students and he loved teaching.

There is much that I remember about Phil and much that I could continue to share. However, reaching back some 50 years ago to a speech he made, might summarize this man—and I'll close my thoughts with his words—his basic tenets to live by:

■ *Love and affection is needed by everyone—children and adults. Family and friends all contribute.*

■ *Help people develop a positive self-image through a feeling of respect and well-being.*

■ *True friendships multiply joys and divide griefs.*

And truly, this was Dr. Phil Halfaker.♦

Editor's Note: We would like to thank Amanda Lanthorne and SDSU's Love Library Special Collections and Archives for permission to use the cover photo, the photos of Don Coryell and the Kennedy visit on page 7, and the photo of Phillip Halfaker on this page.

Coming in the Next PostScript: Your Favorite Trip

Barbara Barnes, Enrollment Services

For our next issue of *PostScript*, the theme is “Your Favorite Trip.” Please share everything you can remember that made your trip stand out as special and memorable. Where did you go? When did you travel? Had you been dreaming about the trip for ages or did serendipity play a part? What were the colors, smells, sounds, of the place or places you visited? Was it your favorite trip because of where you traveled or who you were with?

Or, maybe you’ve taken many trips and have lots of favorites. Tell us about all of them. Or possibly your greatest trip didn’t involve miles of travel at all, but is nevertheless a great vacation memory. Maybe you stayed at a bed and breakfast in Julian or rented an apartment at Mission Bay or even had a “staycation”—your home was your basecamp and you took mini trips from there. Please share all the details that made these times special.

For me, I’ve enjoyed a number of trips that make my “favorites” list—rafting down the Green River in Utah, wilderness camping in Nevada’s Toiyabe National Forest, riding Amtrak from San Diego to Washington DC. Though each trip was unique, they have one thing in common—they all happened within the borders of the US. I’ve never been to Europe, and I dream of going. During the pandemic lockdown I spent hours bingeing travel programs, mainly about England, France, and Italy. Streaming episodes of *Rick Steve’s Europe* was my go-to escape. One of these days I hope to make that trip across the Atlantic; perhaps my favorite trip of all is yet to come.

So, whether you’ve had an off-the-charts memory-making trip or are still looking forward to your lifetime favorite, we’d love to hear about it. Send us your stories, and your photos too!♦



*Breakfast aboard Amtrak’s **Sunset Limited**,
heading to New Orleans*

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Coming in the Next PostScript

“Your Favorite Trip”

Save the Date

Holiday Luncheon, December 8, 2022
Marie Callender's

Valentine's Luncheon, February 14, 2023
Bali Hai

Desert Escape, March 20 - 23, 2023
Palm Canyon Hotel and RV Resort
Borrego Springs

Left: Snapdragon Stadium, August 17, 2022

DEADLINE: March 31, 2023

Please e-mail your double-spaced article of approximately 400-500 words to whitesagecafe@aol.com. If you have no access to a computer, mail your typed or clearly printed article to 4829 Beaumont Drive, La Mesa, CA 91941. Scanned photos may be sent as an attachment or mail photos to Barbara Barnes at the above address. Photos are appreciated and will be returned.

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