

Summer 2019

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PostScript

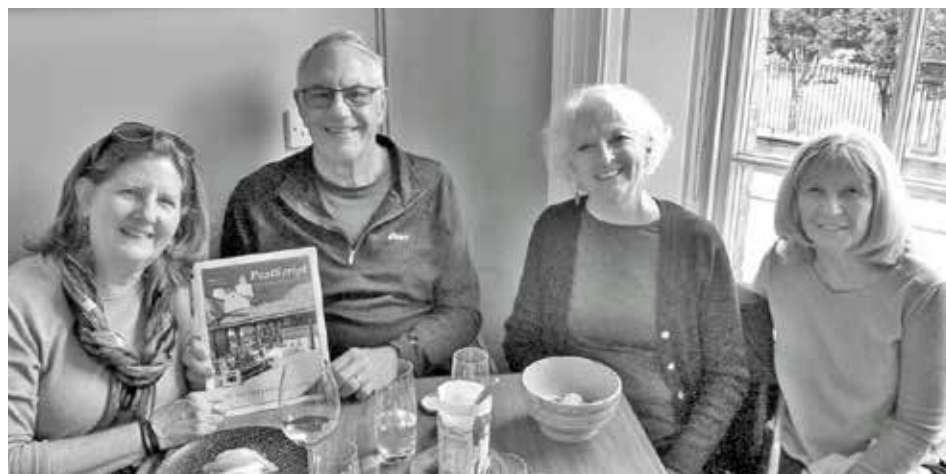
SDSU Retired Faculty/Staff News

THE “I RECOMMEND...” ISSUE

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Deb Quiett, Dean Popp, Sharon Popp, and Linda Stewart in Ireland. Deb is holding a copy of the spring 2019 issue of PostScript, which traveled to Ireland as well.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Dean Popp, Economics

In the last issue of *Postscript* I described some of the current characteristics of the SDSU student body, such as age, gender, ethnicity and academic level. This topic was in response to your interest in knowing more about the composition of the students attending SDSU. I will continue this emphasis on the students by describing the enrollment procedure and the number of students seeking admission to SDSU.

I am sure you have read in the newspapers or heard on the news that tens of thousands of high school graduates are applying to SDSU and other CSU campuses but that only a fraction of those applicants are successful in being admitted to one of the CSU campuses. This is in contrast to the situation in the 1980s and 1990s when most applicants were successful in gaining admission. In response to the growing number of applicants in the last thirty years, the CSU has increased the academic requirements for admission in an attempt to increase the quality of the education students receive and to increase the percentage of students successfully completing the degree requirements. At the same time, state funding to the CSU has declined as a percentage of the total cost of providing a CSU education. All of this has taken place as more and more students are seeking admission to the CSU.

The SDSU Office of Analytical Studies and Institutional Research has recently published a Daily Admission Snapshot of the application, admitted and intent to attend of the applicants to SDSU for the Fall 2019 semester. For this commentary I am referring to the June 21, 2019 Daily Admission Snapshot. Before looking at some of the data it is worth noting a few aspects of the process that SDSU employs in admitting students because the process has changed since many of us applied to a university back in the dark ages. Speaking for myself, I applied to two universities in 1962 and many of my classmates at the time applied to only one. That was normal then as most of us applied to a local university, usually within the state in which we lived. Today, most students apply for admission to several universities, some are universities they aspire to attend but may not have a very good chance of being admitted to (based on the students high school performance and test scores), others are those for which they have a good chance of admission and some are "fall back" campuses which the students are quite certain of admission. So, it is not unusual for a high school student to apply to ten universities, which means that in the end the student will only enroll in one of those ten schools even if all ten admitted the student.

SDSU has to make a guess (educated estimate) as to how many of the students we admit will actually attend SDSU because, though SDSU is a high quality institution, there may be some students who apply to Harvard or Stanford and SDSU and may actually get admitted to Harvard or Stanford. If they can afford Harvard or Stanford they are likely not to choose to attend SDSU. So, when admitting students SDSU has to make two simultaneous decisions: 1) out of all of the applications, how many students to admit and 2) how many of the students SDSU admits will actually attend SDSU (not attend Harvard or Stanford). For the Fall, 2019 SDSU has reported the following data (see table on the next page):

Cover: *View of Hepner Hall, old Administration building, and domes of the Physics-Astronomy building from the Scripps Cottage lawn.*



Left to right, SDSURA scholars Rebecca Pierce, Katie Martin, Abigail Castro, and Avi Martin

THE SPRING LUNCHEON AND SCHOLARSHIP AWARDS, 2019

Nancy C. Stewart, Chair, Scholarship Committee

San Diego, April 25, 2019. Weather: warm, sunny, and clear. A perfect day for the Retirement Association's Annual Spring Luncheon/Business Meeting at Tom Ham's Lighthouse, and a day to celebrate and recognize the RA scholars for 2019 and meet their families.

Following Tom Ham's delicious buffet luncheon, President Dean Popp conducted a very brief business meeting. Since no elections were required this year, we proceeded to the next item on the agenda, the 2019 Service awards. This year, for the first time, two awards were given—to President Dean Popp and to Ron and Rinda Young. Ron Young had the honor of presenting Dean his award, and Dan Gilbreath gave the award to Ron and Rinda. Congratulations to Rinda, Ron, and Dean, most deserving honorees. We're proud of you.

And at last to the presentation of this year's RA Scholars. The awardees introduced their family, spoke briefly about themselves, and received a certificate designed and prepared by Dorothy Romano. The awardees names and majors are listed in the sidebar.

We were delighted that four of the six honorees were able to come to the luncheon, and that their family members were able to enjoy the scholarship presentations with them. Thank you one and all!♦

SDSURA 2019 SCHOLARSHIP AWARDEES

Reina Marie Corpus
Kinesiology
Niece of Pamela Cabal

Tristan Hooker
Aerospace Engineering
Son of Kari Hooker

Avi Martin
Computer Engineering
Son of Andrea Saltzman Martin
and Gregory Martin

Rebecca Pierce
*The Dr. Lloyd and Joanna
Kendall Scholarship*
Kinesiology
Daughter of Paula and
William Pierce

Katie Martin
*The Dr. Kurt and Julie Bohnsack
Memorial Endowed Scholarship*
Public Health
Granddaughter of Barry Jones

Abigail Castro
*The Dr. Aubrey Wendling
Memorial Scholarship*
Recreation Administration and
Child Development
Daughter of Janet and
Gilbert Castro

President's Message, continued from page 2

FALL 2019 ADMISSIONS DATA

	Applications	Admitted	Intend to Attend
<i>1st Time Freshmen</i>	69,726	23,648	5,461
<i>Undergraduate Transfers & Readmits</i>	24,860	5,473	4,002
<i>New Post Baccalaureate</i>	842	573	470
<i>Graduate Students</i>	6,656	2,595	1,660

Note: In Fall 2018, there were 34,881 students enrolled—30,392 undergraduates and 4,489 graduates.

The University has to make a judgment as to how many students it admits will actually attend. SDSU will not know for sure how many will attend until the beginning of the fall semester but the "intend to attend" column in the sidebar are those students who have accepted admission and most, if not all, will attend. Clearly, there is a significant potential for error if in one year a higher number of admitted students actually chose to attend, in which case we would have a very big class, or vice versa.

So, you can check on how well SDSU does on predicting the size of its incoming class this fall by comparing these numbers with the actual number of students who are on campus in September.♦



SPRING LUNCHEON AND SCHOLARSHIP AWARDS 2019



Above: Service Award honorees Dean Popp (left) and Rinda and Ron Young (right)



A SEASON OF CHOICES: WHY DID THEY PICK THAT SHOW?

Maggi McKerrow, Theatre

I go to the theatre frequently—probably fifty or more times per year. It is my favorite performing art. I love that it is live, that it takes you out of your world into another, that it is often entertaining and sometimes uplifting, that it can challenge your beliefs, that it always makes you think. Theatre always puts my brain in critic mode and often guides me to a deeper understanding of complicated issues. Sometimes I love shows I see, sometimes I like them, sometimes I dislike them. Once in a great while it would be fair to say I hate them. Recently my friends and I walked out on a show at intermission. We all agreed its brand of humor was not for us. At moments like this I always wonder why that particular theatre company picked that particular show. I know enough about theatre to know that picking a season of shows is complicated to say the least, but there is always more to it than you might think. I decided to investigate the way they pick shows at SDSU.

For the last few years members of the SDSU Faculty Staff Retirement Association have been going to SDSU to see the musical theatre shows. This spring we went to see a delightful production of *James and the Giant Peach*. Last Fall we saw Leonard Bernstein's *Mass*. Right before the semester ended I sat down with Stephen Brotebek and Robert Meffe who head up the Musical Theatre program at SDSU and chatted with them about the musicals they choose to present. Of course, there is a plan. Each year they present two musicals that are part of the SDSU School of Theatre, Television and Film's season of six to eight theatre productions. Every other year they work with the SDSU School of Music to present a "big" (they used the term Jupiter) show like *Mass* with full orchestra, big choir, and sixty or more performers. *Mass* even included a children's choir. *Mass* was picked because 2018 was the 100th anniversary of the birth of Leonard Bernstein. There were performances of his works all around the world.

The School of Theatre's season of plays is selected by its Performance Committee. Potential Directors (including Meffe and Brotebek) each propose three or more shows and indicate whether they would like their shows performed in the Powell Theatre (500 seats) or in the Experimental Theatre (200) seats. The Committee reviews the submissions and picks a season of plays, taking

into consideration budget (royalties for musicals can be \$75 to \$250 per performance), size of show, use of both small and big theaters, acting opportunities for graduate and undergraduate students, opportunities for students in the MFA programs in Design and Technology and, of course, innumerable other concerns. Other theatres in San Diego, like the Old Globe, the La Jolla Playhouse, Cygnet, San Diego Repertory Theatre, Lamb's Players use some of the same criteria to select their seasons—budget, number of actors, design issues are always important. All theatres look for variety. They don't want to pick shows too similar to shows they just did. They have to avoid doing plays that other theatres in town presented recently. Most theatres have a mission statement and try to pick shows that fit that configuration. Complicated! Next time you see a show, even if you didn't like it, ask yourself "Why did this theatre pick this show?" Usually you can figure out some of the answers.

How do Brotebek and Meffe select the shows they propose to the Performance Committee? In an ideal world they would pick musicals with perfect roles to showcase each of the 6 to 8 men and women enrolled in the two year long Musical Theatre MFA program. Students don't want to be in a musical theatre program and never get a good part. Unfortunately, ideal often isn't possible because shows usually have to be selected before students are accepted into the program. That means the two men must propose shows with good roles for six to eight performers, but they don't know the male/female student breakdown, they don't know their voices—sopranos or altos, tenors or baritones or basses—or their dance skills. They do know that a show with only two or three good roles will not provide enough acting opportunities. They prefer to select shows that



Stephen Brotebek

have been successful on or off Broadway but they also want variety—new musicals, old musicals, big musicals, small musicals, musicals by a variety of composers and lyricists. Everything from Rodgers and Hammerstein to Sondheim to Lin-Manuel Miranda. There are some shows they feel they cannot do, *Hairspray*, for example, and some shows like *Wicked* are not available because they are currently performing on Broadway. So, as I said before, it's complicated. In case you were thinking of auditioning for an SDSU show, prepare yourself for six weeks of rehearsals from 6 pm to 10 pm every week night. There goes your social life!

I now know (because I asked) the two musicals selected to be performed in the 2019/2020 SDSU theatre season. You can look forward to going to see them with the SDSU Faculty/Staff Retirement group. The fall show is *She Loves Me*, an award winning comical confection that premiered in 1963 with lyrics by Sheldon Harnick and music by Jerry Bock. If you are an old movie fan, you may know the 1940 film *The Shop Around the Corner* (Jimmy Stewart and Margaret Sullivan) based on the same story. In the spring of 2020 the musical will be a world premiere of a new show called *Till Death Do Us Part*. It tells the story of Gracie Jean, the wife of an evangelical preacher who aspires to the ministry in the face of opposition from her husband Matthew, his dogmatic parents, and their community. Meffe and Brotebek and the MFA students have been working with writers Bobby Cronin and Caroline Prugh for two years to help them develop the show as a part of the New Musical Initiative. There was a one week long workshop of the show in the Spring of 2019 that gave the writers a chance to see and hear and then revise their work. The SDSU production in Spring 2020 will be a new version of the musical. It will be the first time the writers see their work fully staged. Quite Exciting!♦



Robert Meffe

I RECOMMEND— SDSU FRIENDSHIPS

*Madeleine Scott, French and
Italian*

“I recommend” that friendships formed during our working period at SDSU not end upon retirement. For more than 25 years, on the first Friday of every month, staff members of the Retirement Association were meeting, first at Marie Callenders, then at Mimi’s, then now back to Marie Callenders. This proved to be a special time for us all, as we did not want to give up the friends we had come to know and care about through our working days. Throughout the years our group, quite large in the beginning, has diminished to five people. We know people are retiring, but no one new has come forward to join our group. Those of us remaining, faithful to our group, are now in our 80th and 90th years, and we don’t know how much longer we can do this, and probably some of us, as time goes by, will not for much longer be around the table. Our members’ support of each other has made our



*Madeleine with friends Dan Gilbreath,
Michael Brooks, and Mary Nelson at the
Valentine's Day luncheon.*

lives sweeter. So many of our members are now in either assisted living conditions, nursing facility, or gone. All of the get-togethers have been wonderful as our need to socialize with San Diego State retirees, with whom we all have something in common, gives us great pleasure. We have heard from faculty members, who meet once a month at

D.Z. Akins, that they are also dealing with the same attrition problem. My husband and I have been attending the Valentine’s Day luncheon for many years, and there we see many retirees, 80 or more attending, faculty and staff, talking to each other, sharing stories, and enjoying each other’s company. We need new recruits to bring more updated lively stories about our SDSU, which we all love and was so much part of our daily life for so many years. As we grow older, we realize that socializing with cared-about old friends is important to make our lives more interesting and worthwhile. It is sad that these kinds of gatherings are not appreciated by more people. So don’t let this opportunity for long-lasting friendships pass you by. Finally, I want to say, that personally, I have been blessed through the years by our gatherings.

Thank you to Postscript for giving me the opportunity to tell my thoughts on many different subjects. Use it as its value can not be ignored!♦

DANCING ON THE MOON

Do you see me
dancing on the moon?
That slight young girl
long hair whirling
lithe body, leaping, turning
full of mysterious magic
for a brief moment
sure of herself in the world?
See the deep blue night
that empty beach
iridescent waves?
She sings Mr. Tambourine Man
reaches to touch the diamond sky
bare feet
circus sand
life’s swirling ship
not yet tested by storms
Do you see me?
Not these wrinkled
knobby hands, aching bones
Not the crone of the broken mirror
of the unsure step
Do you see me
Dancing on the moon?

*Barbara Huntington,
Pre-professional Health Advising, Sciences*



Pat (third from left) and friends from Turbo Kick Boxing

I RECOMMEND TRYING NEW THINGS

Pat Coffey, Business Affairs

When I retired 22 years ago, my office mate, Barry, gave me a boogie board and fins as a retirement gift. I had never been boogie boarding in my life. Barry took me to Pacific Beach to show me how. I never mastered using the fins and going out where the big kids play, but I learned how to jump on the shore break and ride into shore. I still enjoy boogie boarding – especially in Hawaii. Last summer, my Swedish cousin came for a visit, and I took her to Kona where she learned how to boogie board. When we returned to San Diego,

joined them. I usually went to Kona every 2 years and could play with them 2 times every other year. I knew the fingering of several chords but didn't know their names. I knew I would not improve on that schedule.

Finally, back in San Diego, I searched for ukulele groups on the Internet and found one that met on Tuesday nights. I have been going ever since, and my ukulele playing has improved tremendously. At my age, I worry about dementia, so learning the ukulele and playing every week is using parts of my brain dormant most of my life.

On one of our trips to Kona, Sandy and I saw a Zumba demonstration where they invited audience members to come

we went boogie boarding here and had a great time together.

On one of my trips, I discovered a ukulele group in Kona. They would get together weekly and play songs from their songbook. I hadn't played the ukulele since junior high school, but I bought an inexpensive uke at Costco and

on to the stage to try it. I tried it and liked it, so I checked out our 24 Hour Fitness gym. They had Zumba which I added to water aerobics classes and found myself going to the gym 5 days a week. When the pool pump broke, there was a Turbo Kick Boxing class at the same time as my water aerobics class, so I gave it a try. I have never been good at sports, so it took me a while to get the routines, but I eventually joined. I also realized that my bones knew they didn't have to be strong in the water and that I needed some high impact floor exercise to keep them strong. After I figured out the TKB routines, I loved it too, and didn't go back to the pool after the pump was replaced. With Zumba and Turbo Kick Boxing classes, I started going 6 days a week, which I do now.

Some of the TKB classes have been replaced with a class called Body Combat, so I go to that now too. I just had my 81st birthday, and I am fairly famous at the College Grove 24 Hour Fitness as the old lady who can jump. I started doing Zumba when I was 70 and Turbo Kick Boxing when I was 75, so it was not too late to start. These gym classes use a part of my brain that has been dormant for most of my life. I recently read about loss of strength as we age. Most of us have our maximum strength in our mid 30s, and we start losing 3 – 5% every decade after that. Exercising helps minimize that loss as well as more fully utilizing my brain. ♦

RUN FOR THE ROSES

Cheryl Trtan, Alumni Association/University Relations and Development

The 145th Kentucky Derby was quite the interesting affair! For the first time in the race's history the winning horse, a San Diego favorite, was disqualified. The winners of the "horse that didn't win" at the 22nd annual SDSU Retirement event were: Norma Darley, Dan Gilbreath, Jan Pierce, Dorothy Romano and Amy Walling. There is still controversy brewing regarding the disqualification decision...so who knows!

Tricia Moulton was once again the star of the show with her authentic Mint Juleps! Delicious, as always! The menu began with various appetizers, soda and water (for those who opted not to imbibe Mint Juleps and wine), Popeye's fried chicken, ham, coleslaw, biscuits and honey, and pecan pie for dessert. A very tantalizing menu for sure!

A big thank you to the event committee and all of those who volunteered to help from set up to break down. The collaborative effort truly made this year's Run for the Roses a memorable affair! ♦



The winners: Norma Darley, Jan Pierce, Dan Gilbreath, Dorothy Romano, and Amy Walling



Leoné's grandson, Jonathan. Surf and then fish at Catalina Seafood

I RECOMMENDFOOD AND THOUGHT

Leoné McCoy, Teacher Education

If you would like a recommendation for buying seafood, or listening to a captivating podcast, or watching a televised deep-dive book review or a tutorial on DVD, please continue reading.

For all you fish fanciers and for those who enjoy the taste of sea dwellers, I enthusiastically recommend Catalina Offshore Products at 5202 Lovelock Street (tel) 619-297-9797 and on the web at catalinaop.com. As you enter the market, you feel the cold ambient temperature suffusing you, while this show-and-shop emporium maintains a proper cool setting necessary for food on ice. The offering of freshly caught and frozen fish is wide and varied and, in the old nomenclature, the fishmongers are knowledgeable and willing to discuss their selection of seafood. All together it is a "nifty" and real adventure, as you select your menu for the evening meal.

with her guests. Timely and true to the author or musician or journalist about whose work she is interviewing, her broadcasts truly leave us knowing and understanding much more about what the interview gave us. I recently learned that another favorite discoverer-of-truth, the historian Dr. Henry Louis Gates, Jr. will be interviewing Terry Gross on his ever-addictive PBS series *Finding Your Roots* for his upcoming episodes in the 2019-2020 season.

Still hungry? Another food-for-thought encounter is broadcast for us Sundays at 5 pm on Time Warner's C-SPAN channel (dial 21) with the highly respected book reviewer and television host Brian Lamb on his Q-and-A program (also available on Podcast.CSPAN.org). It is both spellbinding and gripping, a perfect platform for this host who has the honed talent and practiced techniques of a good lawyer deposing witnesses. Mr. Lamb moves in a take-no-prisoners approach, exposing the interviewee's breadth and depth of research

Searching for food for thought? I highly recommend one of my favorite podcasts, *Fresh Air* from WHYY in Philadelphia, hosted by the interviewer, nonpareil, Terry Gross. Her preparation is impeccable, matched only by her prize-worthy (holder of the Presidential Medal of Freedom) skill at listening to and engaging

and the honesty, probity and clarity of that research. As a teaser, I recommend that you take in Brian Lamb's interview broadcast in San Diego on May 19, 2019 with the author and historian David McCullough about his most recent book *The Pilgrims*. In addition, you may just recognize his sonorous voice as the narrator for Ken Burns' incomparable documentary *The Civil War*. Quite wonderful!

How about dessert? I recommend a palate-pleasing smorgasbord, which is yours, if you were to sign up for a tutorial DVD from The Great Courses at www.buygreatcourses.com or by telephone 1-800-832-2412 (ask for a catalog) for a tasty petit four. You might want to take a Grand Tour through the "Physical Laws that Govern Our Universe" or "Discover the Wonders of Birding" or polish your chess skills. Each DVD in a set is presented in 30 minute bite-sized lectures, at least 20 lectures in each program delivered by well-respected authorities on the subject.

Not advice for food or thought, but I also recommend to anyone looking for a handyman, consider contacting Mark Speas. He specializes in senior's needs....maybe you need a grab bar installed or hanging a picture or a small ramp. He is ADA certified, although you may want to ask about his licensing. Good skills and good workmanship and, to boot, good stories to tell. As he recounts his experiences (when he owned a limousine service), he gave a lift (no, not a Lyft) to a C.I.A. agent to watch over Newt Gingrich, while in town. He also drove Margaret Thatcher, when she visited here to appear for a lecture and book-signing. Mark Speas is quite a tale-spinner. Please send me an email (leonemccoy@gmail.com) for Mark's contact information.

So much to savor. Take your pick. Bon appetit, and thanks for asking. ♦

"I RECOMMEND..."

Paula Ferguson, Enrollment Services

At some time or another most of us will be in search of a new beautician—someone to style our hair, perhaps in a full-service salon that provides a variety of personal care services. Maybe the beautician we've been comfortable with for years finally retires, or goes on maternity leave, or moves away. Yipes, we are left without a groomer!

Like finding any of the professionals that help us navigate life (i.e. doctors, dentists, veterinarians, attorneys, contractors, etc.) a hairdresser/beautician

is important to our well-being at many levels. The quest to replace him or her is a serious process, with consequences for unfortunate choices. Unlike buying a new sweater that you can return if it doesn't work out, the wrong hair treatment is damage you're stuck with for weeks.

Fortunately, I have found a talented hairdresser with the qualities I look for—she listens to what I want, accepts male and female clients of all ages, specializes in natural products, is a reasonable distance from where I live. After my first appointment, I knew she was

right for me. I highly recommend her.*

**Please email Paula for contact information. She's in the directory. ♦*

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.

GO FOR IT

Maggi Mckerrow, Theatre

My Recommendation: Take a Class

Recently in the *New York Times* there was an article about the value of casual acquaintances. The sociologist Mark Granovetter calls these low-stakes relationships “weak ties.” Weak ties are people you meet in your daily activities, but do not classify as “friends.” The theory is the more weak ties you have the happier you are and the more likely to feel that you are a part of your community.

In my retirement I took up group activities. (Can’t stay away from the classroom I guess). As a result I have acquired far more casual acquaintances than I have ever had in my life before. Each week I go to three challenging exercise classes and three yoga classes at the Davis Y. Whew. I take classes in the Osher Program at SDSU (my favorite is Art History), and I belong to two book clubs that meet once a month. At all these events I meet people who I see regularly. Sometimes I learn their names, sometimes not, sometimes a casual acquaintance leads to an outside-of-class relationship, sometimes not, but knowing all those people enriches my life. I certainly feel part of the community because everywhere I go I meet people I know. Nice. So: take

a class and you too may become a happier person.

My Recommendation: Look it up on You Tube

Life is filled with little puzzles, especially around the house. I am always trying to figure out how to successfully accomplish chores. Boring but necessary. Just the other day I installed a much needed new lightweight garden hose. Yeah—then oops—there was a big leak between the hose and the hose nozzle even though I put in a new washer and tightened the connection. Shoot. What to do? Read the directions? Good luck. The print is usually so small it is impossible to read, even with a magnifying glass. You can try swear words but it never solves the problem. I have discovered a better technique. I ran to my computer and checked You Tube for a video on hose nozzle installation. Several skipped ads later I found a video by a woman(!) on hose issues. She recommended coating the edge of the washer with dishwashing soap. Worth a try thought I. Worked like a charm! Yeah.

I love You Tube for problem solving. And it is free—no \$100 house



Still life with sewing machine by Maggi

calls. There are usually several videos on every topic. Some better than others. You have to be choosy, but it is worth persisting. Just last week, combining the ideas from two videos (one by a man), I mastered shortening tee shirts on a regular sewing machine—a vital topic for height challenged people like me. For years I have tried and failed—producing nasty looking, lumpy hems. Turned out you should use a stretch double needle. I didn’t know such a thing existed. Went right out and bought one, watched the videos again, and SUCCESS, a professional looking hem emerged. Another Yeah! Go You Tube.♦

I RECOMMEND CASA DE MANANA, A RETIREMENT HOME PAR EXCELLENCE!

Judy Sowder, Mathematical Sciences

Larry and I have been living at Casa de Manaña for almost a year, after looking at several different places. The primary reason we chose this place was that everyone we met here appeared happy and content with Casa living. There are a variety of things to do—exercise classes, lectures, concerts, clubs and other organizations, trips to plays and churches and the symphony and shopping centers, or walking on the ocean just across the street. The residents (about 250) come from a variety of backgrounds, so table conversations are always interesting. The staff is great!

Each building has a variety of floor plans and types of apartments from studios to two bedrooms, and a wide range of rent costs. (This is not a buy-in community.) Rent includes three wonderful meals a day, house-keeping, linens, and all utilities but for



Across the street from the Casa

a small cost for telephone and cable.

It usually takes a few to several months to be admitted, based on the type of apartment you want. Once you are on the waiting list we suggest that

you take the first place offered where you can picture yourself living for a while, until the place you really want opens up, since living here places you on a higher priority list. But think carefully about what you want. I thought I had to have a kitchen, and so I do, but since coming I’ve hardly used it!

There is a Wellness Clinic on campus that offers a variety of services. Several levels of assisted living are offered in the apartments for an additional cost. Skilled nursing and memory care are not offered at Casa, in case that is important to you. But close-by Front Porch sister communities do offer them and they are available to Casa residents.

If you are looking for a retirement community with great people, lots of amenities, and a location that can’t be beat, consider joining us at Casa de Manana. For photos, videos, and more information, visit <https://casademanana.org>. Contact Karen at kbixler@frontporch.net to arrange a visit. I guarantee it will be worth your time! You may decide to join us when the time is right for you.♦

LEST WE FORGET: CLAYTON M. GJERDE

Leif Fearn, Teacher Education

Clayton Morris Gjerde was born May 5, 1913 in Wisconsin. He attended Augsburg College on a Lutheran scholarship and graduated in 1935. He received M.A. in 1944 and Ph.D. (University of Minnesota) in 1949. He married Esther Knudson soon after college graduation. Clayt joined the San Diego State College faculty in Education in 1948. He later became Dean of Extended Services and retired as Dean of Continuing Education in 1974.

Clayt was third from the youngest of nine children. His father was born in Norway; his mother, also Norwegian, was born in the United States. While in high school, Clayt worked in a gas station, which is not particularly notable, save for meeting Asa Sweetcorn, who became part of the Gjerde family story. Who was Asa Sweetcorn? We have to ask because Asa Sweetcorn lived in the shadow of perhaps the greatest all-around athlete in American history. Asa Sweetcorn, Sioux from early 20th century South Dakota (in that part of the country, most likely Cheyenne River, Pine Ridge, or Yankton), attended Carlisle Indian School where he was the other football player alongside Jim Thorpe.

Clayt was both family man and integral part of the university's professional community. He loved family, friends, travel, and his professional responsibilities. There were family outings, camping trips, and visits to other campuses where he taught summer courses. He was close to his brothers and sisters. His daughter Kris (Kristine) remembers meandering through buildings on campuses where he did summer sessions and hearing his voice from a classroom down the hall.

At San Diego State, Clayt was a member of the varsity bridge club. There was also a junior varsity. Both



Clayton M. Gjerde

met on Tuesday evenings. There were few Tuesday evening course offerings in the "Division" and later "College" of Education. As an aside, there were few Friday afternoon course offerings, as well. Friday was for PGA – Professors' Golf Association. That's an aside here because Clayt didn't play golf.

But he did make the College of Extended Studies a major player on campus. There are certainly scores of memories associated with Clayt Gjerde as Dean of Extended Studies. I have two. One, there was a summer program that demanded considerable coordination. Professors Art Singer, Russ Trimmer, and Paul Erickson brought scores of teachers to campus for professional development that featured national speakers. One of those was Murray Banks, a psychiatrist who, according to Dr. Banks, had a mother who wanted him to be a doctor, but he wanted to be an actor. So he became a doctor. Then he fashioned mental health presentations around wonderful comedy. So, he said, "I became a doctor, and now I'm an actor." His annual presentations were comedic gems wrapped around teacher-

useful commentaries associated with education for boys and girls who suffer emotional pain.

The second story is personal. Early in my tenure at San Diego State, when I was young and under the illusion of invincibility, I was recommended to Clayt to demonstrate instruction in a summer program for teachers in a nearby school district. I was young, new, and needful of summer income, so I signed on. I figured even though I wasn't prepared for the task, I could sort of wing it and pull it off. I wasn't properly prepared, it was clear I was winging it, and they called Clayt. Clayt called me in. In that clear voice of his, he said I wasn't prepared for the task, and I needn't appear on Monday. He fired me. One sentence. No apologies. No "let's see if we can remediate this thing." It was simple – "Don't think you can wing it in my shop." I learned that day what professional responsibility looks like.

We like the idea of legacy, professional legacy, the handprints we leave on the profession. Here are two. Clayt supervised a graduate thesis at the University of Chicago. The student's name was Benjamin Bloom. The thesis became the foundation for *Bloom's Taxonomies*. Clayt was also part of the revision team for the Minnesota Multiphasic Personality Inventory (MMPI).

Paul Erickson characterized Clayt Gjerde as delightful, intelligent, handsome, and fastidious in attire, a remarkable person. His daughter Kris said, "Daddy was a special guy." He was welcoming to be around. He was one of the Buick drivers, and a member of the College of Education's Minnesota Mafia. I wish I had known him longer, and better.

Author's note: I appreciate gracious and insightful help on the preparation of this piece from Kris (Kristine) Flynn, Clayt's daughter, and Paul Erickson, Clayt's friend and colleague. ♦

MY FIRST NSF GRANT

Ed Deaton, Mathematical Sciences

In 1957 the Soviet Union launched Sputnik, the first artificial earth satellite. There was a significant response from the United States. Included in the response were some educational programs under the auspices of the National Science Foundation. One of them was the Student Science Training

Program (SSTP). This program gave grants to universities and colleges to offer, basically, summer programs for very bright high school students between their junior and senior years in science, mathematics and engineering. I was a graduate student at The University of Texas in Austin, and my major professor received one of the first grants. Naturally I had to help him.

I came to San Diego State College

in 1960. I wanted to run one of these programs. In the spring of 1961 I tried to submit a proposal for a grant for the summer of 1962. I knew exactly what I wanted to do: a modification of the Texas program. It would be a six-week on-campus residential program. Students would come from all over the United States. However, housing did not want to accommodate these students. Food services did not want to feed these stu-

dents. I arranged housing with fraternities and sororities. I arranged food services with a fraternity. I received permission from my department and division. Now to get the final write off from the college. I went to see Vice President Ernest O'Bryne. We talked for some time. He raised some questions including using fraternities and sororities for housing and food services. He said he could not commit the College to the proposal as written. I thanked him and left. I walked out of his office quite disappointed.

The next morning I had an appointment with President Malcolm Love. He was very supportive. He said that SDSC will do this. I rewrote the proposal to include on campus housing and food services. The Foundation



1977 program participants. Ed in front row, far right, Dave Macy in second from top row, far right.

signed off. The NSF funded our proposal.

That was the first of my 20 programs, ending in 1981. Chemistry, un-

der the direction of Jim Malik and John Spangler, had a similar program for many years. Jerry Becker and Ed Eagle, both in mathematics, directed a Master of Arts in the Teaching of Mathematics for a long time with NSF grants. The participants were current or prospective high school teachers. The School of Education had a summer program for local high school students, basically from minority backgrounds. I do not know the funding agency.

President Reagan was inaugurated in January of 1981. One of his first actions was to cancel all NSF educational programs. It was never clear why he chose to do that. ♦

FROM POSTSCRIPT'S PAST . . . FALL/WINTER 2009

SEX, DRUGS, AND FAMILY VALUES

*Dan McLeod, English and
Comparative Literature*

For the last several months I've been reading research on aging as background for a book about old people in Japan. For those of us who like poking around in libraries this topic is a joy since there's hardly a library of congress number without an aging study under it. There's so much aging research in our library I may never get around to actually writing on this topic which has interested me since the early Sixties when my dad took me along to visit a friend of his who was a patient in a Santee geriatric clinic. It was a depressing and disturbing experience. The place smelled like disinfectant. The stark, greenish institutional hallway was a parking lot for walls. Almost nothing social was going on, and my father and I seemed to be among only a few visitors. This was before the advent of hospice care, but most the residents looked as if they were patiently, and as privately as they could in this very public setting, waiting to die.

At the time of our visit I was augmenting my feeble junior professor's

salary by writing book review and cash-for-trash for newspapers and magazines. And that night I decided to write something about the experience. I had just finished reading the recently published Masters and Johnson study of sexual behavior and was disappointed they had little more to add to the subject than what Kinsey had reported two decades earlier. But there was one detail that I did recall at that moment: most Americans, they noted, gave up sexual activity at a much earlier age than was physiologically necessary and much earlier than people in most other cultures did. I was also aware that one of the hot button issues in San Diego at the time was the money the school system was going to spend on sex education for seventh graders. Despite a rash of Junior High pregnancies, many citizens were outraged at the prospect of this topic being discussed with a twelve-year old audience.

And yet another thing in the news at that time (and pressing on my mind as well) was the decision to declare LSD illegal. The reasons given then were that the drug might create genetic damage as well as aggravate the problems of any seriously disturbed neurotic. As a former subject on an LSD study, I was disappointed to read this because all my experiences had been so positive, especially the sensual impact of sight and sound and the intensity and immediacy

of memory experiences. It was like watching a movie where I was both in the audience and the film—a strange and wonderful feeling of simultaneous involvement and detachment.

All of these things came together in my head and I quickly knocked off an op-ed piece headed "Sex Education and Drugs for Seniors" that argued that genetic damage was not a geriatric issue, but memory and gradual erosion of the senses were, that the LSD experience for all those old folks not suffering dementia could be life enriching. And shifting the sex education budget from seventh graders to those elderly institutionalized zombies at geriatric facilities sufficiently ambulatory to creep into each other's beds seemed like public funds well spent. Suffice it to say, my editors refused to run the piece, but to this day there is something in me that itches to make old age more interesting, a frustration that seems to grow as it becomes ever more self-serving.

By the way, for anyone who might be interested, the gist of all those studies that are keeping me off the streets these days is pretty simple. If you want your later years to be happy, healthy, and more abundant you need to concern yourself with diet, exercise, community support (and that begins with family), and above all giving and receiving love. ♦

BALBOA PARK: GARDENS AND TREES

Leif Fearn and Nancy Farnan

There are more than 15,302 trees in Balboa Park. There really are. The count comes from a recent 10-month field inventory that is an update of the first tree inventory that was done 20 years ago and took seven years to complete. Since July of 2017, 500 more trees have been planted; and a tree database, updated continuously, notes the location of each tree and its condition.

Balboa Park is also home to 18 gardens. There's the rose garden just east of Park Boulevard and a growth of cacti and



succulents next to the roses. Many of us know the Alcazar Garden across the street from the Old Globe Theater. But many might not know about a hidden gem, the recently renovated cactus garden, behind the Balboa Park Club and overlooking Cabrillo Canyon. Kate Sessions, known as the "Mother of Balboa Park," first envisioned this garden as the only dry-climate garden in a public park in the world. In the 1900s, many plants from New Mexico, Arizona, Colorado, Utah, Texas, California, and Sonora Mexico were donated, including 20 giant Saguaros, Joshua trees, and Ocotillos.* While this unique garden had long been neglected and many of the original plants gone, a group of dedicated individuals is now nourishing existing plants, replanting, and creating aesthetically pleasing walkways. This takes those of us with an Arizona background down memory lane and all of us to an interesting and appealing desert-climate landscape.

And of course there's more in Balboa Park, a primary destination in San Diego. If you haven't been there recently, we recommend a visit. There's a good coffee kiosk near the plaza and pleasant seating in the plaza where on Thursday mornings you might catch the world-renowned organist rehearsing for his weekend concert.



Then there's the summertime Food Truck Fridays! You'll also notice in various places that the Balboa Park Conservancy is busy with park enhancement projects, community events, and volunteer opportunities. If you're interested in a 45-60 minute behind-the-scenes walking tour with the Conservancy, contact Nancy. She's in the directory.

**Kate Sessions' Cactus and Succulent Gardens in Balboa Park: A Tale of Three Gardens by John Blocker. In California Garden, Volume 105, No. 5. San Diego Floral Association, publisher.♦*

A VISIT TO SDSU'S SANTA MARGARITA ECOLOGICAL RESERVE

Barbara Barnes, Enrollment Services

On an early Saturday morning in July, I joined a few friends from SDSURA and headed north on I-15—our destination, SDSU's Santa Margarita Ecological Reserve.* After slightly more than an hour on the road, we arrived in Old Town Temecula. Temecula has sprawled since I was there a decade ago, but Old Town, with its wooden boardwalks, late 1800s architecture, and nearby wineries, was appealing. To be explored another time.

After a quick stop at Starbucks, we headed on to the Reserve, less than ten minutes from Old Town, but certainly a different world—5,000 acres of open space, largely undeveloped. From an observation deck near the reserve headquarters, you can imagine an earlier California. To the west: rolling hills carpeted with coastal sage scrub and coastal live oaks. Below: the Santa Margarita River gorge, green with sycamore and cottonwood trees, willows, cattails, other riparian growth. No sounds of the city, just birdsong and the muted roar of the flowing water.

Visiting the Reserve requires some

planning ahead. To protect the habitat for the wildlife that depend on it, especially mountain lions, visitors must be guided by docents. Pablo Bryant, Reserve Manager, and his assistant, Jamie, were our guides. Pablo has been working on the reserve for almost 20 years and has been in his current position as Reserve Manager for 10 years. Jamie manages the agricultural programs of the reserve. Before we hiked down to the river, Pablo and Jamie shared some background of the place, ranging from its early history to current research. We learned that the land was sacred to the Luiseño people and that it was acquired by SDSU in 1962 from the trust of a man named Murray Schloss, with quite a story of his own. We heard about the building of a railroad line in 1882 that ran along the Santa Margarita, doomed to a short life by the river's frequent flooding. Jamie discussed farming on the reserve—the maintenance of citrus and avocado groves planted before SDSU acquired the land, experimentation with food crops that can grow in harmony with the Southern California environment, and viticulture. There's a lot going on here.

So, what do you do on a visit to the Reserve? As first-timers, we had the good luck of hearing Pablo and Jamie's introduction to the place; their passion for the

land was contagious. After their presentation, the short downhill walk we took to the river was just right and enough for one day. On a future visit, I intend to do some additional exploring, and would sign up for one of the docent-led hikes. This past spring, weekly hikes ranged from "PJ's Bird Walk" to the "Chaparral Hike" to the "Temecula Gorge Hike." Hiking with a guide would be an informative treat after the summer heat passes. Until then, I will enjoy what I've seen and learned of the reserve and its many layers of importance, and will look forward to my next visit.

If you are interested in joining a group of RA members in spending part of a day at the Reserve, contact Barbara (whitesagecafe@aol.com) or the SDSU-RA (retire@sdsu.edu).

**The Reserve is part of SDSU's Field Station Program in the College of Sciences. There are currently four field stations which conduct research, provide an outdoor classroom for education and outreach, and protect critical wildlife habitat. The other field stations are at Sky Oaks, Mission Trails, and the Tijuana River Valley. For more information on SDSU's Field Station program, see <https://fsp.sdsu.edu>. Please see the back cover for photos.♦*

SDSURA Events, Spring and Summer 2019



Retiree Reception, April 30, 2019



Day at the Theatre, April 28, 2019



Day at the Races, July 24, 2019

AN INTERESTING WRINKLE OR TWO

Tom Donahue, CSU-ERFSA

There are several news stories currently reporting on the pending crisis in Social Security in 2034. Those eager for a wide-open discussion of the present and future conditions of Social Security might follow the news story on this topic on the internet. There you will see the treatment of a wide variety of issues, a number of which will challenge your peace of mind. Here is a sample.

As of November 18, 2018, the Social Security Administration was on record as holding nearly \$2.9 trillion in funds. Yet as of 2034, perhaps one year later, those funds will be depleted—paid out to us citizens, and there will be a cut of 23% in the monthly allotment of the recipient at that time. The only ways to postpone this inevitability are either to raise the age of eligibility, or raise the ceiling at which social security is deducted from salaries, or both.

The Social Security Administration itself claims that there are three reasons for the approaching funding crisis: present recipients are living longer than expected, there has been an unexpected dip in the number of young people entering the work force, and there has been a decline in the American birthrate which will right itself in the work force after 2035.

The Social Security Administration reports that the \$2.9 trillion in the total repository has been invested in bonds. But starting in the mid 1980s there was a surplus in accumulated social security funds, and the Bush administration hit on

the expedient of borrowing from that surplus (originally the sum was about \$708 billion) to pay for the war in Iraq, to support tax cuts for the well-to-do, and to begin the bailouts before, during, and after 2008. But according to the website Motley Fool (*How Much Money Has Congress Taken From Social Security?*) by Sean Williams, Feb. 4, 2019), the borrowing—during which sums are shifted from one place to another—has been continuing ever since, with all reserves likely to be moved elsewhere by 2034. The government is paying interest on the borrowed money, which as it accumulates between 2018 and 2027 will add up to a total figure of \$804 billion. In general, other reports on the internet hem and haw around the topic, but these assert in general that before 2034 the entire \$2.9 trillion trust will have been borrowed to meet federal needs. Those raising the alarm about this (the same Sean Williams, for instance, in the issue of The Motley Fool for June 30, 2019: “3 Hard to Believe—but 100% True—Facts About Social Security”) also make the claim that whatever sums are involved, the federal government will make it all good when it has to.

Thus wherever you look there are declarations that the money collected will be restored because it is supported by the fully guaranteed promise and power of the United States government and its economy. We are to assume that this means what it has always meant, but—we must face facts—the government will have to meet some portion of future social security obligations with borrowed money, or with money shuffled around from some other place in the budget.

Irritated as we may be at the way these funds were handled and at the undermining of the spirit and the intent of the Social Security program that this represents, when we look more broadly, there are other serious problems which have not been formally addressed. There are continuing indications that in times ahead, social security will be less helpful to future recipients than they are to us. Social security payouts depend on the size of one's wages, and there is no sign that future wages will rise in an increasing proportion—and thus both working people and retirees will continue to fall behind.

In addition to that, sharply marked wage and class gaps are likely to persist. Specifically, after the population of working citizens has reached an appropriate size, we may wonder what the nature of work will be in the mid-twenty-first century. It appears at present that the most remunerative occupations for members of the middle class will be based on STEM education: that is, future work will have large components involving the design and maintenance of robots in manufacturing, and there will be a need for the writing and development of software for extremely sophisticated purposes. But what proportion of the population will be able to do these things? What will people with other aptitudes do instead? Will earners of lower wages receive enough in Social Security to support the same needs which are being met now? Or will substantial gaps in earned income compromise the usefulness of the program? In short, will Social Security mean the same thing to the general population that it does at present?♦

TREASURER'S REPORT

Robin Fishbaugh, Treasurer

SDSU Retirement Association Accounts as of August 6, 2019

Scholarship Endowment Fund	\$215,910.35
Scholarship Fund	\$29,974.69
Operating Account	\$23,316.79
Activities Account	\$11,018.57
Sub-total	\$280,220.40
Bohnsack Scholarship Endowment Fund	\$52,767.46
Bohnsack Scholarship Fund	\$2,491.51
Sub-total	\$55,258.97
Total Assets	\$335,479.37

IN MEMORIAM

Delores McCornack

Wife of Bob McCornack
Institutional Studies
March, 2019

Dorothy Yonemitsu

Mother of Bob Yonemitsu
Contract and Procurement Services
March, 2019

Harold LePage

Husband of Ann LePage
Reprographics
May, 2019

George Babilot

Economics
June, 2019

Dorothy Jane Riggs

Education and Political Science
July, 2019

Glen Broom

Journalism and Media Studies
August, 2019

COMING IN THE NEXT POSTSCRIPT: WHAT BROUGHT YOU TO SDSU?

Leif Fearn, Teacher Education

Most of us came to SDSU, or more likely SDSC, because we applied, because we were invited, maybe because we went here and didn't want ever to leave, because we knew someone who knew someone, or maybe because we were just flat lucky. I fall into that latter category. I have heard stories about recruiting meetings at conferences and professors in graduate school who opened doors with friends at San Diego State. People may say there are as many stories as there are retired faculty and staff, but that's unlikely, for there are too many of us for there not to be categories of stories. We're not seeking categories. We're seeking stories. We're an interesting group of people, so our stories are likely to be interesting, as well. Drop a line and share your interesting story.♦



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Layout and Design	Barbara Barnes

Editors' Note: We would like to thank Rob Ray and SDSU's Love Library for permission to use the photograph of Clayton Gjerde on page 10. The image is courtesy of Love Library Special Collections and Archives.



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Coming in the Next PostScript:

*What brought you
to SDSU?*

Save the Date

***Oktoberfest, October 18,
Santee Lakes***

***Holiday Party, December 8,
Carlton Oaks***

*Left: SDSU's Santa Margarita
Ecological Reserve. See story on
page 12.*

DEADLINE: November 10, 2019

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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