Dean's Message
With the end of the year rapidly approaching, the students and faculty in our college are busy preparing for final exams and looking forward to the upcoming holiday break.

As we look back over the year, we have had many successes and accomplishments. We continually work to ensure that our students have the best educational experience, providing the training needed to further their education or to get good jobs in their fields. In response to needs of local industry, we have developed new educational programs for our students. The diversity of our students continues to grow, reflecting the face of our community.

Research in the college has been very productive, bringing in more grants than ever before and resulting in a banner year of publications in high quality, peer reviewed journals. Our faculty have written many books that influence scientists around the world.

We hope you enjoy our December newsletter, and wish you a wonderful holiday and healthy, productive new year.

Stanley Maloy
Dean, College of Sciences

Professor Allen Shafter and Astronomers Find Fluctuations in Exploding Stars
New observations reveal pauses, flickers and flares not reliably seen before.

Astronomers have traced the waxing and waning light of exploding stars more closely than ever before and seen patterns that aren't yet accounted for in our current understanding of how these eruptions occur. Using data from a sensitive instrument aboard a satellite that images the entire sky every 102 minutes, they studied four of these stars, or novae, which exploded so violently their light would have been visible without a telescope and measured their brightness over the course of the outburst. Three of the novae stalled before reaching a peak, and all flickered or flared as the explosions ran their course.

Capturing Sunlight, Storing Hydrogen Energy
The research of Professor Doug Grotjahn was highlighted at a Cleantech Technology Showcase at UCSD Jacobs School of Engineering.

Professor Doug Grotjahn's research was one of three out of 13 topics receiving a $50,000 grant for development of catalysts for making hydrogen from water. The goal is a revolutionary technology which would capture sunlight and store the energy as hydrogen, without making or using electricity, carbon-containing fossil fuels or carbon dioxide. At the Cleantech event San Diego Mayor Jerry Sanders and Sempra Energy President and CEO Debra Reed spoke of the excitement of helping foster an emerging clean energy economy and research here in San Diego, with innovations at SDSU and other universities and companies.

Taking the “No-No” out of Nano
SDSU's Electron Microscopy Facility was Awarded $708,000 from the National Science Foundation to Acquire a new Scanning Electron Microscope

For undergrad and graduate students, the computer controls make the SEM as easy to use as a video game; the improved resolution enables researchers working on nano-technology samples to better image their nano-sized samples; new detectors increase the kinds of data researchers can collect about the chemistry and morphology of their samples; and users from research laboratories at other CSU campuses who don't have such an advanced microscope, or local K-12 students, can view their samples in the new microscope using remote access via the world wide web.

Sports Not Enough Daily Activity for Kids
SDSU researchers found that kids participating in youth sports don’t meet minimum exercise recommendations.

Less than one-fourth of youth athletes obtained the recommended 60 minutes of physical activity during sports practices according to a new study released online today in the Archives of Pediatrics and Adolescent Medicine. “Parents may think that because their child is engaged in organized sports they are getting the recommended amount of physical activity each day, but what we’ve found is they aren’t,” said Jim Sallis, director of SDSU’s Active Living Research Program. “This study suggests that kids really need to be getting additional physical activity outside of organized sports practices in order to meet the national guidelines.”

MORE STORIES ARE ONLINE http://sciences.sdsu.edu
November was the perfect time for SDSU to recognize its generous scholarship donors.

Scholarship Students Thank Donors

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Rees-Stealy Research Foundation

Generous support for graduate and undergraduate research

Since 2004 the Rees-Stealy Research Foundation has provided research fellowships to graduate students involved in biomedical research at SDSU. They have recently expanded their support to provide funding to 6 deserving students. To date, 16 graduate students have benefited from the $250,000 that the RSRF has provided for these RSRF/SDSU Graduate Fellowships. In addition, last year they initiated a new undergraduate research award, “The Peabody Scholarship Award,” in honor of Dr. Homer Peabody who served as Director of the RSRF for many years. Folu Ani, was the first recipient of this award and was also the Outstanding Graduate from the College of Sciences. We thank the Rees-Stealy Research Foundation for their continuing support of SDSU students.