Dean's Message
The College of Sciences greatly benefits from our many generous donors. The donations support scholarships for undergraduate students, fellowships for graduate students, visiting speakers, equipment for courses and research, new science buildings like the BioScience Center, and many other things that we could not provide without this philanthropic support. Every donation makes a difference, both large and small. But some people have made particularly magnanimous gifts over the last year, and I'd like to recognize some of these donors here.

Ted Cohn
Robert, David, and Stephen Kaplan
BioMed Realty Trust
Brenda and Dave Rickey
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Robert and Ranelle Kain
Takeda Pharmaceuticals
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Annalisa Berta
John Gregory
Thomas and Bonnie Scott
Jo Ann Lane

These donations are especially important now with the diminishing state support for higher education. If you would like to know how you can help, please give me a call or send an e-mail.

We hope you enjoy the newsletter. If you have any questions or comments, we would love to hear from you.

Stanley Maloy
Dean, College of Sciences

New Maps First to Track Global Coastal Fishing Activity
Research from SDSU and Duke can help monitor fisheries and preserve marine environments.

The maps provide the first quantitative assessment of the number of boats and the types of fishing gear used in West Africa, the West Indian Ocean, Southeast Asia, the Caribbean, the Southwest Atlantic and the Eastern Tropical Pacific. The information is necessary to understand the impact fishing has on fish stocks, bycatch species (e.g., sea turtles and marine mammals) and coastal habitats, and provides a first step toward a better understanding of where fisheries management is most critical.

SDSU Astronomy Professors Play Key Role in Analyzing Data About new Planets, Including Some Earth-Size Candidates.
SDSU astronomy professors played a large part in analyzing data about new planets, including some Earth-size candidates.

“The interesting thing is that we found a planetary system with six planets that were all eclipsing,” said Bill Welsh, SDSU astronomy professor and one of nine astronomers nationwide serving as a participating scientist for the mission. “This shows us that we’re going to find planetary systems, not just cases of one star with one planet circling it.” Welsh, together with SDSU astronomy professor Jerome Orosz and former College of Sciences Dean Don Short, is among the team of scientists analyzing Kepler data around the clock. They played a large role in Kepler-11 by measuring various properties of the six planets, including their sizes and orbits.

Study Shows that CPAP Therapy Reduces Fatigue, Increases Energy in Patients with Sleep Apnea
An SDSU psychology professor developed a computer program as an alternative to therapy and medication.

“This was one of the first double-blind studies of the effects of CPAP on fatigue,” said lead author Lianne Tomfohr, graduate research assistant in the joint doctoral program at San Diego State University and the University of California, San Diego. “These results are important, as they highlight that patients who comply with CPAP therapy can find relief from fatigue and experience increases in energy and vigor after a relatively short treatment period.”

Medical Physics
The M.S. program in Radiological Health Physics was recently accredited by the national Commission on Accreditation of Medical Physics Educational Programs (CAMPEP).

The program prepares students for Medical Physics careers, research, and residency positions. In addition to a rigorous didactic and laboratory curriculum, the program integrates a year-long research and clinical internship. The clinical internships are facilitated by our collaborations with medical physicists at Sharp Memorial Hospital, Palomar Pomerado Hospital, Naval Medical Centre and UCSD Radiation Oncology. Only one other institution in California is CAMPEP accredited and ours is the only one focused on Master's-level training.
Where are You Now?
SEND US YOUR STORIES:
alumni@sciences.sdsu.edu
http://sciences.sdsu.edu

Recent Alumni Updates:

1967 and 1985
Perry Durning, Frank (Bud) Hillemeyer
Geological Sciences alumni Perry Durning (BSc ’67 and player-coach of the Aztec tennis team in the 1960s) and Frank (Bud) Hillemeyer (MSc ’85) were recently honored with the prestigious Thayer Lindsley Award for International Discoveries at the 2010 Prospectors and Developers Association of Canada Convention in Toronto, Canada. Durning and Hillemeyer were recognized for their outstanding record of grass-roots discoveries in Mexico, particularly the San Sebastian silver-gold mine, the San Austin gold deposit, the Pitarrilla silver deposit, and the Camino Rojo gold discovery.

In Memoriam:
Lars Harry Hellberg
Feb. 23, 1930 to Feb. 8, 2011

Lars Harry Hellberg was born in Chicago in 1930 to Swedish immigrants. Nicknamed “High Pockets” for his extraordinary height, Lars was an outstanding student who chose a career in chemistry after an aptitude test showed he would do well in sciences. His choice would lead to 40-plus years of work as an organic chemistry professor in the San Diego region. His 6-foot, 7-inch frame, sweet demeanor, pop quizzes and ability to write chemical equations with his left hand while erasing the blackboard with his right made him a standout on the San Diego State University campus, where he taught for 36 years. His wife Lois of 51 years, three adult children, and six grandchildren survive him.

Students Go ‘Under the Boat’
Mix one part class assignment, one part marine science, two parts humor and add a dash of Spongebob Squarepants, Finding Nemo and Flounder from The Little Mermaid.

What do you get? “Under the Boat,” a YouTube video by a group of SDSU students for their chemical ecology class. Created by junior Alex Warneke, and seniors Stacey Virtue and Elena “Katie” Kozma, all biology majors with an emphasis in marine biology, the video was part of a mandatory assignment in the chemical ecology course taught by biology professor Jeremy Long. In a music video format, students were expected to explain a key chemical ecology concept. “I suspect that student retention is much greater for this video assignment than other, more traditional assignments...” said Long.

Welcome to the February issue of the College of Sciences newsletter. We are pleased to share some more stories about the accomplishments of our faculty, students, and alumni. We would love to hear from you about your experiences in the college, comments about stories you found interesting, or suggestions for future topics.