College of Sciences Staff Service Awardees

We are pleased to recognize the following faculty and staff for their many years of dedication to SDSU:

10 Years
Gayle A. Anderson, Chemistry
Pablo J. Bryant, Dean’s Office
Larry G. Matthews, Dean’s Office
Eric M. Nedelman, CSUPERB
Matthew E. Rahn, Dean’s Office

15 Years
Medora L. Bratlien, Biology
Kendrea G. Hilend, Psychology
Denis L. Poon, Dean’s Office
Suzanne Sorger, Physics
Michael Van Patten, Biology

20 Years
Marlene M. Demers, Biology
Constance C. Gramlich, Biology
Robert J. Harper, Dean’s Office

25 Years
Murry A. Finegold, Physics
Joan M. Kimbrough, Geological Sciences
Eric R. O’Hare, Physics
Maria L. Penalosa, Chemistry
Ratnasamy Somanathan, Chemistry

30 Years
Mark A. E. Hatay, Physics
Robert R. Mangan, Biology

Noteworthy Events
Oct 06 CSSC: Meet & Greet
Oct 08 BMI: Army Medical Dept.
Oct 21 CRMSE
   Distinguished Lecturers:
   Celia Hoyles
   Richard Noss

Genero Hernandez
A study published in Nature finds novel viruses in guts of healthy individuals.

Genero Hernandez is an SDSU Bridges-to-the-Future student who will begin his studies at SDSU this fall, transferring from Southwestern College. His goal is to earn an M.D./Ph.D. and to build a career centered on clinical research related to diabetes.

He has spent last year, while still at community college, working at SDSU in the laboratory of Dr. Roberta Gottlieb and this summer is doing research at the University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center in Dallas.

Emerging Jobs Elevate Higher Education’s Selection of Courses
If the Human Genome Project was designed to create a road map of the human gene structure, then bioinformatics is the science of driving upon it.

This growing scientific field combines biology, chemistry, mathematics, computer engineering and public health to take the information compiled by the Human Genome Project and break it down into useful medicine. Combine this wealth of information with the emerging field of electronic health records, and you have the potent new field of Biomedical Informatics. The field is one of the most active areas of research and a focus of President Obama’s economic recovery plan through scientific innovation. San Diego State University under the umbrella of the College of Sciences, has created one of 22 Biomedical Informatics university programs in the country, and it is already being put to work in the local life and medical science community with local partners including Novartis, Life Technologies, and UCSD Medical Center.

More Firefighters Needed, Study Says
The ability to control wildfires depends on the capacity to provide adequate firefighter staffing.

By increasing the number of personnel on an individual hose lay, the efficiency, effectiveness and overall ability to potentially control a wildfire are significantly increased. Changing the staffing from two to just three firefighters on an attack can increase efficiency by as much as 50 percent and is the most cost-effective and beneficial change recommended. This translates to a recommended change from three to four persons per engine, which can dramatically increase efficiency and effectiveness.

Simulated Shake-Up Reveals Some Answers
The magnitude 8.0 simulation could guide emergency planning for Southern California.

Researchers at San Diego State University and the San Diego Supercomputer Center (SDSC) at the University of California San Diego have created the largest-ever simulation of a magnitude 8.0 (M8) earthquake. M8 earthquakes are capable of tremendous damage; the 1994 Northridge earthquake was a magnitude 6.7 and caused billions of dollars in property damage. The simulation is primarily along the southern section of the San Andreas Fault. About 25 million people reside in that area, which extends as far south as Yuma, Ariz., and Ensenada, Mexico, and runs up through Southern California to as far north as Fresno.

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Recent Alumni Updates:

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Dr. Robert Kaplan (Psychology)
Currently Distinguished Professor in the Department of Health Services in the School of Public Health and the Department of Medicine at the UCLA School of Medicine, Bob Kaplan was recently appointed Director of the National Institutes of Health (NIH) Office of Behavioral and Social Sciences Research.

Recent Retirements
On September 19th, College of Sciences Dean Stanley Maloy and wife Lisa hosted a party for retiring faculty and staff.

The backyard Paella dinner was a wonderful opportunity to recognize faculty and staff who have contributed so much to the College of Sciences. The retirees included Marko Vuskovic (Computer Science), Bob Grone (Mathematics & Statistics), Bob Metzger (Chemistry & Biochemistry), Al Litronik (Psychology), Steve Roeder (Physics), Mark Flahan (Diving Program), Paul Etzel (Astronomy), and Jim Zimmer (Biology). Other retirees who could not make the party include Sandra Marshall (Psychology), Richard Morris (Physics), Joan Willis (Geological Sciences), Catherine Baldridge (Geological Sciences), and Tony Haas (College of Sciences).

Phillips-Claud 50” Telescope
SDSU will soon see the addition of a larger telescope at its Mount Laguna Observatory.

The funding of the new MLO telescope is one bright spot in the otherwise dismal funding situation for higher education in California. The majority of funds came from the estate of SDSU alumnus, Phillips Claud, after whom the telescope will be named. Mr. Claud was a long-time member of the Mount Laguna Observatory Associates and dreamed of a larger telescope for SDSU. Other major donations were provided by the Brenda and Dave Rickey Foundation, the San Diego Foundation, and Justin Rennilson, and royalties from the SDSU Astronomy Department’s spin-off company, Astronomical Research Cameras, Inc. Scores of additional private contributions were made by SDSU Alumni and various friends of the Observatory.

We hope you enjoy the second edition of the College of Sciences newsletter. In this edition we highlighted a few of our education and outreach programs, as well as news about some faculty and staff milestones. Please let us know if you have any questions or comments, we would love to hear from you.

Stanley Maloy
Dean, College of Sciences