



### Message from the Dean

Welcome to the College of Sciences first issue of our latest newsletter. We hope you'll enjoy the "micro" format featuring news and event summaries of our students, faculty, staff, alumni, and friends. Complete versions are featured on our website.

The college continues to embrace the teacher-scholar model that emphasizes excellence in both teaching and research. Our faculty and students brought-in a record \$61 million in grants last year to support these goals.

We are proud about achievements of the people in our college and are excited to share a few of their compelling stories. If you have any questions or comments, we would love to hear from you.

Stanley Maloy  
Dean, College of Sciences



### Upcoming Events

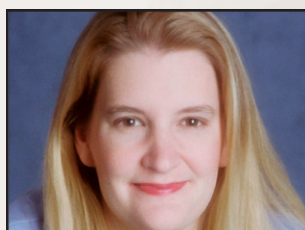
- Aug 26 All-University Convocation
- Aug 30 First day of fall classes
- Sep 01 Academic-year Welcome
- Sep 03 CSRC: David E. Dietrich
- Sep 15 GEOL: Margaret Eggers
- Sep 17 CSRC: Kelly A. Frazer



### Trust Your Gut for Health Clues

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

In a recent study published in *Nature*, SDSU biology professor Forest Rohwer and Dr. Jeffrey Gordon, director of Washington University's Center for Genome Sciences and Systems Biology, found that even identical twins, who have the same genetic makeup, each carry a unique collection of intestinal viruses. "We know that the gut does basically the same thing in everyone, so what's important is that the major differences between people is seen in the viral components of their guts," Rohwer said. "What's interesting is how these differences in what's in our gut influence our health."



### Jean Twenge Awarded for Her Distinguished Achievement at Sigma Xi Award Banquet

The awards committee of the San Diego Sigma Xi Chapter has nominated Dr. Jean M. Twenge for the 2010 Distinguished Achievement Award.

Psychology professor Jean Twenge pioneered a new research method, cross-temporal meta-analysis, and used it to become the first psychologist to study birth cohort effects in a systematic way. Her work finds that the time when persons were born, and thus the culture in which those persons grew up, shapes their personalities just as much or more than the influence of the family who raised them. Her research has provided useful insights into the attitudes of "Generation Y."



### Sea Squirt Offers Hope for Alzheimer's Sufferers

SDSU researchers say the sea squirt is a potential new resource for drug development.

Alzheimer's disease affects an estimated 27 million people worldwide and is the most common form of age-related dementia. There is no cure, however, San Diego State researchers Mike Virata and Bob Zeller have found that the sea squirt may hold the key for developing more efficient drugs to target the disease. One of the characteristic changes in the brains of Alzheimer's patients is the buildup of plaques and tangles. Currently, the best hope for curing, or at least slowing, the disease lies in developing drugs that target this buildup. However, a major obstacle in rapidly screening potentially useful drugs has been the lack of a good model system in which Alzheimer's plaques and tangles appear quickly.



### SDSU to study dangerous fault in Middle East

"A Long Record of Earthquakes with Timing Displacements for the Dead-Sea Transform Fault: A Test of Earthquake Recurrence Models."

San Diego State University seismologist Tom Rockwell leaves for Israel on Friday, where he will study the Dead Sea fault, a potentially deadly system that extends from the Red Sea to Turkey. "The fault is in an area where building codes aren't as good as they are in California," said Rockwell, who discussed his upcoming trip by cell phone while standing in a trench on the San Jacinto fault in the Moreno Valley. "The Dead Sea fault appears to be accumulating about 5 millimeters of stress each year, which is a lot." Rockwell will dig shallow trenches along the Dead Sea fault (also known as the transform) to look for the trace of small stream channels that have been shifted by earthquakes. Scientists can reconstruct the seismic history of a fault by examining the streams.



## Where are You Now?

SEND US YOUR STORIES:  
[alumni@sciences.sdsu.edu](mailto:alumni@sciences.sdsu.edu)  
<http://sciences.sdsu.edu>

### Recent Alumni Updates:

**1989**

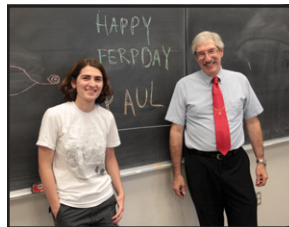
#### Christina A. Waters, Ph.D. (biology)

Christina, has a twenty-year history of research and management in drug discovery and development in the pharmaceutical industry. Serving currently as president of Cell Therapeutics Europe and Systems Medicine, a subsidiary of Cell Therapeutics, Inc., she has developed a unique and specialized background in fostering new approaches to treatments for disorders and diseases.



#### Professor Paul Etzel Receives Standing Ovation From Students of his final Astronomy 101 class.

On his 62nd birthday, SDSU astronomy professor and Mt. Laguna Observatory director, Paul Etzel received a standing ovation as he gave his final lecture after 30 years of service, including 24 years on the faculty. Etzel will participate in FERP (Faculty Early Retirement Program), and will continue to teach and administer the observatory after retiring from the university.



Welcome to the first issue of micronews. We hope you'll enjoy our new format of an abridged newsletter from the College of Sciences at San Diego State University.



#### In Memoriam: Donald Shiley President Stephen L. Weber's statement on the passing of the local philanthropist, SDSU benefactor, and friend.

"We are deeply saddened at the news of Donald Shiley's passing. Donald was a humanitarian in the truest sense. His contributions, both as an inventor and philanthropist, will leave a lasting legacy in our community and beyond. San Diego State's students, faculty and staff have benefited greatly from Donald and Darlene's support. Their generosity includes transformational gifts to KPBS, the SDSU BioScience Center and SDSU's Musical Theater Program. We offer our condolences to Darlene and to all of Donald's family during this difficult time."

—SDSU President Stephen L. Weber