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THE USD VISTA

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TEDx event sells out at USD

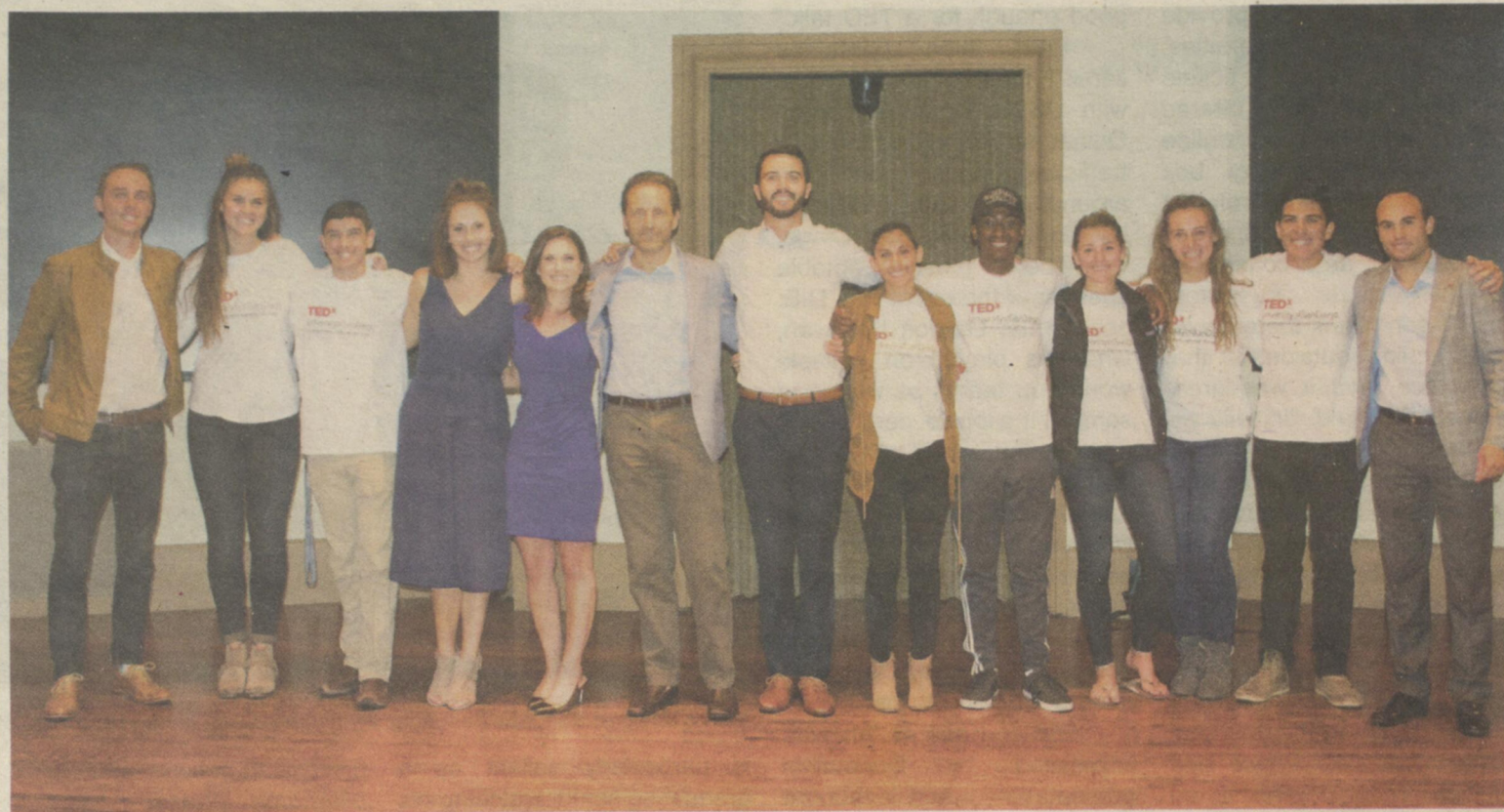


Photo courtesy of Jacquelyn Berens

Students that coordinated the TEDx event at USD pose with the four speakers.

KEVIN NELSON
News Editor

Months of hard work and organization finally came to fruition for senior Madeline Ball and the rest of her TEDx University of San Diego team last Wednesday. The nonprofit organization TED has been putting on conferences for over 25 years now and granted

licensing for TEDx, one of its independently organized TED event, to be put on at USD last July. Since the granting of the license, Ball and her team have worked diligently to host the event at USD.

At first, Ball was not sure how students and faculty would react to the event being hosted on campus. However, Ball quickly received

support from the university. "I've been shocked at the amount the school has been helpful," Ball said.

But, shortly after announcing that USD would be hosting a TEDx conference, Ball was swarmed with requests not only from USD, but the local community. Local schools such as San Diego Mesa College and

San Diego Miramar College contacted Ball to try to arrange tickets for the event.

"I wanted to extend it to San Diego, and make it as inclusive as possible," Ball said. "Mesa and Miramar emailed me about buying blocks of tickets for their students, but we didn't have enough seats in the theatre."

See TEDx, Page 2

USD looks to reform sexual assault reporting



Photo courtesy of Instagram/usf

The University of San Francisco is the first university to bring Callisto onto its campus.

ABBY GENTRY
Asst. News Editor

An energy sparked within a small group of the University of San Diego community has now spread into the corners of campus. Starting with one individual who noted a fault in our current sexual assault reporting system, Associate Students Senate is about to vote on whether or not

they want to continue this process on to administration.

USD students currently have three options to report incidents of sexual assault. First, students may submit an anonymous report to USD through the Department of Public Safety (PSafe) website. The student may provide PSafe with a personal report of any information regarding

the incident, including the suspect's name, location, and incident description if they choose. The second and third options are for students to report directly to USD or go to the San Diego Police Department (SDPD). Students may report to a variety of sources on campus, the Counseling Center, PSafe, or any Campus Assault Resource

and Education (CARE) advocate. Students who call into PSafe to report a sexual assault are connected with a CARE advocate. Junior Abbie Barnes, who has spearheaded the movement to bring on this new reporting system, shared her beliefs regarding the fault in our current options that have led her to campaign for a new path for survivors to take.

"The issue with this [anonymous reporting] is that investigators have no way of getting any further details or evidence, and, as a result, it is often inconclusive because they don't have much to go off of," Barnes said. "Also, the survivor has literally no way of knowing what happened with the investigation and whether they were successful or turned away; the only way to know is by word of mouth or through friends."

Additionally, Barnes offered some of the issues survivors face when considering reporting to the authorities.

"There's a lot of reasons survivors hesitate to report

See REPORT, Page 3

NEWS

NEWS EDITOR
KEVIN NELSON
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ASST. NEWS EDITOR
ABBY GENTRY

Poincenot steals show with powerful message

TEDX continued from
Front Page

Ball could not provide tickets to outside universities, but 100 of the 300 tickets for the event were offered online. Tickets both online and at the university box office sold out almost immediately, leaving hundreds of students and community members frustrated.

"I don't think there's ever been a line outside of that box office, and it was great to see," Ball said. "Initially we did not think the event would sell out, and the theatre was booked very far in advance. I definitely didn't anticipate selling out the theatre."

Despite the many students who were frustrated to not get tickets, the lucky few were treated to an intimate event in the 300 seat Kroc Institute of Peace and Justice Theatre. The event hosted four separate speakers from many disciplines.

amazing," Ball said. "If I could have filmed him when we first met, that would've been good enough for a TED talk."

Ball then obtained Jamie Quinet, who works with USD's women's center. Quinet spoke about the sex trafficking industry not only around the United States, but right here in San Diego.

The most notable speaker of the event was U.S. soccer star Landon Donovan, who has played on multiple world cup teams as well is in some of the top soccer leagues around the world. Donovan was a late add to the event roster. Just weeks before, Donovan had been fighting to advance in the Major League Soccer playoffs with his Los Angeles Galaxy team, before being eliminated, allowing him to speak at the event.

Senior Katie Quinn was impressed by Donovan's presentation and thought the message really related with a lot of students.



Photo courtesy of Jacquelyn Berens

Senior Madeline Ball, who put on the event, poses with the four speakers of the conference.

is particularly salient as a graduating senior watching his presentation. Is your job what identifies you? How do you

disease in college. Poincenot overcame those struggles to eventually win the blind golf world championships, and he shared his moving accomplishment in dramatic fashion to the entire audience.

Senior Jordan Latchford thought bringing in big names like Donovan and Poincenot really helped drive home the message of the event.

"Having celebrities like Landon Donovan and Jeremy Poincenot really put in perspective that everyone in life faces struggles, and it definitely humanized them," Latchford said. "I really liked how it got me thinking."

The event did have its problems, however. At several moments, it was hard to hear

minor hiccups of this brand new event, students and attendees had a great time.

"I thought it was a great way to spread ideas about topics to the USD community," Latchford said. "These are all conversations we think about, failure, human trafficking, good/bad, and independence, and the talk served as a platform to get people talking. I think the variety of topics discussed really made the event exciting and entertaining as well."

Ball hopes that USD can continue the TEDx tradition despite her entire team all graduating this year. Ball told the crowd she was looking for someone to hopefully take over the organization, to continue TEDx USD annually.

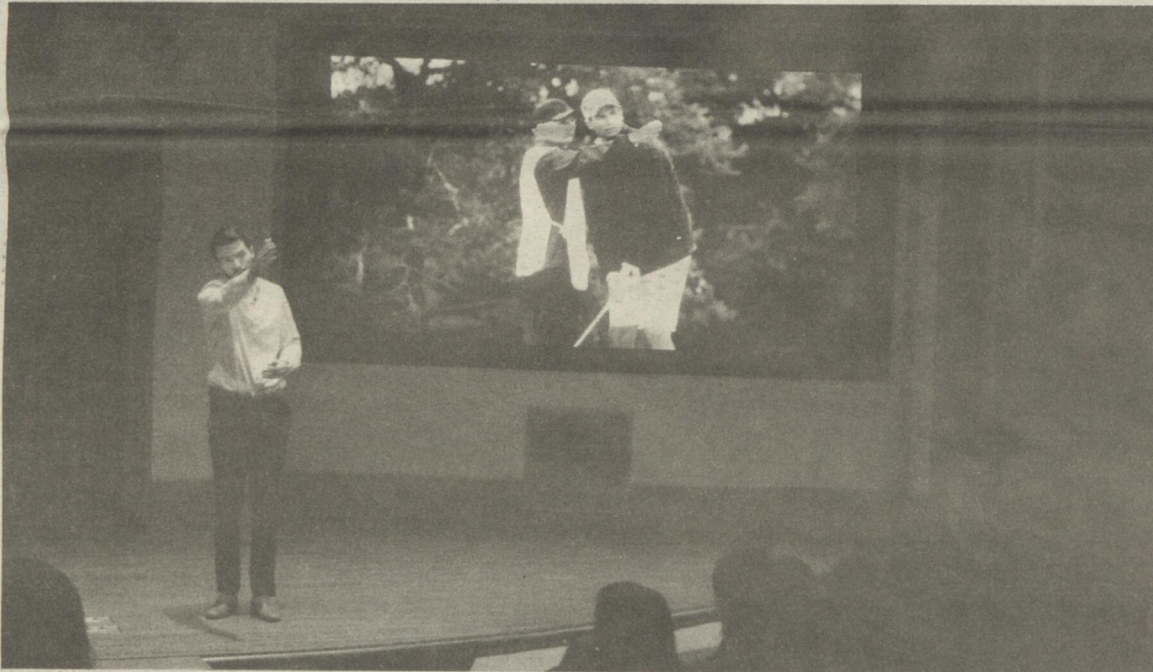


Photo courtesy of Jacquelyn Berens
Jeremy Poincenot shares his story of overcoming blindness to win the World Blind Golf Championships.

Ball worked hard to find a diverse range of speakers looking not only into USD's community, but nationally. The first speaker Ball obtained was Scott Ripley, the chair of the theatre department, whose passion and enthusiasm easily convinced Ball that he should be up on stage.

"When we first met it was

"I was pleasantly surprised by Donovan," Quinn said. "He was a great speaker. I had always only thought of him in terms of soccer, but he proved himself to be a complex, multifarious individual who ironically struggled with identity because he also only thought of himself as an athlete. The theme of identity

realize/accept you're more?"

Donovan's powerful presentation on his career and compassion wooed the crowd, but the star of the night was Jeremy Poincenot. Poincenot, a motivational speaker and golfer, left the crowd stunned in amazement as he shared his story of how he struggled after losing his sight to a rare

"I thought it was a great way to spread ideas about topics to the USD community."

- Jordan Latchford

the speakers due to the audio quality, and many seats were left open despite the initial sellout, likely due to students who got tickets and could not attend. But, despite the

Despite the uncertain future of TEDx at USD, anyone who chooses to take it on has a successful foundation to build upon from the first TED event at USD.

THE USD VISTA

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Students advocate for new sexual assault program Callisto

REPORT continued from Front Page

to USD or SDPD, including fear of facing undue social consequences, self-doubt, distrust of the judicial system, and reluctance to deal with the emotionally difficult process of reporting," Barnes said.

For Barnes, the solution to the current problems in our system came in the form of an online program called Callisto. Callisto is a non-profit organization created by sexual assault survivors and used by schools such as the University of San Francisco and Pomona College. Only a year since it was created,

confidential time-stamped record of the incident. The Callisto website claimed that on average, survivors can wait up to 11 months until they report an attack. This time-stamp record allows for survivors to journal their personal and private experience so that it is not altered by outsiders, peer-pressure, self doubt, or other possible influences. This also allows for students to take the time they need to gather any concerns or emotions before continuing with an investigation, if they choose to do so.

The second option is for survivors to report online directly to the USD

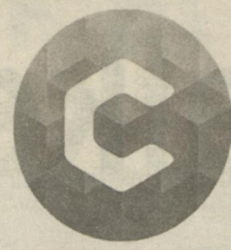
than having to immediately talk to someone you don't know about something so personal and vulnerable and traumatic," Barnes said.

The third option, which works as a matching system, is what makes this program so unique from already-existing programs. With this particular function, a survivor will put the name of their attacker into the Callisto system. If no other students report the same name, that name will stay hidden in the system. However, if another student provides the same name as an attacker, the information is automatically sent to the police for an investigation to follow.

After receiving uncertainty from administration, Barnes explained that she took matters into her own hands. She said she figured that the best place for her to start was within the Greek community.

Title IX coordinator Nicole Schuessler explained the process of potentially bringing Callisto to USD's campus in the future.

"I have requested a sub-committee of USD's Sexual Violence Prevention and Response Steering Committee (SVPRSC), which is comprised of students, faculty, staff, and administrators to gather more information about



Callisto

Photo courtesy of callistocampus.org
assault, we were able to show the community how much this program could impact a life," Hale said. "With this reporting system, it could change the way people view sexual assault and reporting."

"The feedback we received from students was incredibly positive, everyone seemed on board, and we got so many more signatures than we could have hoped for," Hale said.

On Thursday, Dec. 1, several advocates for the implementation of this new program gave the same presentation to the Associated Students Senate. The resolution will receive its final vote by the Senate on Thursday, Dec. 8. If the resolution is passed, it will then be sent straight to the desk of President Harris and Vice President Allen for official approval.

"We were able to show the community how much this program could impact a life."

- Faith Hale

Callisto has already been endorsed by several well-known organizations, including Google, Forbes, TED, The New York Times, The Wall Street Journal, and The New York Women's Foundation.

Callisto offers three options for victims in how they choose to proceed after an assault. The first option is for students to create a

Title IX coordinator. While this is similar to what USD offers now, Barnes shared what makes this different is that survivors do not have to report directly to PSafe.

"Rather than reporting to a Public Safety officer, who is most likely a stranger, you can report online, through a third-party site, in the comfort of your home, rather

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Walker does modeling?

WALKER CHUPPE
Arts & Culture Editor
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My girlfriend, Angela, is a fashion model represented by Wilhelmina Models, and through getting to know her, I was thrown headfirst into the chaotic industry. To be honest, I have minimal knowledge of the modeling and fashion industries, and I've essentially had to learn on the fly.

One of the first things that I learned is that there is a significant difference between an "Instagram model" and a "fashion model." I have quite a few friends that are Instagram models, but I never thought about what the differences would be. Typically, when I picture models, I just think of an attractive person. To be an Instagram model, that really is the only criteria. However, to get into high-fashion modeling, there are much more stringent characteristics that agencies and brands look for.

The main difference between Instagram models and fashion models is that Instagram models typically work independently, essentially as freelancers. Smaller brands will reach out to them to do

bikini work, to promote their products, and occasionally do clothing campaigns.

Big brands like Gucci, Topshop, Brandy Melville, and so on, do not usually use this method to book their models. Larger brands book their models through agencies like IMG Models, Wilhelmina, The Lions, and NEXT. There are also smaller agencies as well, but to work with the most popular brands, models typically have to be signed to one of the top agencies.

Given that it is so important for fashion models to sign with one of the best agencies to be successful, countless people send in headshots and go to open castings in the hopes that they might be signed. Sadly, hardly anyone makes the cut. Agencies have strict standards for their models and always have an exact "look" that they're searching for. On average, female models have to be between 5'9"-5'11", with a very thin build. Male models typically must be between 5'11"-6'1", with a muscular build for commercial modeling (think Abercrombie & Fitch) and lean build for high-fashion (think Supreme or Givenchy).

For both men and women, defined facial structure is absolutely necessary. High cheekbones, defined jawlines, and pronounced brow-ridges are staples of the industry. In many cases, fashion models are not necessarily people who you would instantly notice as attractive. Fashion models have very striking and unique faces, though maybe not what you might have pictured as the ultimate standard of beauty.

This is where I come in. Angela suggested that I could also be a model and that I had the face for it, but I had never considered doing anything like it. She suggested that I go to an open call first, just to get a taste of the industry. Since her agency is based in Los Angeles, my girlfriend recommended that I try out NoTies Management, which is based here in San Diego. NoTies had an open call model search event, which attracted a lot of attention from hopefuls throughout the city. People travelled from all over for this opportunity. I simply went to my Friday class and drove down to Little Italy for the event, not exactly knowing what to expect.

When I arrived, there were quite a few people hanging around outside the NoTies office. It was hard to tell if they had just been rejected or if they were waiting to be looked at. I was definitely nervous when I was walking up to the casting call. I had no idea what I was going to have to do or what the experience would be like.

My girlfriend said that all castings are different: sometimes they have you do a bunch of poses, sometimes you have to make an introductory video, and sometimes they just have you stand in one place while they study your face. In my head, I was going over all the different poses that I could pull out in case they asked me to. Even though I wasn't really taking the casting seriously, I was still incredibly nervous, which I found kind of funny.

I walked in the front door, and there was a group of about 15 people in the lobby waiting. A representative from NoTies greeted us and gave us a short speech thanking us for coming to the casting. She also gave us a bit of a disclaimer as well before the casting started.

"All of you are beautiful, and don't think that if we don't choose you today that you should stop trying," the representative said. "We have a specific look that we're



Walker Chuppe/The USD Vista

Me (Walker) attempting to model.

searching for, so, if you aren't chosen, don't be discouraged."

This disclaimer was meant to pacify people who might be angry if they weren't selected. She also apologized in advance to those who wouldn't be chosen who had travelled to San Diego for the opportunity.

After the disclaimer, she announced that she'd start the evaluation. I prepared all my faces and poses in my head, readying myself for anything. She had all of us stand in a semicircle—the group was made up of both men and women, of different ages, demographics and height. She scanned the room for about 30 seconds and then said, "Sorry. At this time none of you have the look we're looking for." That was it. Talk about anticlimactic.

So my first taste of modeling ended in failure I suppose, but it was still a fun experience. I wasn't too bothered about it; I didn't really have any expectations going in. Some of the people in the group, however, looked visibly dejected. The excitement of the open call culminating in a 30-second

look probably wasn't what many hopefuls expected.

Angela said that, while a little unusual, castings do sometimes go that quickly, and you just have to move on to the next one. She said that even most successful models were turned down at their first few castings. Even she was rejected at her first casting, but now works for Wilhelmina Models, which is seen as one of the best agencies to sign for. Sometimes the industry can seem cutthroat, but, when agencies see hundreds of candidates per week, they have to move quickly.

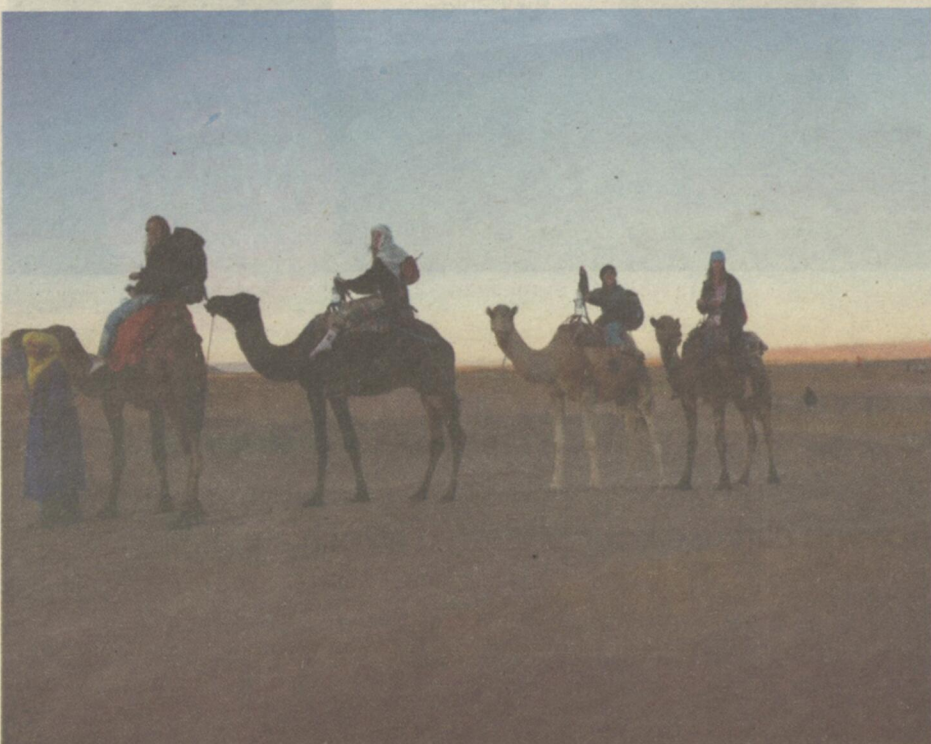
For now, Angela's agent said that I should go to a few more castings, and that I would probably get a bid if I'm persistent. Until then, her agent recommended that I change my Instagram feed so that it has a "theme," whatever that means. I suppose when agencies and brands check out your social media, it's good to have an overall pleasing aesthetic. I have no idea if I'm actually going to become a high-fashion model, but stay tuned to see if I fail miserably or if I'm shooting a catalog for Prada in the next few months.



Photo courtesy of Wilhelmina Models

Angela Sang poses against a plain wall in LA.

Beyond San Diego: a look at SAS



Countries represented in the collage, from top left to bottom right: Italy, Brazil, Panama, Greece, Morocco, and Peru.

Taylor RV/The USD Vista

Get to know professor T. O'Rourke

MICHAEL FITZPATRICK
Contributor

Thomas O'Rourke did not know exactly what he wanted to do with his life. It took decades jumping around between jobs and exciting experiences for O'Rourke to discover that teaching was his passion. O'Rourke would come to find that his journey would be more of an unusual path than the average person, creating a lively and amusing life story to share with the world. He started his adventure in the field of communication marketing, found himself moving to a commune, and eventually ended up at the University of San Diego to pursue teaching.

As a first-year college student, O'Rourke thought marketing would be the best and safest option for him to study after getting his bachelor's degree at Southern Illinois University.

"I was able to move my way up in the marketing world, becoming a marketing director at a number of firms," O'Rourke said.

O'Rourke became interested in television and radio production, making it his primary focus in his profession. He was able to make a great career out of it

by working in the marketing field for 25 years, controlling many teams in the company. After many decades in the marketing business, O'Rourke started feeling like an old man.

"Marketing is a little like sports; it's for young people," O'Rourke said.

He experienced the urge to start jumping to the untouched part of the map, wanting to encounter the unusual. The marketing field he was in paid well, but something did not seem right for him at this point in his life. O'Rourke said he felt he was due for a change.

He became bored and burnt out of the "9 to 5" lifestyle, so he decided that a drastic change was needed.

"I wanted to do something different and quit the advertising business," O'Rourke said. "I sold all my stuff in Chicago and moved to a hippie town."

O'Rourke was determined to find a career that excited him, so he chose to go an opposite direction. "[I] can't be the person that stays in one spot for a long time," O'Rourke said.

He explained that he could not be confined behind a desk for too long, and his new journey started by joining an ultra hippie, clothing-optional

commune on the West Coast. With the original intent of staying at this commune for six months, he ended up making it his home for six years.

This hippie commune was a complete lifestyle change: everyone lived and shared everything with each other. It was a community that depended on one another to survive, helping and taking on any task that was needed. O'Rourke, explained that he worked very closely within the younger part of the community.

"I helped raise four children, even though they are not my biological kids I consider them my own. I still stay in contact and updated with their lives," O'Rourke said.

While living there, O'Rourke was able to handle the marketing and was the spokesman for the center after they begged him to help them. It was a radical change in his life that would shape who he is to this day.

O'Rourke was ready to move on to the next chapter in his life, and teaching was the best fit for him. He never thought that he would get into the education business, but decided to take the leap and give teaching a chance. O'Rourke went to San Diego State University, where he would obtain his master's



Dray Wilson/The USD Vista

Teaching is only the most recent endeavor for T. O'Rourke.

degree in communication studies. He found that he enjoyed teaching much more than his previous career.

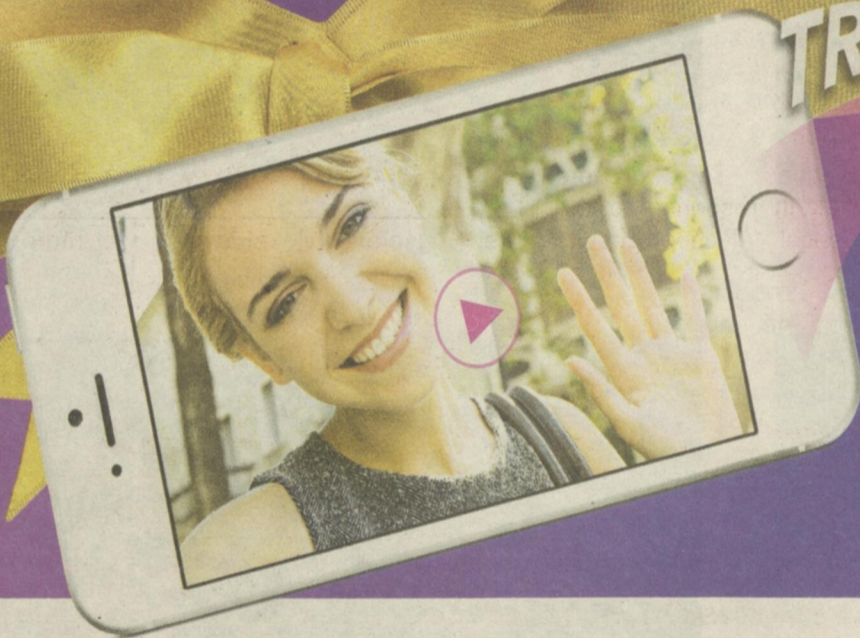
"Teaching is more fulfilling than marketing and sales have ever been," O'Rourke said.

He started teaching at the community colleges around San Diego, before moving to USD eight years ago. O'Rourke explained that his diverse background has greatly contributed to his teaching career, allowing him to bring his experiences into the classroom.

O'Rourke's life has been a whirlwind so far, and he is always looking for the next journey to experience. He

has been able to dabble in many other careers, ranging from being a weatherman, to participating in numerous non-profit organizations. Teaching is his new passion, and O'Rourke explained that he is accomplishing more at USD than he ever did while working for the marketing company. O'Rourke has a dynamic method of teaching by taking his life experiences and bringing them into the classroom he can create a unique classroom for his students. As a man that is not known to stay in one spot, no one knows what he has in store for his next journey, but it will be exciting to find out.

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Would you dare to digital detox?

Preceptorial students survive 96 hours without their cellphones

JENNIFER GIVENS
Asst. Feature Editor

Finals are coming. Snapchat feeds are filled with selfies in the library or in study groups. Instagram is flooded with pictures of scattered notes, books, and lots of coffee.

Documenting students' lives is the new normal, and finals week is no exception. According to Instagram's analytics, "#finals" has almost three million posts, and "#collegelife" has over four million.

In response to social media addiction, some University of San Diego professors have implemented technology detoxes into their syllabi.

Cellphones have become more than just a device for talking to people faraway. They are daily planners, alarm clocks, cameras, research tools, navigation systems, and even wallets. They tell us when to wake up, when to sleep, and everything in between. Some will even claim our

"I learned that I do not need to use social media as a homework break. Before I knew it, 45 minutes later I had been sucked into scrolling through Facebook and Instagram, or playing a game on my phone."

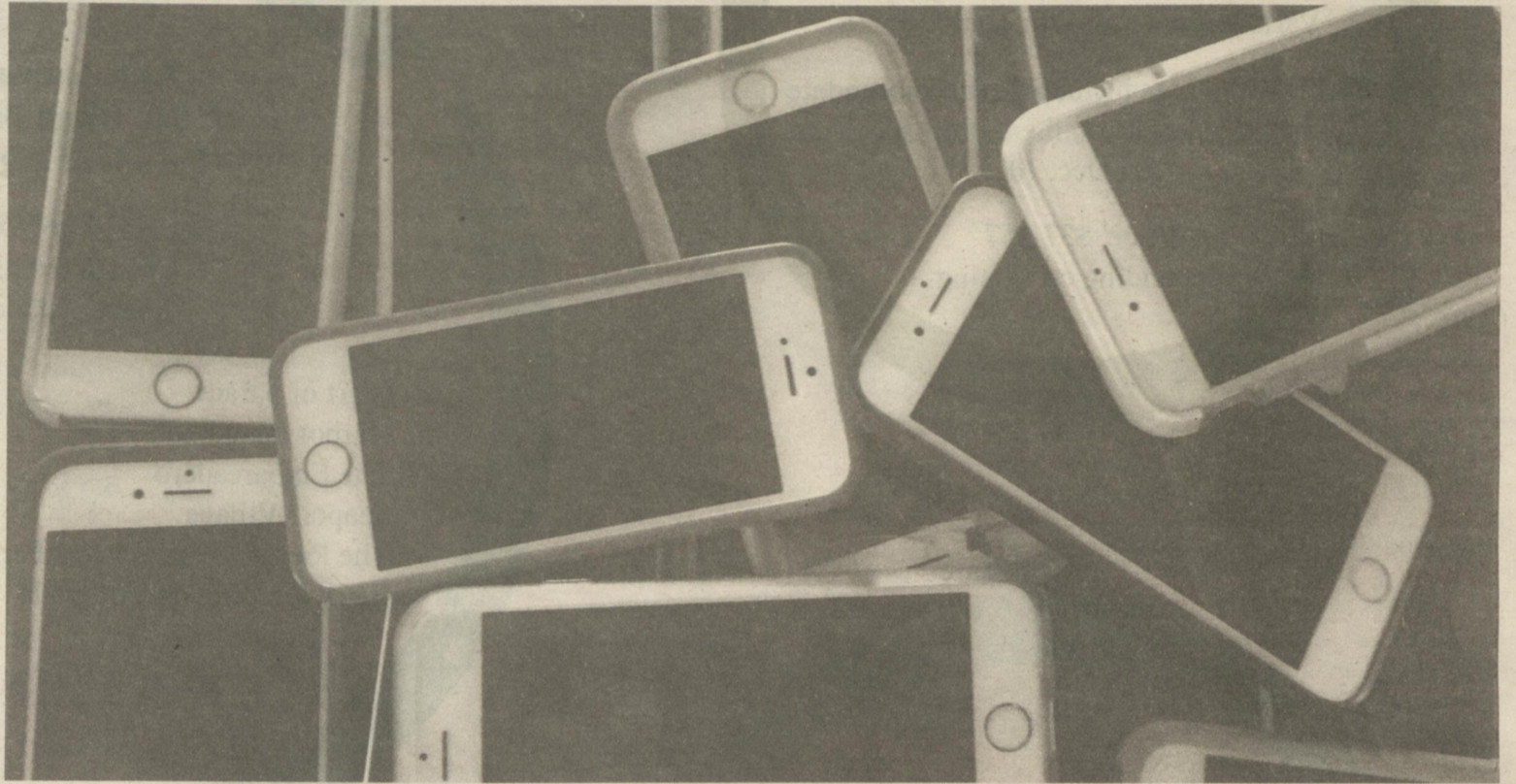
- Katie Greene

smartphones have become a constant companion, including USD communication studies professor Leeva Chung.

A single handheld device now seems to replace countless other items that people use on a daily basis. As convenient and helpful as they might be, they can also be very harmful to our overall health and relationships.

Professors like Chung, who specialize in interpersonal communication, think it is important for students to step away from their devices and experience life for their own health.

"[A detox may help] encourage a stronger sense of self, healthy communication [via] face to face interactions, better sleeping, more time spent productively, [thinking] without a device, better



Jennifer Givens/The USD Vista

Students chose to give up their cellphones for 96 hours and learned more about their dependency on technology.

eyesight, no distracted driving, [learning] to be still [and] enjoy stillness," Chung said. "[You] don't need a device to ignore others or thoughts in your head, [you'll have] stronger study habits without getting so distracted, and above all: [you can focus on] being in the moment."

This semester, Chung asked her preceptorial class to voluntarily give up their cellphones for 96 hours. To her surprise, 27 of 28 students volunteered to turn in their phones and fully participate in a digital detox.

Freshman Molly Feeney admitted she experienced anxiety leading up to the week.

"I definitely had some anxiety and cried a little bit," Feeney said. "I felt like I was losing some control of my life, in the least controlled month of my life, midterms. But once we turned them in, I felt like I could do this."

The overall reaction the day of the phone rendering was quite calm. Some students sent out their last text and phone calls to parents and close friends, while others simply sat quietly and contemplated what the next 96 hours would be like.

To set her students at ease, Chung also participated in the detox. Her last call was a FaceTime to her niece. She held up her tablet so all her students could wave and set aside their anxieties. Throughout the week, students had to keep a journal documenting their feelings, observations, and anything extra they wanted to share about the experience.

Students, like Danielle

Klessel, noticed on the first night that not having her phone made it difficult to meet up with friends.

"The first night, my friend and I were going to a concert," Klessel said. "I have a really terrible memory, and I could not remember if I told her to meet me at the SLP. We could not find each other for almost an hour. It was frustrating because we had somewhere to be, but we eventually found each other and went to the concert."

One of the biggest observations came midweek in response to the presidential election results that came in the Tuesday

"I felt like I was losing some control of my life, in the least controlled month of my life, midterms. But once we turned them in, I felt like I could do this."

- Molly Feeney

after giving up their phones.

The entire class noted that their moods were much better due to lack of exposure to Election Day drama, especially in comparison to their friends who had been exposed. They reported feeling less stressed about the results because they did not have access to the widespread negativity on Facebook and other social media sources.

Katie Greene became more aware of her social

Chung's digital detox takeaways:

- Stronger sense of self
- Improved study habits
- Healthier communication
- More face to face interactions
- Better sleep schedule
- Higher productivity
- Mindful driving
- Better eyesight
- Time to enjoy life and be still

media usage while studying, and she said that she found the detox helpful for her homework habits.

"I learned that I do not need to use social media as a homework break," Greene said. "That is how I always used to do it, and, before I knew it, 45 minutes later I had been sucked into scrolling through Facebook and Instagram, or playing a game on my phone. Now, I go talk to friends in my dorm at Maher, then go back to studying."

Demitrius Goods said that he learned that talking to people in person was more satisfying than over the phone. He hopes to continue to disconnect more daily.

"I learned time without technology is helpful," Goods said. "I noticed I have more face-to-face interaction with friends. It was difficult coordinating with friends, but I learned a lot about disconnecting myself and looking at the world around me and being more aware of my surroundings. I found a

lot more time to do a variety of things than just sit on my phone. I am trying to disconnect more and go and talk to people. Face-to-face communication is a lot more fun and genuine than talking to someone over the phone."

According to the Pew Research Center, most young adults use their phones for more than talking. About 90 percent of adults ages 18-29 reported owning a cellphone and using it for social media purposes.

Many researchers argue that cellphones are a distraction from interpersonal communication, while others argue that cellphones are a convenience. In reality, they probably fall into both categories. Students in Chung's class have experienced both sides of the conversation, and found extra time for themselves during their digital detox. With finals on the horizon, a little time away from cellphones might be all students need to prepare for the busiest time of the year.

Holiday happenings in San Diego

The Old Globe
Presents: Dr. Seuss' How the Grinch Stole Christmas!

1363 Old Globe Way, San Diego

Various showtimes through Dec. 26

Special showings included to accommodate children and adults on the autism spectrum on Dec. 10

Price: \$37-\$57 depending on seating

45th Annual San Diego Bay Parade of Lights

Dec. 11 & 16, 5 p.m.
Watch from: Shelter Island

(start of parade)	5 p.m.
Harbor Island	6 p.m.
The Embarcadero	6:30 p.m.
Seaport Village	7 p.m.
The Pier at Cesar Chavez Park	7:15 p.m.
Ferry Landing on Coronado	7:30 p.m.

Price: Free

Skating By The Sea at the Hotel Del Coronado

1500 Orange Ave
Coronado, CA 92118

Nov. 26-Dec. 18: Weekdays 4-10 p.m.,
Saturdays 10 a.m.-10 p.m.,
Sundays 11 a.m.-8 p.m.
Dec. 19-Jan. 2: Weekdays 10 a.m.-10 p.m.,
Saturdays 10 a.m.-9 p.m.,
Sundays 11 a.m.-8 p.m.

Price: \$25 per person, ice skate rentals included

Jungle Bells at the San Diego Zoo

2920 Zoo Drive
San Diego, CA 92101

Dec. 9, 2016-Jan. 2, 2017

The zoo lights up in December for their Jungle Bells celebration. It's complete with a holiday forest and animal encounters to enjoy.

Price: \$52

Liberty Station Holiday Block Party

2640 Historic Decatur Road
San Diego, CA 92106

Dec. 10, 4:30-7:30 p.m.
Featuring carolers, ice skating, holiday market, and dining options

Price: Free

Gaslamp Holiday Pet Parade

401 K Street, San Diego
Dec. 11

Pet Expo: 1-5 p.m. Free
Pet Parade: 3 p.m., \$15-\$20 to enter

SeaWorld's Christmas Celebration

500 Sea World Drive
San Diego, CA 92109

Nov. 19, 2016-Jan. 1, 2017

The aquatic park transforms into winter wonderland with Christmas shows and Rudolph

Price: \$93, \$73 in advance

Creative Marketplace at the Bekin

4275 37th Street
San Diego, CA 92105

Dec. 11, 10 a.m.-3 p.m.
Shop a variety of creative holiday gifts and treats

Price: Free



Entertainer Leah Drost joins USD Media

Leah Drost, lead singer and USD Radio show host

CYNTHIA YANTZ
Contributor

San Diego native and University of San Diego transfer student Leah Drost has dreamed of working in entertainment her entire life. She is slowly realizing this dream through her work with USD Radio and performances with an alternative rock band called "Taking on Towers." Drost is a junior communication studies major and previously attended the San Diego School of Creative and Performing Arts High School where her emphasis was singing. It is this passion for song that led Drost into

with a band and perform in front of people daily," Drost said. "But I know I need a backup plan, which is why I'm in communication because I've always been good at communicating with others."

Before Drost was a student at USD and singing for "Taking on Towers," she spent her freshman year of college at Concordia University but soon realized it was not the school for her. From Concordia, Drost decided to transfer back home to San Diego and attended Miramar College. Going into her junior year, she had thoughts of transferring to USD because her mother works on campus as a website

"Playing at the House of Blues has always been a dream of mine and so actually getting to pursue this dream with my friends is an incredible experience."

- Leah Drost

her current creative path.

Drost is the lead singer in an alternative rock band called "Taking on Towers." She has been a part of the band for the past seven months, following a falling out with a previous band. Drost is the lead female singer of this all-male band, which she found in a Craigslist ad. "Taking on Towers" has performed at various venues, such as House of Blues and Tin Roof. Drost described it as the most serious and committed band she has ever been a part of.

Drost also said that the first time she and her band played at the House of Blues was something she has always wanted to do.

"Playing at the House of Blues has always been a dream of mine and so actually getting to pursue this dream with my friends is an incredible experience," Drost said.

This longtime dream come true will continue to follow as "Taking on Towers" now has a second performance down at the House of Blues. Drost said that she wishes to further pursue a music career.

"My dream goal is to pursue music by getting big

manager for the Torero Store. As an incoming student, Drost chose to transfer to USD as a communication studies major and plans to specialize in broadcasting.

Drost also showed a curiosity for working as a radio talk show host, sharing that she always knew she wanted to go into a news-related field. Her wishes are slowly coming true, as she is now a part of USD Radio. At the beginning, she was not sure whether she wanted to pursue television or radio. Because of her past with performing in bands, she knew she had the talent for entertainment in general.

From an early age, Drost knew that she wanted to work in a news-related field, but was unsure about which platform she'd like best. Her previous performance experience helped shape her preference for radio over television.

"Radio stood out to me because I don't like my being projected on television," Drost said.

She is still interested in broadcasting and figured radio could give her the best of both worlds.

At the Alcalá Bazaar



Leah Drost/USD Radio

Drost hosts "Leah's Latest" every Wednesday from 11 a.m. to 12 p.m.

during the second week of school, Drost saw that USD Radio had a booth. She explained that initially she was interested in, but not fully committed to, working with USD Radio, and knew that not all applicants would be accepted.

"I have never been so happy about being accepted into something," Drost said. It was at that moment that Drost said she realized radio was her passion.

When given the option to choose between being a DJ or a radio host, Drost chose to become a radio host. Although she has only been a part of USD Radio for a short time, she said that she has not only

gained experience, but also confidence. Drost already feels more confident about the dos and don'ts of broadcasting. Drost explained that each time she broadcasts, she learns how to phrase sentences and deliver her ideas. She is also learning how to present her stories in a way that is easy for her audience to understand.

Drost has her own segment called "Leah's Latest," which airs every Wednesday between 11 a.m. and 12 p.m. Her station covers San Diego events, including festivals, farmers markets, open mic nights/karaoke, and even new clubs and bars in the area. "Leah's

Latest" also features the best hiking spots, yoga classes, and running marathons that students can sign up for. Drost said that her show is unique because it is geared toward all USD students and is a way for them to gather as a community at the events they are most interested in.

With Drost's high ambitions and career goals that she has set for herself, she continues to have a strong drive for wherever her passion for communication takes her. Whether it is performing in a band as a singer or being a radio host, Drost said she plans on making a place for herself in the entertainment world.



JULIANNE HOPE



Leah Drost/USD Radio

Drost recently performed at the House of Blues with her band.

OPINION

OPINION EDITOR
DANI DEVRIES
@danidevries_

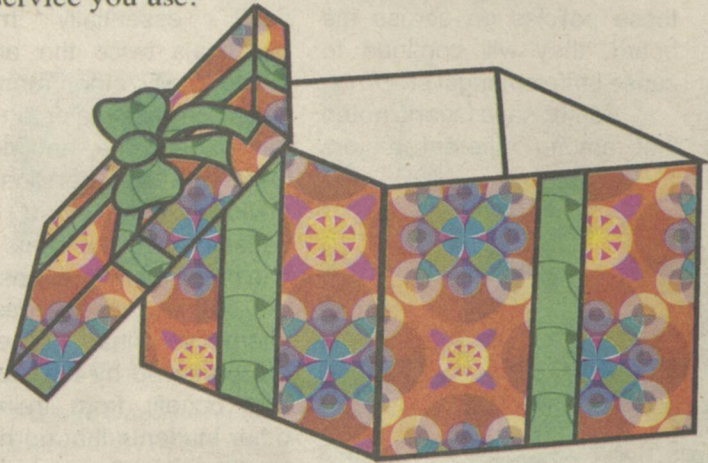
GIFT GUIDE

By Dani DeVries

Who: The intellectual

What: Bookbinding

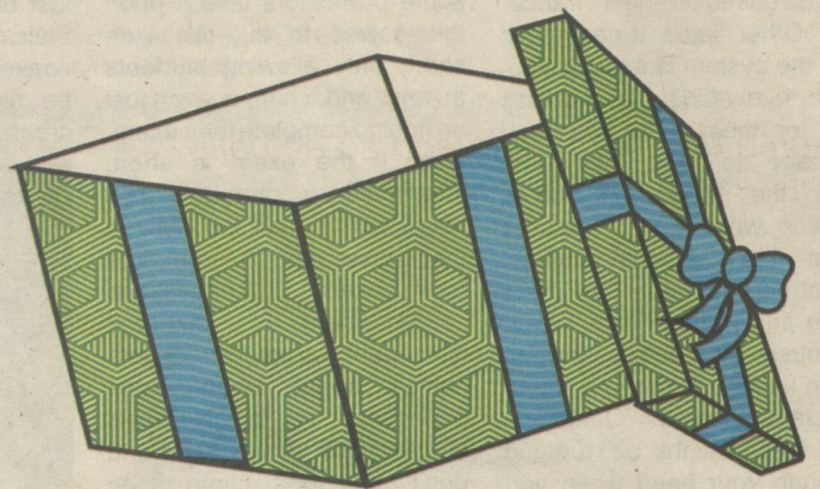
Why: Every bookworm has a favorite book, and, whether it's Harry Potter or Shakespeare, having a nice leather bound copy of the book is always appreciated. By doing a little investigating, you can find a bookbinding store in your area that can restore a damaged classic or rebind a new favorite to look like it belongs in the fanciest of libraries. The extra effort you put in to track down a binder won't go unnoticed, and it's sure to be the most unique present under the tree this year. Prices vary depending on the service you use.



Who: The beach lover

What: Mermaid tail blanket

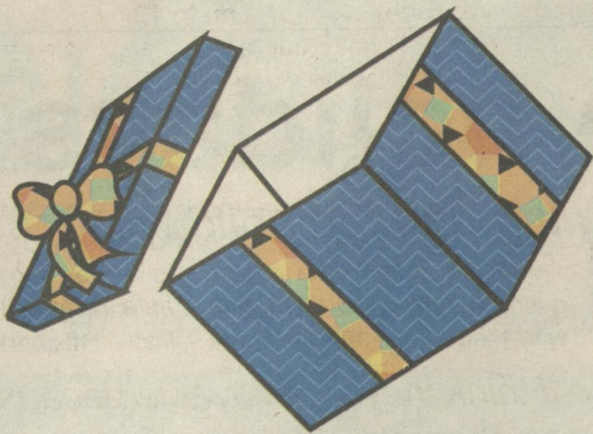
Why: Beach lovers are lying if they say they've never considered how cool it would be to be a mermaid or merman. These blankets are knitted to look like our favorite mythical creatures' tails, and they have the added bonus of ensuring your toes don't get cold. Most of these blankets are handknit and can be found on sites like Etsy handmade in the USA. Supporting the local economy and your friend's lifelong dream to be a mermaid? Sounds like a win-win. Depending on quality, prices range from \$25 to \$80.



Who: Sibling

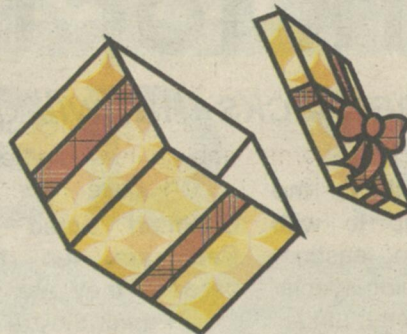
What: Frame your favorite childhood photo together

Why: Siblings can be particularly hard to shop for, especially as we get older. Sometimes, it's better to go back to basics and reminisce on the good old days. That's why framing a favorite picture together is a great way to remind them that you love them. Make the moment extra special by reflecting on the memory the photo brings back, and making an effort to enjoy moments like those in the future.



Who: Parents or grandparents

What: Donate to their favorite charity in their name
Why: Parents and grandparents have had their entire lives to accumulate belonging, and, chances are, they are looking to downsize. Rather than buying them another possession, make a donation to their favorite charity in their name. They'll love that you want to support the causes they care about, and you'll ensure them good karma for the whole year.



Who: The social butterfly

What: A mini Polaroid camera

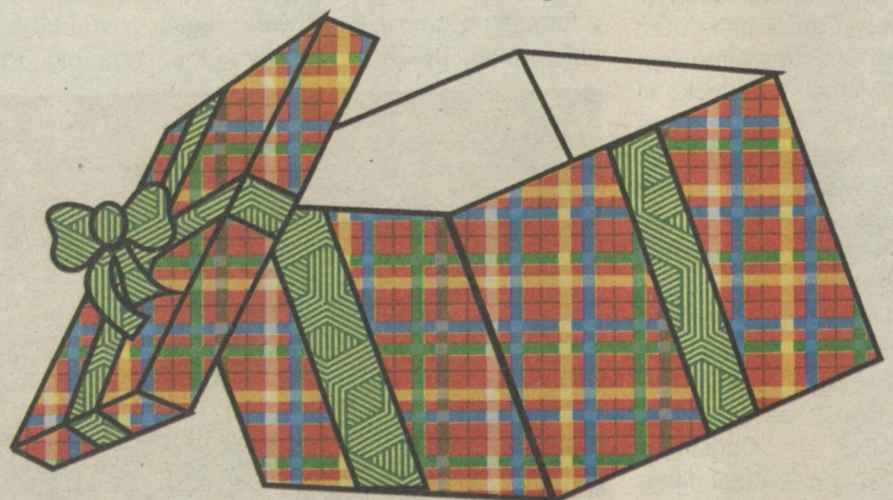
Why: If your friend is the life of the party, chances are they don't want to stop to go through the dozens of identical photos on their phone. Instead, give them instant gratification by letting them document their fun in real time and treasure the memories forever with physical photos. Mini Polaroids are small enough to carry around without it being an inconvenience, and they won't break the bank if you're shopping on a budget, as prices normally range between \$50 and \$60.



Who: Your significant other

What: A fun experience

Why: Sure, you could go the generic route and opt for jewelry or something of the sort, but wouldn't you rather show your significant other how well you know them? By getting them tickets to see their favorite band live, cooking them their favorite meal, cheering on their favorite team, or trying something new and daring together like skydiving, it shows that the best gift you can give is time spent together making new memories.



Nora Brewington/The USD Vista

Finals policy leaves room for interpretation

Students discuss discrepancies in finals policies among professors

DANI DEVRIES
Opinion Editor

Finals week tends to be the most dreaded week of the semester. The difference between owning finals week and drowning in it comes down scheduling.

Most everyone has experienced that moment of jealousy when you find out your friend, classmate, or roommate has an easy finals schedule.

Sometimes this simply means they get out for Christmas break earlier than you do based on sheer chance.

Other times, it can seem like the system is against you, and everything is working out for them. How did they manage to take their final with the professor's other section when your professor says that's against policy? What do you mean they don't have any written finals? Wait, seriously, their professor gave them their final on the last day of class instead? Questions like these might be running through your head when you hear friends discussing what their finals schedule is like, and sometimes the answers are unclear. This leaves us all thinking the same thing: finals week doesn't seem fair.

Although the university does not publish an official finals examination policy, one

would think there would be some sort of consensus for what is and is not allowed. While some students are stuck on campus until 10 p.m. a few days before Christmas, others start winter break when their last class of the semester ends, avoiding finals all together. While some policies are certainly up to the professor's discretion, it seems the university might benefit from a concrete list of guidelines.

For instance, finals are marketed as two-hour time periods in which to take our exams. However some professors take it upon themselves to cut this time short, only allowing students an hour and a half, or even just an hour to complete their exam. Even if the exam is short, students are promised two hours and should be allowed the whole time to complete their exam if necessary.

Another common discrepancy among professors comes about when some professors opt to give their students their finals early and don't have them come in on the date of their final. Although, technically, students are supposed to take their exams at their scheduled time, many professors bend this rule. However, those professors that are unwilling to change exam times to accommodate for students are often resented,

simply for following policy. The same goes for professors who are unwilling to allow students to take exams with other class sections. Unfortunately, the lack of consistency among professors makes those trying to follow the designated finals schedule look bad, whereas the professors that are more lenient are appreciated.

Issues can also arise from professors assigning alternative work instead of finals. In these situations, professors have students email the assignment to them, give it to them on the last day of class, or put it in their mailbox at the students' convenience. Although it may be nice for the students, it creates the same problem

as when professors change exam times for students, especially, finals schedules seem to differ greatly.

"I have a take home final, three projects, and only one exam [...]. Obviously, there is a lot of variation on what finals week can mean for different people."

-Katie Liberio

Other professor policies that can frustrate students that don't get to utilize them are policies like not having to take the final if you have an A in the class and perfect attendance, or take-home finals. Unless these policies go across the board, they will continue to cause strife amongst students.

Senior Katie Liberio noted that among different majors

"I have a take home final, three projects, and only one exam which is nice," Liberio said. "However, one of my roommates is a finance major, and she has both exams and projects on the day of her finals, essentially making her finals twice the amount of work. My other roommate is an English major and just has papers due, and doesn't have to attend her finals, so obviously there is a lot of variation on what finals week can mean for different people."

While these types are alternative finals schedules are preferred by the students that benefit from them, for other students that do have a traditional finals week, it may seem unfair. This is especially true given that our finals end so close to Christmas, when many students want to be at home preparing for the holidays. A more consistent finals policy across the board could help ensure that the finals process is fair for everyone and keep finals week envy at bay.



Photo courtesy of USD Student Alumni Association/Facebook
Students line up outside the Degheri Alumni Center waiting for the doors to open for the annual finals feeding frenzy.

Hallmark for the holidays

Cliché Christmas flicks that will get you through the holidays

BROOKLYN DIPPO
Editor in Chief

They're cheesy and predictable and full of classic Christmas catastrophes but, nevertheless, Hallmark Christmas specials are addicting. Airing all day, every day in the month leading up to Christmas, these specials give the perfect distraction from the stress of the holidays.

A bit more dramatic than traditional Christmas movies, your problems will lack in comparison to the dilemmas these protagonists get into. You'll be wishing for some holiday magic to save the day, while you nervously sip hot cocoa on the couch. And, in a twist of relief, everything always turns out perfectly for them in the last 10 minutes. It's a Christmas miracle.

Hallmark Christmas movies are the perfect films to watch while you wrap presents or trim the tree.

They're a great pick for the family to cozy up to with stomachs full from feasting. But there is something special about watching alone, under a blanket, with a Christmas cookie or four. It's the perfect escape from reality: you experience the snow falling, a brief bit of tension, and then a flood of happiness that seeps into your own reality. It gives you a little hope that, while your holidays might be a fumble right now, it will work out perfectly by Christmas day.

Senior Kaitlin Goodhart noted that the films are fun to watch because they are so cliché.

"I think they're enjoyable because they're so cheesy," Goodhart said. "Holidays are stressful for everyone no matter what your age is, and those classic Hallmark movies in a way relieve your stress. The cheesiness takes you out of reality."

These films have become such a staple in the holidays that some bloggers have even

designed games to go along with them. Take the Hallmark

of happy endings, then tune into Hallmark channel in

"I think they're enjoyable because they're so cheesy."

-Kaitlin Goodhart

Christmas movie bingo, for example, in which you mark off tropes like snowball fights and fake significant others while you are binging. On another site, you can generate your own cheesy storyline for the holidays.

Despite producing low-budget films, Hallmark gets big views. When their "Countdown to Christmas" started on Nov. 22, they had the most-watched network for women ages 18-54, according to Forbes. Their original content isn't just made for women either. All of their Christmas shows are family-friendly, so kids can sit around and watch them too.

If you want to add some variety to the classics with a pinch of drama and a lot

December. It's guaranteed to provide a seasonal escape from exams, shopping, or even your crazy family.



Photo courtesy of The Hallmark Channel
One of Hallmark's newest Christmas movies.

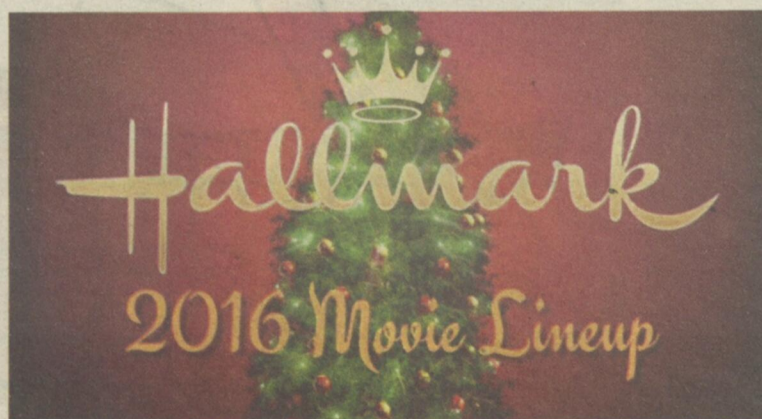


Photo courtesy of The Hallmark Channel
Hallmark advertises for their 2016 Christmas movie lineup.

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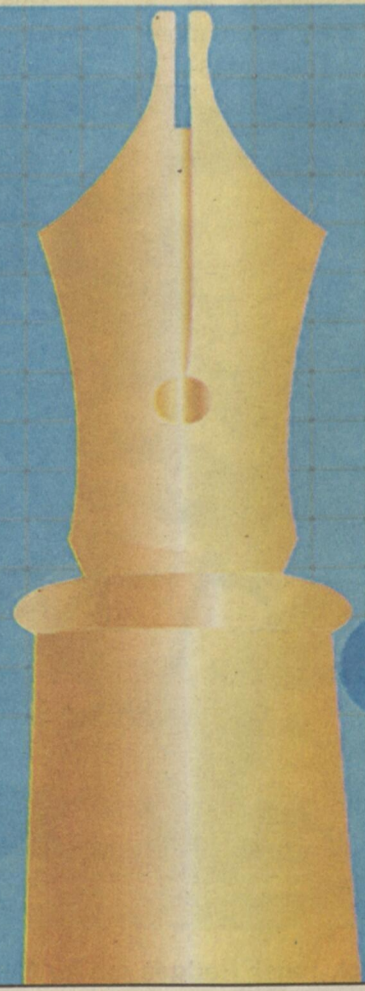
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SPORTS

SPORTS EDITOR
MATTHEW ROBERSON
@mroberson22

Football season comes to an end in North Dakota

NOAH HILTON
Staff Writer

Let's face it: even here on campus, the University of San Diego football team is little more than an afterthought.

Spending Saturday afternoons in a half-empty stadium has seemed to render the Toreros an entertainment option not only for those who can't make it to the sun-soaked sands of the nearby coast, but also for those who aren't quite willing to hunker down in their rooms and knock out some homework either.

That sentiment has persisted since the days of a khakis-clad Jim Harbaugh roaming the sidelines some 15 years ago. That is, until this year's senior class had something to say about it.

You see, for all of the times USD's pigskin program is overlooked, whether because of their inability to offer scholarships, the lower rung of Division-I football they call home, or the lack of NFL-ready talent that takes the field, there is little doubt about one thing: the boys in blue are on the rise when it comes to gridiron greatness.

18 Toreros earned all-conference honors in 2016. Senior running back Jonah Hodges threatened the school's rushing record books and took home the Pioneer League's Offensive Player of the Year Award.

Head coach Dale Lindsey, meanwhile, was named the conference's Coach of the Year for the second time in his brief four-year career here at Alcalá Park.

And for all of those individual accomplishments, the team's success as a whole was likely even more impressive. This was a

roster that went a perfect 8-0 in conference play, outscoring opponents by a collective score of 343-83 while clinching the program's fifth league title in six years.

That banner meant the team would also earn an automatic bid to the playoffs, and the Toreros entered the first round as the No. 24 team in the nation.

Tasked with taking down a 21st-ranked Cal Poly team that had beaten them once already in 2016, the cards seemed to be stacked against USD on a rainy, muddy night in San Luis Obispo just days after Thanksgiving. A team still in search of its first postseason victory, however, the Toreros were in no mood to call it a season just yet.

Led by Hodges' 208 total yard, 3-score performance (including a 171-yard total on the ground that out-gained the Cal Poly Mustangs' entire top-ranked rushing attack by itself), the upstart San Diego squad opted instead to prove the non-believers wrong, topping the Mustangs 35-21 for not just the first playoff win in school history, but also the first victory by any non-scholarship school in an FCS postseason game.

It was a historic win that caught the attention of many around the country, even if only for a few brief moments. It also, however, left the Toreros with an even tougher challenge on the horizon as they took on the five-time defending champion North Dakota State Bison, a program that not only called the NFL Draft's No. 2 overall pick its starting quarterback in 2015, but also a team that has won six straight games against FBS schools.

This streak includes a 23-21 victory earlier this season over Iowa, at that time the

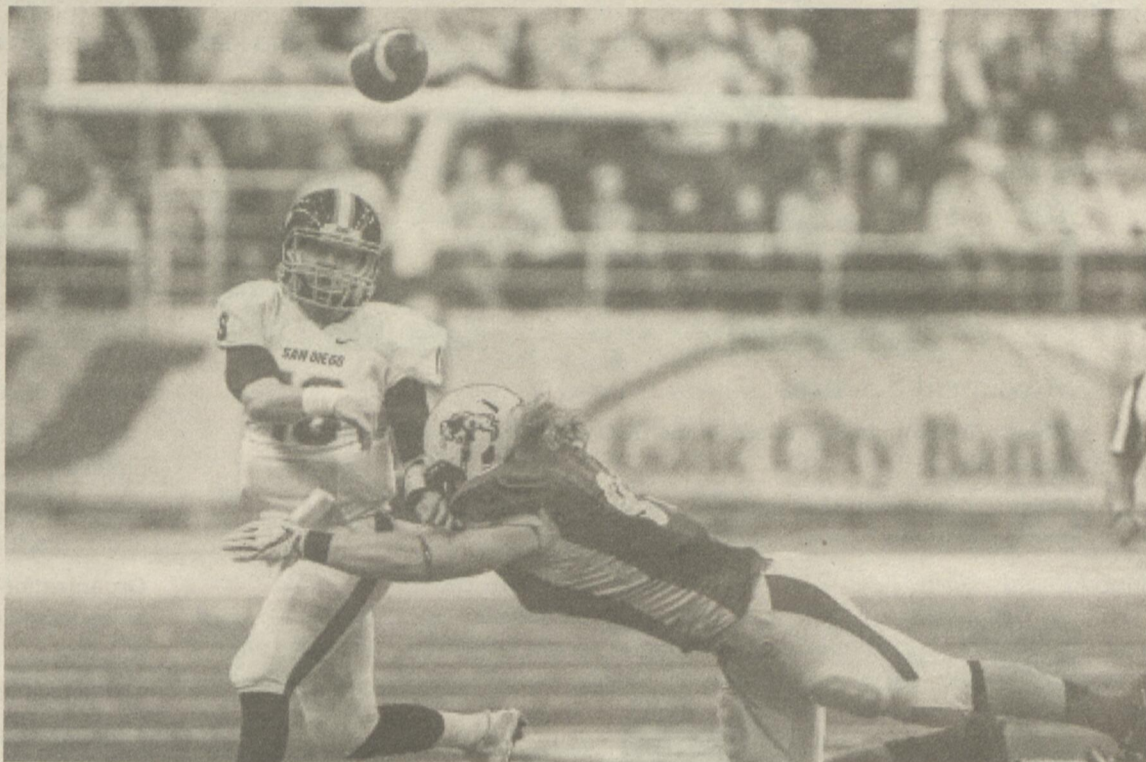


Photo courtesy of Tim Sanger

Quarterback Anthony Lawrence completed 23 of 38 passes for 187 yards vs. NDSU.

13th-best team in the nation.

While the hometown team was able to hang with the herd of Bison for most of the first half, North Dakota State was able to pull away down the stretch, winning 45-7 and ultimately bringing the upstart Toreros' magical season to an end.

There were some highlights for the USD team; including an impressive toe-tapping grab by tight end Ross Dwelley being chief among them, but the Bison's superior talent became more and more evident as the game went on, allowing NDSU to stretch their playoff winning streak at home to seventeen games in front of a crowd more than nine times the size that the Toreros typically play in front of.

It was a result that even the most optimistic of Bull Pit backers should've expected. And while the disappointment of a season being brought to an end will certainly sting in the short-term, there seems

to be little doubt this fall's campaign will leave a built-to-last legacy here at Alcalá Park as the offseason begins to march towards 2017.

Yes, the team is graduating one of the best running backs in school history and what could be at least three future NFL players in Hodges, wide receiver Brian Riley, and cornerback Devyn Bryant.

San Diego-raised quarterback Anthony Lawrence, one of the most productive quarterbacks in the FCS, will return to lead a squad that already looks like a strong favorite to make a return trip to the playoffs next season.

Success between the lines is the foremost goal of any college football program.

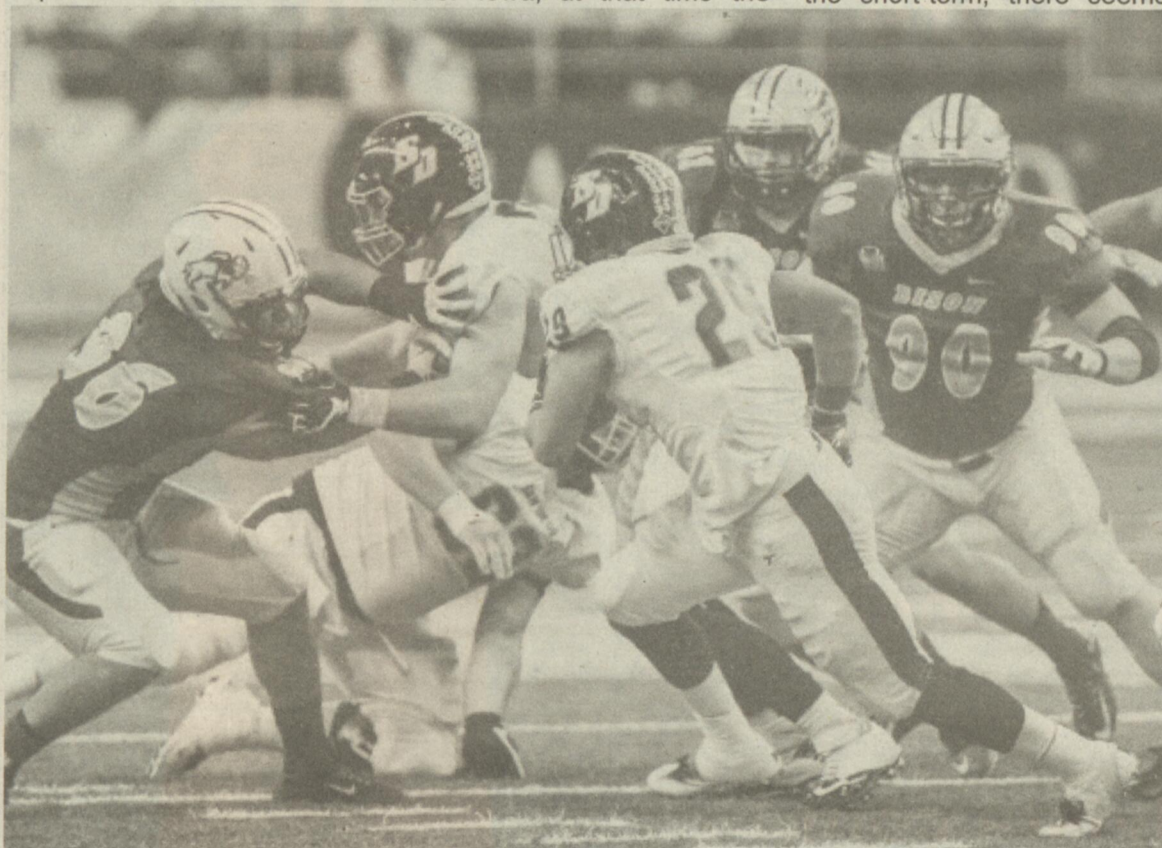
However, this year's iteration of top-drawer Toreros ultimately accomplished something even more impressive: generating buzz on a campus traditionally apathetic toward the outcomes

of its athletic programs' weekly rendezvous with rivals.

For Alcalá Park natives, studies, social events, and surfing may continue to precede school spirit. In spite of the team's program-defining success in 2016, it's possible that not much will change in terms of support for the Toreros and their ongoing accomplishments on the gridiron.

Then again, with a playoff breakthrough against a historic heavyweight here and a third consecutive PFL title there, the boys in blue may have just opened the door for the kind of cultural change this program and this campus have craved for years.

There's no doubt that USD rosters of the past have won their fair share of games, leading the way in a football conference primarily made up of basketball schools. These 2016 Toreros appear to have finally left a lasting legacy.



Photos courtesy of Tim Sanger

Running back Jonah Hodges ran for 93 yards on 19 carries (left). Cornerback Jamal Agnew covers NDSU wide receiver RJ Urzendowski (right).

Torero volleyball loses in NCAA Tournament

MATTHEW ROBERSON
Sports Editor

Another year without a deep NCAA tournament run became a reality for the women's volleyball team at the University of San Diego last week. After losing in the second round last year, the Toreros were looking for another chance to make their mark in the NCAA tournament. Unfortunately, the 2016 season did not yield better results. Playing in the West Coast Conference (WCC) inevitably leads fans and pundits from Power 5 schools to question the merits of the Toreros' victories. Despite their No. 14 national ranking entering Friday's NCAA Tournament first round bout with the Baylor Bears, the ladies of USD seemed to be entering the arena with something to prove.

Unfortunately, the Toreros were unable to prove their naysayers wrong, as they fell to the Bears in a contentious five-set match at UCLA's Pauley Pavilion on Dec. 2. In a season that saw the Toreros at one point climb into the top five of the American Volleyball Coaches Association rankings, a first round exit in the NCAA Tournament serves as an unceremonious conclusion to a once-promising season.

Along with their 24-5 record entering Friday's

festivities, USD also featured the WCC Player of the Year. Redshirt senior Lisa Kramer took home the honor on Nov. 28, making her the 10th player in school history to receive the prestigious Player of the Year distinction. Kramer's win also makes her the fifth Torero to accept the honor since 2008.

Although she was ultimately disappointed with how the season ended, head coach Jennifer Petrie took some time to reflect on her team's 2016 campaign.

"The 2016 season was filled with special victories and magical memories," Petrie said. "This team had wins over top programs that we have never beaten before. The wins against Stanford and UCLA will certainly stand out in my mind, and I am certain that sustaining a 5th place ranking will forever be cherished in the minds of each player."

The match with Baylor came down to the wire. After winning two of the first three sets, the Toreros looked to close out the Bears in the pivotal fourth set. Both teams clung to a lead at different points of the action, and they headed down the stretch knotted up at 18-18. From there, Baylor—who came into Pauley Pavilion with a 21-11 record—took control of the match by seizing momentum and scoring four

unanswered points. This run caused San Diego head coach Jennifer Petrie to use her final timeout, but the Bears were able to vanquish the Toreros anyway, taking the set by a score of 25-20.

Petrie spoke about this four-point barrage her team received from Baylor and how it affected the psyche of her players.

"Volleyball is a game of momentum," Petrie said. "It is a sport where you can feel firmly in control of a game, and then find yourself fighting to stay ahead in the next game. With rally scoring, anytime you let a team gain a significant lead it is very difficult to regain your position. I don't think that particular run determined the momentum for the entire match, but certainly the confidence and momentum was on their side."

In the decisive fifth set, both USD and Baylor came out of the gates strong, with neither team able to get an advantage over the other. With the score tied at 8-8, the Bears had another spell that left the Toreros searching for answers. A 5-1 run moved the score to 13-9 and put the underdog Bears in a position to pull off an impressive first round upset. However, the Toreros brought some drama of their own to the hallowed court in Westwood.



Photo courtesy of USD Athletics
Head coach Jennifer Petrie guided USD to a 24-6 record.

Refusing to go quietly into the night, USD scored four straight points of their own to even the score at 13 and move fans to the edge of their seats.

Alas, the Bears took the match's all-important final two points after a much-needed time out from their head coach Ryan McGuyre. These final two points not only marked the end of the match and a berth in the second round for Baylor, but also a crushing end to the season for USD.

Earlier this season, Mirin Fader of ESPNw, a branch of ESPN dedicated to women's sports, came to Alcalá Park for a story about the Toreros' volleyball team. There is an anecdote in the article about a motto that had become a prominent part of the team's locker room white board.

"Champion or Chump," the message read, followed in the chump category.

by "The Choice is Yours."

Fader interviewed junior setter Kristen Gengenbacher for that piece. Gengenbacher's optimism during the segment now seems to be equal parts prescient and heart-wrenching.

"It's in our hands," Gengenbacher said. "We have the ability to go out there and take it and fight for it."

A little more than a week after that story was published, the Toreros season has come to a premature end. With the possibility of a championship run in their hands, the little school in Linda Vista failed to capitalize, playing into the hands of those who said a program of its size would never be able to compete with the behemoths of collegiate athletics. The reality now is that, once again, the Toreros have found themselves



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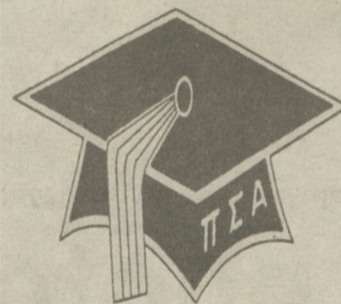
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USD Mortar Board Selection for 2017/18



ARE YOU ...

- ✓ AN UNDERGRADUATE WITH AT LEAST 60 UNITS?
- ✓ IN THE TOP 35% OF YOUR CLASS ACADEMICALLY?
 - 2017/18 - Minimum Cum GPA to be determined in January (2016/17 Minimum Cum GPA was 3.39)
- ✓ EXPERIENCED IN SCHOLARSHIP, LEADERSHIP, AND SERVICE?

If you meet these requirements, you are invited to apply for membership in the USD Alcalá Chapter of Mortar Board, the National College Senior Honor Society (established in 1918).

Applications will be emailed to academically eligible students the week of January 16, 2017. If you meet the above criteria and do not receive an email, please call (619) 260-4720.

Note: the application will also be available on the USD Mortar Board website the week of January 16, 2017. www.sandiego.edu/mortarboard

COMPLETED APPLICATIONS ARE DUE BY MONDAY, FEBRUARY 13, 2017.

Men's basketball loses to USC, beats NAU

On Nov. 30, the USD men's basketball team welcomed the USC Trojans to the Jenny Craig Pavilion. The Toreros lost 76-55, then traveled to Flagstaff, Ariz. to play the Northern Arizona University Lumberjacks. Head coach Lamont Smith and his team were able to beat the Lumberjacks 80-65, thanks to 26 points from Brett Bailey and 20 points from Cameron Neubauer. Every Torero starter had at least eight points in the game against NAU, which was USD's third win of the young season.



Photos courtesy of USD Athletics

Sophomore guard Olin Carter III continued his great season with 21 points and seven rebounds vs. USC (left). Head coach Lamont Smith (right).



Photos courtesy of USD Athletics

Senior forward Brett Bailey was named WCC Player of the Week on Dec. 5 (left). Freshman Nassir Barrino started six of USD's first eight games (right).

More photos from USD vs. NDSU



Photos courtesy of Alyssa Eidsness and Tim Sanger

Anthony Lawrence hands off to Jonah Hodges (left). Junior safety Colton Giorgi breaks up a potential NDSU touchdown in the first half (right).