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**News Media Coverage
June 2008**

**University of San Diego Print Media Coverage
June 2008**

Graduation 2008

Alpine students graduated from USD (Alpine Sun).....	1
Lara Ferris graduates from USD (News Chieftan)	2
Jamie Lyn Craig (View News.com).....	3
Local milestones (Marinij.com).....	4
Jones graduates from USD (Wicked Local.com).....	5
Where are the class of 2008 valedictorians going next? (Orange County Register).....	6
28 young women to be presented (Gazette.com)	7
Spotlight on Seniors: Kelly Ness (Friday Flyer).....	8
Mercy grad chosen to receive scholarship (Daily News).....	9

College of Arts & Sciences

New officers named for San Diego Natural History Museum's Board (SD Daily Transcript)	10
Father Junipero Sera (Latin Mass Network.net)	11
Scientists probe Chile's coast for climate change factors (Pantagonia Times).....	15
<i>All's Well</i> kicks off Old Globe summer slate (Playbill.com).....	16
VSA arts announces 2008 Williamstown Theatre Festival Apprenticeships (PR Newswire.com) ..	18
What shapes the minds that make news (Philly.com).....	19
Mango Tango Seaside Art Gallery exhibits four artists (St. Thomas Source).....	20

School of Business Administration

USD's Burnham-Moores Center offers diversity scholarships (Metro Weekly).....	21
Certificate scholarship (SD Daily Transcript).....	22
Diversity scholarships (SD Metropolitan).....	23
L.A. planning director (SD Daily Transcript).....	24
USD economic index continues to sputter (SD Business Journal)	25
USD indicates consumer confidence remains a slippery slope (SD Daily Transcript).....	26
Index shows deepening slump (The Californian)	27
USD's Index of Leading Indicators (SD Metropolitan).....	28
County economic slump to continue (10News.com)	29
San Diego's economic slump could last through mid-2009 (KFMB.com).....	30
San Diego's economy continues to decline (KPBS.org).....	31
Region's economic index falls (SD Business Journal)	32
Retailers may not see upturn until the holidays (SD Business Journal).....	33
Housing sector won't recover in 2008, experts predict (SD Business Journal).....	34
Steep gas prices exerting wide strain on local companies (Red Orbit.com)	35
Business case for green buildings (National Driller.com)	36
Choose efficiency (Hartford Business.com)	38
What a ride it's been for Giese (Newsday)	40
Pliant technology names Greg Goelz vice president of marketing (Calibre).....	42
UC hires property pros (Cincinnati.com).....	43
Woman on wheels: Romero's on target (The Standard).....	44

JUNE 2008 - P. 2

Showtime! Althea CEO dons grass skirt (SD Business Journal)	45
Leading economic indicators (SD Daily Transcript)	46
Black & Decker: Building a model for change	47
Real Estate Marketing Course (CA Real Estate Journal).....	48
Other Events (SD Daily Transcript).....	49
Real Estate Calendar (SD Daily Transcript)	50

School of Law

Law firms reorganize to help clients weather climate change issues (Los Angeles Daily Journal)	51
\$842M in stimulus cash held back from debtors (CNNMoney.com)	52
Accountants, consumer groups clash (Capitol Weekly.net)	53
Julia Fellmeth: consumer attorney is bane of many boards (Capitol Weekly.net).....	55
Diversion program for substance-abusing doctors set to expire (Capitol Weekly.net)	58
Medical Board scraps MD substance abuse oversight (Sacramento Business Journal)	60
Ratings power extends beyond information: critic (Business Spectator)	61
Embedding ratings in regulation is mistake-critic (Reuters).....	62
Ratings agencies have 'milked' relationship (efinancialnews.com)	63
Diversity meets data at George Mason Law (Inside Higher Ed.com).....	64
The Law goes open Source (Forbes.com).....	66
PreCYdent legal research web site takes on LexisNexis, Westlaw (Red Orbit.com).....	68
Court names Hirsch, Lund as commissioners (Ventura County Star)	69
Colorful candidate for judge touts experience (Long Beach Press Telegram).....	70
Liquid Realty hires John J. Arens as director (BusinessWire.com).....	71
Your business community (Idaho Statesman).....	72
No Deal (Daily Journal)	73
FdL lawyer challenges O'Rourke for DA Post (The Reporter)	74

School of Leadership and Education Sciences

Most approve of jobs charities doing (SD Union Tribune).....	75
Nonprofit groups receive not-so-good marks (10News.com)	77
SD Foundation releases report on "The Appreciated Sector" (bizSanDiego).....	78
A rare turnaround for a struggling middle school (Voice of San Diego.org)	80
San Bernardino Community College District names its first Latina, female chancellor (Riverside Press Enterprise).....	83
SD Unified to integrate more autistic kids in regular classes (KPBS.org)	84
On autism (Mission Valley News & Views).....	85
Caster Family Center for Nonprofit Research (SD Union Tribune)	86

School of Nursing

Group goes above, beyond African cleric's call to act (SD Union Tribune)	87
--	----

School of Peace

Now, save the world (Los Angeles Times)	89
Jane Goodall is leaving her animal cage to save the planet (Savannah Now)	91
Still saving the planet at 74 (Otage Daily Times)	93

JUNE 2008 - p. 3

USD's Kroc Institute honored for work in Nepal (SD Daily Transcript)	94
'Maoists deserve to be recognized' (Gorkhaptra.org).....	95
Tijuana kidnappers targeting doctors (NPR).....	96
Military not likely to leave border soon, officials say (El Paso Times).....	98
Why former Mexican migrants are staying home (Christian Science Monitor)	100
Recognized experts on call in UN efforts to make peace around the world (English.people.com)	102
"Peace Works: IPJ Nepal Project and Partnership" (SD Reader)	104
"Telling the Truth: Prospects for a Just Peace in Palestine and Israel" (East County Californian)	105

Other

Universities use innovation, education to combat water shortage (SD Daily Transcript)	106
Burmese-American citizen returns from homeland mission (eworldwire.com)	108
Onity kiosk helps universities cut to front of line efficiency (cr80news.com.)	109
Message was clear at USD: We all have a 'right to live free of fear'(SD Union Tribune)	110
"No connection between their religious beliefs and their sexual behavior" (California Catholic Daily).....	112
Sudan scholarship foundation (AllanBurch.blogspot.com)	113
Joe Hake honored as "Citizen of Courage" in San Diego (Left Hand Valley Courier).....	115
Community college smart way to save (Sun Times).....	116
Collins promoted to chief of staff for Dianne Jacob (Ramona Sentinel)	117
Riverside woman selected for Chargers Girls team (Riverside Press Enterprise)	118
U.S. women win rematch against Brazil (SoccerAmerica.com).....	119
Input on improving schools sought at meeting (SD Union Tribune).....	120
Is there a secret to intuition? (Send2press.com).....	121
USD hosts summit on hate crimes (Gay & Lesbian Times)	122
United for a hate free San Diego (SD Metropolitan)	123
NCLR President and CEO to keynote Bravo Foundation's speaker series (NCLR.org).....	124
Voices of women event is June 17 (Coronado Eagle & Journal).....	125
Finance calendar (SD Daily Transcript).....	126

Athletics

A storybook season (SD Union Tribune).....	127
Big names lead the field (ESPN.com).....	129
Toreros gave it a good ride (East County Gazette)	130
Bulldogs take last bite, end USD's run (SD Union Tribune).....	131
Toreros careless in the clutch (NC Times).....	133
Favorites get through regional round (ESPN.com).....	135
USD falls in Long Beach regional final (The Californian).....	136
Toreros season ends with 5-1 loss to Fresno State (CSTV.com).....	137
College baseball players have Omaha in their sights (The Acorn)	138
Sun Devils await USD-FSU winner (SD Union Tribune)	140
San Diego forces 1 more games (Long Beach Press Telegram)	141
San Diego forces Fresno to game 2 (Modesto Bee).....	142
Better luck next year (Long Beach Press Telegram).....	143

June 2008 - p. 4

Bob Keisser: Play Ball! (Long Beach Press Telegram)	146
Pecina pitches Torero to victory (CSTV.com).....	148
Toreros win two, will play for regional title (NC Times)	149
Baseball (NC Times).....	150
USD reaches regional title game vs. FSU (SD Union-Tribune)	151
Long Beach State knocked out of regional (Los Angeles Times).....	152
Blair's gem helps USD advance to regional final (CSTV.com)	154
San Diego 15, Fresno State 1 (Los Angeles Times).....	155
Kyle Blair named freshman All-American	156
Coaching changes (SD Union Tribune)	157
Pecina pitches San Diego past Long Beach State (CollegeBaseballInsider.com)	158
USD finds nemesis in loss to Fresno St. (SD Union Tribune).....	159
USD blanked by Fresno State (NC Times)	161
Matusz puts San Diego on the map (CollegeBaseball.rivals.com)	162
Romanski and Matusz named All-Americans.....	163
Brian Matusz named Rivals.com national pitcher of the year (CSTV.com).....	164
Matusz takes home another first-team All-American distinction (CSTV.com).....	165
Brian Matusz is USD career leader in K's (10News.com).....	166
USD's Matusz is Golden Spikes finalist (NC Times).....	167
NCAA Matusz is finalist for Golden Spikes award (KFFI.com)	168
As expected, USD lefty Matusz goes to Orioles (NC Times).....	169
Toreros' Matusz goes 4 th overall, to Baltimore (SD Union Tribune)	170
Matusz picked early as expected (VoiceofSanDiego.com).....	172
Brian Matusz taken No. 4 overall in MLB draft (CSTV.com).....	174
O's new lefty Matusz has right stuff (Baltimore Sun)	175
Top draftee will come with huge credentials (PressBoxonline.com).....	176
O's take pitcher Matusz with fourth pick (Baltimore Sun).....	177
Local college athletes make draft (NBC San Diego.com)	178
Roch around the clock (Baltimore Sun).....	179
Fantasy baseball breaking news (RotoWorld.com).....	180
Infielders dominate top of draft (MLB.com)	181
Ex-St. Mary's standout goes No. 4 in baseball draft (EastValleyTribune.com)	182
Roster a mystery to local clubs (Bluefield Daily Telegraph).....	183
USD's Matusz ready for his next big day (SD Union Tribune).....	184
Crystal ball: Projecting first 30 picks (MLB.com).....	185
Ray's reversal of fortune extends to draft (USA Today)	186
Amateur draft makes college coaches uneasy (The Oregonian)	187
MLB Draft 2008: Who Should the Cincinnati Reds take with the seventh pick? (Bleacherreport.com).....	188
Draft: Talent is top need (Cincinnati Enquirer)	189
Brewers sweep Mustangs (Independent Record)	190
Norco grad Romanski ready to pitch, or hit, in the pros (Riverside Press Enterprise)	191
Participants walk and remember at Relay for Life (Press Enterprise)	184
Pecina and Gelbrich drafted on day two (CSTV.com).....	196
Sports: Nationals' draft picks to join Lake Monsters (Burlington Free Press)	197
Varsity times insider (Los Angeles Times blogs).....	198

June 2008 - p. 5

Giese showing Yankees he's no lemon (NJ.com).....	199
Newest Yankee just tries to fit in (New York Times).....	200
Stadium is striking for Dan Giese (New York Daily News).....	201
Surfing the Mets (New York Daily News).....	202
Four RiverDogs, Tyson selected to All-Star team (Charleston Post and Enquirer).....	203
Singleton goes from All-Star in Beloit to miracle (Fort Myers News Press).....	204
Carrying the lumber: The 2008 Sox are hitting at a furious pace (Wenatchee World).....	205
Cindy Fisher receives multi-year contract extension (CSTV.com).....	206
USD extends Fisher's deal (NC Times).....	207
Fisher gets contract extension (Seattle Times).....	208
Fisher gets contract extension (News Net5.com).....	209
Fisher gets contract extension from San Diego (SportsNetwork.com).....	210
Fisher gets contract extension from San Diego (ABC 7 News).....	211
Satisfied by a tiny taste of fame (SD Union Tribune).....	212
Gonzaga, St. Mary's, San Diego lead charge for WCC (BleacherReport.com).....	213
Any surprise contenders out there? (Rivals.com).....	214
Being a father to his children wasn't enough (Miami Herald).....	215
Idaho men's assistant Burns leave for job at San Diego (Idaho Statesman).....	216
Heat named Fizdale assistant coach (National Post).....	217
Fizdale returns to Miami Heat as assistant coach (The Canadian Press).....	218
Heat name David Fizdale assistant coach (NBA.com).....	219
Hawks' assistant joins Heat coaching staff (Miami Herald).....	220
Women's soccer releases 2008 schedule (CSTV.com).....	221
Bolts help educate coaches (Chargers.com).....	222
GMHS football giant more than just muscle (Falls Church News Press).....	223
Ching was Tiger-like in clutch to dominate 100 th Manoa Cup (Honolulu Advertiser).....	224
Alex Ching wins 100 th Manoa Cup (KHNL.com).....	225
USD's 2008-09 novice rowing team tryouts (CSTV.com).....	226
U.S. WNT set to face Norway in Olympic preview (USSoccer.com).....	227
Rodriguez sinks Brazil (Soccer365.com).....	228
Time to try new formation (SportsYa.com).....	229
Girls take on summer tournies (Desert Trail).....	230
Peak performance baseball camps to be held this summer (Rancho Santa Fe Review).....	231

TV & Radio Coverage

- 6/3 Ethics, Technology and Lying; KPBS Radio's "These Days," Hinman
- 6/18 Inflation Worries; KUSI, Gin
- 6/18 Dump the Pump; Fox 6, Gin
- 6/19 USD Autism Conference, "Fox News in the Morning," Robledo
- 6/23 USD Autism Conference; KPBS Radio's "These Days" and KPBS News and KBNT (Univision)
- 6/25 USD USD Autism Conference; Fox 6
- 6/26 USD Economic Indicators Down; NBC 7/39, KUSI, KPBS Radio, 1700 AM Radio
- 6/27 SD economy lags; KBNT (Univision), Gin
- 6/28 Foreclosures in SD; KFMB, Gin

Graduation 2008

June 5, 2008

Alpine Students Graduated from University of San Diego 2008

Nicole Caya of Alpine graduated from the University of San Diego May 25.

Caya earned a bachelor's degree in English with a minor in psychology. At USD she was a member of the Sigma Tau Delta English Honor Society and a tutor at the USD Writing Center. Following graduation, Caya will obtain her teaching credential at USD.

She is a 2004 graduate of Academy of Our Lady of Peace High School. Her parents are Robert and Anne Caya of Alpine.

Jonathan Lewis of Alpine graduat- ed from the University of San Diego May 25.

Lewis earned a bachelor's degree in business administration. At USD he served in the Naval Reserve Officers Training Corps and received his commission May 23. He will report to NAS Pensacola for flight school. He was also a member of Sigma Phi Epsilon.

His parents are Tom and Jane Lewis of Alpine. At the

NROTC commissioning ceremony, Tom was given the honor of presenting his son with his first salute as a Navy officer. Tom was a petty officer who served six years active duty after joining the Navy nearly 40 years to the day of his son's commissioning as an officer. Jonathan Lewis is a 2004 graduate of Christian High School.

The University of San Diego is a Catholic institution of higher learning chartered in 1949; the school enrolls approximately 7,500 undergraduate and graduate students and is known for its commitment to teaching, the liberal arts, the formation of values and community service.

The inauguration of the Joan B. Kroc School of Peace Studies brings the university's total number of schools and colleges to six.

Other academic divisions include the College of Arts and Sciences and the schools of Business Administration, Law, Leadership and Education Sciences, and Nursing and Health Science.

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June 12, 2008

Lara Ferris of Poway graduated from the University of San Diego May 25 with a bachelor's degree in biology. At USD she was a member of the Phi Delta Epsilon pre medical fraternity. Following graduation, she will attend Navy officer candidate school in Rhode Island for nuclear engineering. She is the first in her family to graduate from college. Ferris, a 2004 graduate of Poway High School, is the daughter of Bob and Lyndsay Ferris of Poway.

Arianna's teacher, Donna Nicholas, was named 2007 KLUC 98.5-FM's Teacher of Year, having been nominated by Arianna.

Arianna has physical limitations as a result of cerebral palsy caused at the time of her birth, but she loves to learn and tries exceptionally hard in school.

Arianna is sister to Chrystian, 9, and Brendan, 8, and the daughter of Hector and Jackie Verano, all of Las Vegas.

Jamie Lyn Craig, 22, a 2004 Foothill High School high honors graduate and Navy ROTC scholarship recipient, graduated from the University of San Diego with a bachelor's degree in mathematics, May 25.

Craig was commissioned as an ensign in the U.S. Navy, May 23, in San Diego.

She has aspirations of becoming a Naval aviator, and has been selected to start her flight training with the U.S. Navy in August in Pensacola, Fla.

Craig is the daughter of Robert Craig and Shawna and Don McIntosh.

Cameron Legere, 18, received Eagle status in the Boy Scouts of America on March 7.

Legere is a member of Troop 260, and has held the position of senior patrol leader for the Boy Scouts.

For his Eagle project, he and 35 others helped re-secure seven mine shafts in Sloan to keep campers and ATV riders from falling into the open mines.

Legere graduated from Arbor View High School in June.

He is a member of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, Gilcrease Ranch Ward, and he enjoys swimming and restoring his 1967 Camaro in his free time.

Legere is the son of Bill and Marilyn Legere of Las Vegas.

<<-- [back]



Local milestones for week of June 29

Staff Report

Article Launched: 06/28/2008 10:14:19 PM PDT

Kentfield resident Debra Tomaszewski received a second place award in the portraiture category of the international photo competition, "Prix de la Photographie Paris," for her "Growing Up Girl" project.

won third place for her essay on the effects of immigration in her life. The win included certificates, a trophy and cash prizes. She will read her essay during a citizenship ceremony at the contest sponsor's offices later this year.

Milestones is good news about Marin people. Send typed items to Milestones/Lifestyles at the Marin IJ, P.O. Box 6150, Novato 94948-6150; fax 884-1478; e-mail calendar@marinij.com and place "milestones" in the subject line.

Patrick Wallen of Novato received a bachelor's degree in philosophy with minors in political science and business administration from the University of San Diego.

Brendan Laing of San Geronimo, a 2008 graduate of San Francisco's Stuart Hall High School, has received a Best Buy scholarship.

Anne Wilner, daughter of Paul and Alyson Wilner of Lucas Valley, has graduated from the Columbia University Graduate School of Journalism.

San Domenico School fifth-grader Manisha Patel and her teacher, Joann Brew, were honored at the American Immigration Law Foundation's "Celebrate America" creative writing contest in May. Manisha

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The exams are administered each year and sponsored by the American Association of Teachers of French. This was the second year students from Archbishop Williams High School participated in the exam, and their French teacher was Diane Jackson.

KENEALLY GRADUATES FROM ELON

Julie A. Kenneally, daughter of John and Joyce Kenneally of Marshfield, graduated *magna cum laude* with a Bachelor of Arts degree in international studies and political science from Elon University at commencement exercises held Saturday, May 24. With 1,089 graduates, the class of 2008 was the largest in Elon's history.

WELCOME GEORGIA ANDERSON

Daniel and Kortnee Anderson of Marshview Drive announce the arrival of their daughter, **Georgia Ryan Anderson**. Georgia was born on April 21, 2008, weighing 7 pounds, 13 ounces and measuring 21 inches in length. Proud grandparents are Katherine Jewers, Kevin Jewers and Kathleen and Donald Anderson, all of Marshfield. Georgia is also welcomed by her two dogs, Annie and Oliver.

JONES GRADUATES FROM USD

Patrick Jones of Marshfield recently earned a bachelor's degree in business administration from the University of San Diego. At USD, he participated in the Semester at Sea program, circumnavigating the world and visiting 11 countries.

Jones is a 2004 graduate of Marshfield High School. His parents are David and Margaret Jones of Marshfield.

RESIDENTS WIN AWARDS AT ARTS FEST

"Miss August" by **Sally Dean** of Marshfield was the winner of the first prize for mixed media/3D in the South Shore Art Center juried exhibition held earlier this month. Also, Marshfield artist **Glenn Pollock** won first prize for black and white photography and second prize for color photography. The juried exhibition is the centerpiece of the SSAC Arts Festival.

SACRED HEART HIGH SCHOOL GRADS

The following Marshfield students are 2008 graduates of Sacred Heart High School in Kingston: **Kaitlin M. Cleary, Timothy J. Cruz Jr., Katelyn M. Damaris, Stephen C. Downs, Kayla M. Greenwood** and **Jake L. Pirri**.

For excellence in athletics, dedication and loyalty to the school and its athletic department, sportsmanship and achievement, Cruz received the Outstanding Male Athlete award. Greenwood received a Sacred Heart National Honor Society Scholarship for \$500, and Damaris received a National Honor Society Scholarship for \$1,000 and a gold medal for academic excellence.

TILDEN HONORED AT CHAMPLAIN COLLEGE

At an honors ceremony in April at Champlain College in Burlington, Vermont, **Gary Tilden** of Marshfield received the outstanding fourth-year student award. Gary has been involved extensively with the DREAM mentoring program. He was also the developer for the Lead Hazard Control System project developed for the city of Burlington led by Shubhashree Thekahally.

For the past year, he has been interning at Systems and Software. He will be joining them this summer as a software developer. Tilden is enrolled in the software engineering program at Champlain College, a private, baccalaureate institution that offers professionally focused programs in business, technology and human services balanced by a strong core curriculum.

BURGHARDT IS DIRECTOR OF EDUCATIONAL SERVICES

Joy Burghardt of Marshfield recently joined Riverside Community Care as director of educational services. A board-certified behavior analyst, Burghardt has 25 years of experience in health care, human services and education. She has expertise in managing acute and long-term behavioral health issues and has worked with children with autism spectrum disorders and brain injuries in both day and residential settings.

In her position, Burghardt is responsible for providing input on strategic organizational planning to Riverside targeted at the expansion of children's services. Riverside Community Care, through its more than 70 programs across Massachusetts, provides mental health care, substance abuse treatment, services to individuals with developmental disabilities and traumatic head injuries and other health and human services to more than 14,000 people annually.

Share your news with me via e-mail at aroundmfld@verizon.net, by fax at 781-837-4540, or by writing to me c/o Around Town, Marshfield

Friday, June 27, 2008

Where are the Class of 2008 valedictorians going next?

By **FRED SWEGLES**

SUN POST NEWS

Now that they've graduated, where will San Clemente High School' brightest be pursuing higher education this fall?

The Sun Post News asked, and San Clemente High was kind enough to provide a list of 2008 valedictorians and the colleges they planned to attend:

Madison Aguirre: USC

Austin Bly: UC Berkeley

Brian Brunner : Stanford

Andrew Cabodi: USC

Paulina Cassimus: UC Santa Barbara

Alvina Chow: UCLA

Alexandra Clancy: University of San Diego

Kelli Cornell: New Mexico

Ryan Crowe: Georgetown

Michelle Ditto: UC Santa Barbara

Audrey Egan : Cal Poly San Luis Obispo

Michael Ernandes: UC Berkeley

Erin Fashing: Arizona

Daniel Filippi: Saddleback College then transfer

Mia Galassi: San Diego State University

Jeffrey Glaser: USC

Marin Goodall: Emerson College

Danielle Hall: Cal State Long Beach

Taylor Hall: Westmont

Brian Haug: Cal Poly San Luis Obispo

Sarah Irish: Saddleback College, then transfer

Ryan Jensen: UC Berkeley

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28 young women to be presented

June 21, 2008 - 10:41PM

The Colorado Springs Debutante Ball has been a tradition in Colorado Springs for 41 years. It honors young women and their families who have made significant contributions to their schools and communities.

Proceeds benefit the Colorado Springs Fine Arts Center's only ongoing acquisition fund. Through 2007, more than \$485,000 has been raised in support of the museum's permanent collection. Twenty-eight young women representing nine area high schools will be presented at the holiday ball in December. They are:

Elaine Anne Alexander is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Robert Mitchell Alexander. She is a graduate of Simla High School and plans to attend Baylor University.

Lauren Josephine Blackmun is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Scott Anderson Blackmun. She is a graduate of Cheyenne Mountain High School and plans to attend De Paul University.

Meredith Elise Bordelon is the daughter of Dr. and Mrs. Brock Matthew Bordelon. She is a graduate of Air Academy High School and plans to attend Colorado State University.

Claire Elizabeth Daniel is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Bobby Lane Daniel. She is a graduate of Cheyenne Mountain High School and plans to attend Colorado College.

Caitlin Ruth Elizabeth Farry is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Edward Thomas Farry Jr. She is a graduate of William J. Palmer High School and plans to attend the University of Puget Sound.

Sara Dorothy Ferguson is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Daniel Stuart Ferguson. She is a graduate of the Colorado Springs School and plans to attend Colorado College.

Jeannie Moon Folan is the daughter of Dr. and Mrs. Richard Denis Folan. She is a graduate of Fountain Valley School and plans to attend Hamilton College.

Cassandra Estelle Glaser is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Eldon George Glaser. She is a graduate of Rampart High School and plans to attend the University of Hawaii at Manoa.

Mary Ann Hazuka is the daughter Dr. Mark Bernard Hazuka and Ms. Eleanor Ann Forney. She is a graduate of St. Mary's High School and plans to attend Gonzaga University.

Erin Leigh Hyde is the daughter of Mr. Stephen Stewart Hyde and Ms. Loren Lee George. She is a graduate of the Colorado Springs School and plans to attend Villanova University.

Heather Morgan James is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Morgan James. She is a graduate of Cheyenne Mountain High School and plans to attend the University of San Diego.

Stephanie Neal Kurica is the daughter of Dr. and Mrs. Kenneth Booth Kurica. She is a graduate of Cheyenne Mountain High School and plans to attend Azusa Pacific University.

Edition:
June 20, 2008

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Spotlight on Seniors: Kelly Ness

Throughout her high school years at Linfield Christian School, Kelly Ness managed to score well, not only on her report cards but also on the tennis court. Kelly, the daughter of Canyon Lake residents Jim and Becky Ness, has excelled in numerous endeavors for which she has been recognized.

Her academic awards include being honored as Student of the Month by the Temecula Valley Chamber of Commerce. Kelly was on the Principal's Honor Roll for grades 9 to 12 and has a 4.16 GPA. She was a member of the National Honor Society (NHS) for the past three years and was its campus vice president during her junior year.

Kelly was also a California Scholarship Federation (CSF) member throughout high school. She was recognized by ACSI (Association of Christian Schools International), receiving its Distinguished High School Student Award in academics, leadership, athletics and Christian service. Her mathematic skills earned her the USAA National Mathematics Award in 2007.

Kelly excelled in English and was a member of the National English Honor Society for grades 10 to 12. She received the ACSI Creative Writing Award her sophomore year. She also received High Merit Awards for the Young Writers Contest for fall 2005 and the Young Poets Contest for spring 2006.

She received the Presidential Academic Excellence awards her freshman through junior years. During her junior year she joined the National Society of High School Scholars. She was also in Who's Who Among High School Students.

Kelly excelled on the tennis court and played on Linfield's varsity team all four years; she was the team captain from her sophomore through senior years. Her excellence on the tennis court earned her the MVP of the league in 2005 and 2006. She was the CIF Tennis League champion for doubles her junior year and, during her senior year, she was the CIF All League singles player.

For the past two years she was also named Scholar Athlete of the Year for tennis. She holds membership with the United States Tennis Association and is a tournament and league player. She is also a member of the Canyon Lake Tennis Club where she takes lessons and participates in tournaments.

Though much of Kelly's time at Linfield was devoted to tennis and academics, she found time to be the Interact Club secretary her sophomore year, the Interact Club president during her junior and senior years, a Link Crew leader for the past three years, and was a member of the Spanish Club. She worked with Assistees, an auxiliary of the Assistance League of Temecula Valley, for four years. In addition she was a member of the Lady Lions Athletic Society and did community outreach in Mexico. She was also involved in the "Got Clothes?" ministry during her freshman and sophomore years.

Kelly was recognized by the Bible department during her sophomore year and was named Bible Student of the Year. She was involved with Operation Homefront Ministry at Cornerstone Community Church throughout high school. Other activities included working in the church nursery during her freshman and sophomore years and teaching Sunday School for the past two years.

Kelly's numerous achievements and outstanding commitment to excellence in all that she does didn't slip by the University of San Diego, which granted her a \$40,000 Presidential Scholar scholarship. Kelly was also recognized with a \$1,000 scholarship from the Linfield Christian School Board of Trustees and a \$500 Scholarship from Sizzle/BMW Management. Kelly's goals are to major in business and obtain Bachelor's and Master's degrees.



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DAILY NEWS

Mercy grad chosen to receive scholarship

Special to the DN

Article Last Updated: 06/28/2008 07:58:59 AM PDT

Mercy High School graduate Neil Lawley was chosen to be one of the first Tehama County recipients of a McConnell Foundation Scholarship.

This is a variable, need-based award of up to 90 percent of the recipient's unmet financial need with a limit of \$10,000. It is renewable for up to four years. The purpose of this award is to close the gap of being accepted to college and not being able to afford to go.

Lawley will attend California Polytechnic State University San Luis Obispo where he will major in Architectural Engineering.

Lawley's classmate, Samuel Diaz was the recipient of the Gates Millennium Scholarship and will receive full unmet need for college expenses for four years. Students in specific majors can carry the scholarship forward into masters or doctoral programs. Diaz will attend Colgate University, New York where he will major in psychology and neuroscience and minor in Spanish.

All of Mercy High School's Class of 2008 will be attending college in the Fall. Colleges include University of San Diego, Colgate University, New York, University of Nevada, Reno, Shasta College, Butte College, University of Washington, Seattle, John Paul the Great University, UC Berkeley, UC San Diego, UC Santa Cruz, UC Irvine, Humboldt State University, California State University Chico and Cal Poly San Luis Obispo.

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College of Arts & Sciences



Monday, June 30, 2008

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New officers named for San Diego Natural History Museum's board

Monday, June 30, 2008

The San Diego Society of Natural History and the San Diego Natural History Museum have elected new officers to its board of directors. The new officers will serve in their positions for one year.

Eleanor Navarra is returning as board chair and serves on the Development, Finance and Public Programs committees. She is a former teacher, active community volunteer and active docent at the San Diego Natural History Museum prior to joining the board in 2001.

Iris H. W. Engstrand, Ph.D., will serve as vice chair. She is a professor of history at the University of San Diego. Engstrand has co-authored several books with her USD graduate students, including the history of the San Diego Natural History Museum.

Jon Schmid will serve as secretary. Schmid is a founding partner of **Cook & Schmid**, a full-service marketing communications and public relations firm based in San Diego. Schmid specializes in strategic counsel and media relations. He currently serves on the museum's Institutional Advancement and Dos Aguilas Fiesta Committee.

Frank L. Smith, president of **Foresters Equity Services Inc.**, a \$5-billion mutual-benefit society headquartered in Canada, will serve as treasurer. Smith currently serves on the Finance Committee.



The Latin Mass Network

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« Mary as a Model of Obedience | Main | Ecumenism or Compromise? »

FATHER JUNÍPERO SERRA, THE MAN

.. Interviews with California historians and scholars assessing Father Junípero Serra's role in the early history of California identify the Franciscan missionary as a major figure in California history whose founding of Mission San Diego de Alcalá on July 16, 1769, marked the introduction of a new civilization in California. Father Serra came to what is now California as a 56-year-old man, asthmatic and suffering from a chronic leg sore that troubled him for the last 15 years of his life. Yet he walked thousands of miles, rode thousands more on the backs of mules, and traveled thousands of miles in sailing ships, bringing the Spanish language to California, as well as the Roman Catholic religion and a chain of nine missions that became the cities of today's California. He introduced agriculture and irrigation systems, pressed for a system of law to protect California's Native Americans against the abuses of Spanish soldiers and created a network of roads.

.. The following excerpts of interviews with historians and scholars, as well as a Franciscan priest with extensive knowledge of the life of the pioneer missionary, describe Father Serra, the man:

DR. MICHAEL MATHES, Professor of history at the University of San Francisco:

.. "Serra was the founder and the pioneer of California. The poor man has had no privacy for years. Everybody has picked at every little aspect that could be known about this man's life."

.. "Serra fought with the military and with the governors a lot. He was unusual in that regard. . . So we have, in a lot of correspondence of these governors, criticism of Serra, lots of criticism. But this criticism of Serra revolves around the fact that he was too much involved in the care and treatment of the Indians, that he would not allow soldiers to mingle with the Indians. He didn't want these people (the Indians) to be tainted with any possible immoral activities that the soldiers might be involved with."

.. "First came the Indians in his missions. Then, if there was anything left over, the soldiers could have it. These were the complaints of the government, of the civil governors: that Serra was such a fanatical missionary that he really didn't want to cooperate with the civilian government, that his first concern was the taking care of his mission. Criticism of Serra is really a boomerang against anybody that would say Serra was a 'bad person ,' because the criticism of him supports the theory that he was a dedicated missionary, He may not have been much of a diplomat or civil servant, but he was one fine missionary."

DR. HARRY KELSEY, curator of history at the Los Angeles Museum of

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SAINT OF THE DAY



SUNDAY SERMONS

- Sermon for the Fourth Sunday in Lent
- Second Sunday in Lent
- Sermon for the First Sunday in Lent
- Sermon for the Second Sunday of Advent
- Last Sunday After Pentecost

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- EWTN Televised Solemn High Mass on Feast of the Precious Blood July 1st, 2008
- FSSP Eucharistic Congress in Quebec
- Immaculate Conception in Portsmouth, NH adds every Friday 12:10 PM Traditional Latin Mass
- San Juan Bautista, CA on June 29, 2008 First Traditional Latin Mass 2PM
- Solemn High Latin Mass on Solemnity of Sacred Heart, New Bedford, MA on May 30th at 5:15 PM

[see all announcements](#)

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Natural History:

.. "Father Serra was certainly a very human man. He had lots of weaknesses, I suppose, but he had tremendous dedication and strength of purpose. He was as old as I am before he even came to California... It's something to think about doing when you're in your 20s and 30s, not when you're in your 50s. Serra had been a college professor for a long time, a fairly well known theologian, and he had lived a pretty comfortable life. When he went to Mexico, he decided he wanted to go to the missions, so his superiors sent him off to the missions. When he finished his mission, he decided that wasn't quite enough. He wanted to come here to the real frontier, so they sent him up here. "

.. "He tended to fly off the handle with the governors. Whether the governors could have been treated effectively any other way, I don't know. Serra got the missions started, though, and he was able to put them on a pretty firm footing."

DR. DAVID HORNBECK, professor of historical geography at California State University, Northridge:

.. "I look at him more as a leader in a sense of his extraordinary administrative ability, and his ability to coordinate the settlement of a whole new frontier. He did it all by himself... If he'd done that for Kentucky, if Father Serra had been Daniel Boone or any one of the sort of folk heroes that we have, well, their feats are exaggerated way beyond what they actually did. Yet, we have somebody here who took a whole brand new frontier, didn't know anything about it, and in four years had taken and converted it to a functioning, organized frontier."

DR. IRIS ENGSTRAND, professor and chair of the Department of History at the University of San Diego:

.. "We know Father Serra's life from the time he was born, where he was trained, what he thought and what he did. He wasn't out there saying, 'Wow, look at all these Indians. Let's whip them into shape.' He was physically there, he worked hard, worked 18 hours a day. He was much nicer to the Indians, really, than even to the governors. He didn't get along too well with some of the military people, you know. His attitude was, 'Stay away from the Indians.' I think you really come up with a benevolent, hard-working person who was strict in a lot of his doctrinal leanings and things like that, but not a person who was enslaving Indians, or beating them, ever."

.. ". . . He was a very caring person and forgiving. Even after the burning of the mission in San Deigo, he did not want those Indians punished. He wanted to be sure that they were treated fairly. . . "

DR. GLORIA MIRANDA, an historian who is associate professor and chair of the Chicano Studies Department at Los Angeles Valley College and who is working on a book about the pioneering family during Father Serra's time:

.. "He clearly saw the need for stability on the frontier. He was also very zealous in his protection of the tribes that he was working with. Often some of the soldiers who came north were not the best role models to imitate."

.. "He is as much a pioneer of the West as the pioneers we cherish in U. S. history. Not only because he introduced a faith -- he was a colonizer, an explorer, a man of great determination. Not that many people come around in history.

.. "His age is much more amazing. And his illness, his physical limitations. He was a very humble man, too. With his credentials, he could have had a very nice cloistered life, but he chose a life of hardship, which is very much apostolic, I think."

FATHER FRANCIS F. GUEST, O. F.M., director of the Santa Barbara Mission Archive-Library:

. . "He was a man who was not really interested in fame or in honor, or in being held in high regard by the government or by the Viceroy, or by anyone. He was simply interested in doing his spiritual work and if somebody else got the credit for it, he was not concerned one way or the other.

. . "To me, this was an act of extraordinary virtue, extraordinary generosity. It might even be called magnanimity. He was very big-hearted in his love for the Indians, in his love for his work and his dedication to his work. He had very pure intentions. I think that this was an act of virtue on his part, which would merit him very high praise from historians who studied his life from this viewpoint."

BIOGRAPHY

FATHER JUNÍPERO SERRA: BIOGRAPHY

. . When Father Junípero Serra founded California's first mission in 1769, he was 56 years old and asthmatic, with a chronic sore on his leg that troubled him for the rest of his life, and he suffered frequently from other illnesses, as well. He stood just 5 feet, 2 inches, and, as a journalist later wrote, "He certainly didn't look like the man who would one day be known as the Apostle of California." Yet he endured the hardships of the frontier and pressed forward with remarkable determination to fulfill his purpose: to convert the Native Americans of California to Christianity.

. . In pursuit of that goal, Father Serra walked thousands of miles between San Diego and Monterey and even Mexico City. He traveled the seas, also; and by the time he died August 28, 1784, in Carmel he had founded nine missions, introduced agriculture and irrigation techniques, and the Spanish language. He had battled governors, bureaucrats and military commanders to secure a system of laws to protect the California Indians from at least some of the injustices inflicted by the Spanish soldiers whose practices often were in conflict with Father Serra's.

. . Father Serra had been a philosophy professor and distinguished preacher at the Convent of San Francisco in Mallorca, the Spanish island where he was born in 1713. He was 36 years old when he reached the port of Vera Cruz, Mexico, on December 8, 1749, and walked to Mexico City. (It was during that journey of 24 days that an insect bite caused the sore on his leg that sometimes became so painful he had difficulty walking.) He spent 17 years in missionary work in the Sierra Gorda in the present area of North-Central Mexico. In 1767 he became president of the 14 missions in Baja California, originally founded by the Jesuits, then turned over to the Franciscans.

. . At that time, faced with the threat of Russian colonization from the north, Spain had committed itself to pushing northward into what is now the American state of California. Russian America (Alaska) was only 800 miles away. Spain feared that Russia would push south and gain a firm foothold in Alta California. The Spanish military launched an expedition into California in 1769 under the leadership of Gaspar de Portola. Father Serra set out with them to establish missions.

. . Serra's blessing of the site of Mission San Diego de Alcalá on July 16, 1769, marked the beginning of the European settlement of California.

.. Between the years of 1796 and 1784, Father Serra made six voyages by sea totaling 5,400 miles. He traveled by land the distance between Monterey and San Francisco eight times, Monterey and San Antonio 11 times, His longest journey by land was from Monterey to Mexico City. In total, he traveled well over 5,500 miles by land.

.. Father Serra arrived at Monterey aboard the sailing ship San Antonio on June 1, 1770. He celebrated the first Mass on June 3, 1770, on the shore of Monterey Bay, where we now find the city of Monterey.

.. He returned to San Diego to work on the mission there, then founded Mission San Juan Capistrano in 1776, the year of the American Declaration of Independence.

.. When Father Serra died in 1784 he had established nine California missions and baptized 6,000 Indians, about 10 percent of the California Native American population. Those nine missions grew to 21. Today, more than 60 percent of the state's nearly 26 million people live in areas surrounding the missions, and El Camino Real, the road that Father Serra traveled on a tour of the missions shortly before this death, established a major artery running much of the length of the state.

Posted by staff on July 1, 2008 12:05 AM | [Permalink](#)

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SCIENTISTS PROBE CHILE'S COAST FOR CLIMATE CHANGE FACTORS

Written by Julie Sutor

Wednesday, 18 June 2008



Scientists take a close look at Chilean ocean waters

Photo by Benjamin Witte

An international team of scientists began delving into the mysteries of Chile's coastal waters last Friday, hoping to unlock the secrets of the deep – particularly as they might relate to global climate change.

Experts from some of the world's leading research universities headed out from the Region II city of Iquique aboard the research vessel Armada Vidal Gormaz. The 10-day oceanographic cruise is serving as the base for pioneering research in "oxygen minimum zones" found only off the coasts of northern Chile and southern Peru. These masses of water with extremely low oxygen content – and with the microorganisms that inhabit them – could serve as a crystal ball for what some ocean waters could be like in a warmer world.

Team leader and Universidad de Concepción researcher Osvaldo Ulloa has predicted that global warming will cause the oxygen minimum zone to expand.

The ship will take the researchers about 90 miles west off the Iquique coast to conduct their studies using several tons-worth of the latest equipment and technology. The sophisticated instruments aboard the ship will allow scientists to take measurements at depths of more than 9,800 feet.

The team members hail from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT), the University of Oregon, the University of San Diego, the University of Aarhus (Denmark), the Universidad de Concepción and Universidad Arturo Prat.

"I'm excited about the collaboration with this group from the U.S., Denmark and Chile," Edward DeLong told the Santiago Times. DeLong is a microbiologist from MIT who is working on the project, but did not join the team on this particular cruise.

"It's a lot of fun to work on this big international project led by the Chileans. This is a great model for how to do science by bringing together the expertise of different groups."



All's Well Kicks Off Old Globe Summer Slate, With Romeo, Juliet and Falstaff in the Wings

By Kenneth Jones
June 14, 2008

Shakespeare — a major part of The Old Globe's mission — shines anew starting June 14 with the launch of the 2008 Summer Shakespeare Festival in San Diego.

Darko Tresnjak returns for his fifth year as the festival's artistic director. *Romeo and Juliet*, *The Merry Wives of Windsor* and *All's Well That Ends Well* will be performed in repertory.

Performances play in the Globe's outdoor Lowell Davies Festival Theatre June 14–Sept. 28.

Old Globe co-artistic director Darko Tresnjak, who helmed the Globe's 2007 productions of *Hamlet* and *Bell, Book and Candle* as well as Theater for a New Audience's production of *The Merchant of Venice*, directs the romantic comedy *All's Well That Ends Well* (which launches the season June 14). Paul Mullins (*Measure for Measure*, *Macbeth*) will return to direct *The Merry Wives of Windsor*, the comedy featuring portly Sir John Falstaff. Old Globe/University of San Diego Professional Actor Training Program director Richard Seer will direct the tragic love story *Romeo and Juliet*.

The 2008 Shakespeare Festival cast features four favorite Globe associate artists, including Kandis Chappell (recent productions include *The Winter's Tale*, *The Constant Wife*, *Collected Stories*), Jonathan McMurtry (SD Critics' Circle winner for his performances in the 2007 Shakespeare Festival, *Trying, Da*), Deborah Taylor (recently seen in *Bell, Book and Candle*, *As You Like It*, *Antony and Cleopatra*) and James Winker (*A Midsummer Night's Dream*, *Da*, *Neville's Island*).

The repertory company also includes Celeste Ciulla, Graham Hamilton, Wynn Harmon, Eric Hoffmann, Charles Janasz, Katie MacNichol, Owiso Odera, Bruce Turk and Heather Wood, as well as the students in The Old Globe/USD Professional Actor Training Program: Ashley Clements, Joy Farmer-Clary, Vivia Font, Kimberly Parker Green, Sloan Grenz, Sam Henderson, Brian Huynh, John Keabler, Michael Kirby, Kern McFadden, Nathaniel McIntyre, Carolyn Ratteray, Tony Von Halle and Barbra Wengard.

The Festival creative team includes Ralph Funicello (set designer); Linda Cho (costume designer for *All's Well*); Anna Oliver (costume designer for *Romeo and Juliet*); Denitsa D. Bliznakova (costume designer for *The Merry Wives of Windsor*); York Kennedy (lighting designer); Chris Walker (sound

designer); Mary Klinger (stage manager); and Moira Gleason, Tracy Skoczelas and Annette Yes (assistant stage managers).

All's Well That Ends Well opens the Festival, with previews beginning June 14 (opening June 28); *Romeo and Juliet* begins previews on June 18 (opening July 2); and *The Merry Wives of Windsor* begins previews on June 21 (opening July 6).

For a complete schedule of the Shakespeare Festival, visit <http://www.theoldglobe.org/calendar/index.aspx>.

The Globe is continuing "the time-honored tradition of repertory begun by founding director Craig Noel," according to Globe notes. "Shakespeare at the Globe dates back to the institution's artistic roots, when, in its very first year of existence, the Theatre presented 50-minute versions of Shakespeare's plays, performed in repertory. From 1949 to 1984, the Bard's work became an even more integral part of the Globe's programming, with the creation of the annual San Diego National Shakespeare Festival, an ambitious, summer-long event in which at least three Shakespeare works were presented in repertory. Revived in 2004, the Globe Summer Shakespeare Festival has become one of the most celebrated classical festivals in the country."

The three Shakespeare productions will be part of a five-play summer season, which also includes *The Pleasure of His Company* by Samuel Taylor and Cornelia Otis Skinner, directed by Darko Tresnjak (July 12-Aug. 17) in the Old Globe Theatre, and Donald Margulies' *Sight Unseen* (Aug. 2-Sept. 7) in the Globe's Arena Stage at the San Diego Museum of Art's Copley Auditorium.

For tickets and more information call the Old Globe box office at (619) 23-GLOBE or visit www.TheOldGlobe.org.

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VSA arts Announces 2008 Williamstown Theatre Festival Apprenticeships

WASHINGTON, June 10 /PRNewswire-USNewswire/ -- VSA arts is happy to announce the 2008 VSA arts Williamstown Theatre Festival apprentices, John-Paul Damante and Stephanie Jordan. Damante and Jordan will be learning about the different aspects of professional theater through stage performance classes and hands-on work at the Williamstown Theatre Festival in Massachusetts from June 11 to Aug. 18 this summer.

Every summer, the Williamstown Theatre Festival Apprentice Program offers 70 promising students classes in acting, voice, and movement, including discussions and master classes with acclaimed theater professionals. Students learn about the business side of theater through rotating work assignments.

VSA arts is committed to providing opportunities for emerging artists with disabilities, and for the third straight year is supporting the apprenticeships of promising young theater students with disabilities.

"Williamstown is one of the most prestigious theater festivals in the country," said Soula Antoniou, president of VSA arts. "The VSA arts apprenticeship not only increases access for talented theater students with disabilities, it also shows the other participants and faculty what these students can do. We're proud to work with the Williamstown Theatre Festival to make this a reality."

Currently completing his sophomore year at the University of San Diego with a major in human communications and a minor in theater arts, Damante first caught the acting bug long ago when he took drama classes in middle school. He has since been involved in productions of "Dracula" and "Cyrano de Bergerac." Damante, who is deaf, says he is never happier than when he is in front of an audience. In 2002, he decided to undergo surgery and receive a Cochlear implant. Damante hails from Escondido, Calif.

Jordan, from Chevy Chase, Md., and a current student of theater at Montgomery College, aspires "not only to act, but to be able to start my own theater company one day." Her credits include appearances with the Kirov Ballet, American Ballet Theatre, the Harrisburg Shakespeare Festival, and as a Nibelung in the Washington National Opera's production of "Das Rheingold" (director Francesca Zambello). In addition to her work onstage, Jordan, who has Asperger's syndrome, served as assistant stage manager for Bard Summerscape's production of "Genoveva" and Solas Nua's "Scenes from the Big Picture."

About VSA arts

VSA arts is an international nonprofit organization founded in 1974 by Ambassador Jean Kennedy Smith to create a society where people with disabilities learn through, participate in, and enjoy the arts. VSA arts provides educators, parents, and artists with resources and the tools to support arts programming in schools and communities. VSA arts showcases the accomplishments of artists with disabilities and promotes increased access to the arts for people with disabilities. Each year millions of people participate in VSA arts programs through a nationwide network of affiliates

Posted on Sun, Jun. 22, 2008

Influences What shapes the minds that make the news

Name: Jennifer Converse Schelter.

> **Title:** Founder of Yoga Schelter and the nonprofit Yoga Unites.

> **What I Do:** I do what Martha Graham called "being an athlete of God." I lead yoga, meditation, creative visualization, and writing groups

retreats. I am a master at the physical wellness, alignment, strengthening aspects. And I offer the spiritual aspects like a buffet. I was named Best Yoga Teacher 2008 by Exercise TV - it's because of the soul stuff, mixed with my obsession with taking the body seriously, with respect.

> **How did you discover yoga?** In grad school, University of San Diego

Old Globe Theatre Professional Actor Training Program - it was a required course. It was the first time I began to peel the layers of the onion and get to know myself and my body as a partnership.

> **Yoga is important to Philadelphia because:** Philly is fantastic. But let's face it: Philly has major low-self-esteem issues. Yoga is important to Philadelphia as Mayor Nutter is important to Philadelphia: Both are change agents, proactive for new possibilities. With the amount of violence in our city, yoga is a great idea. I have started a nonprofit called Yoga Unites, which has a proposal out to work with men coming out of the prison system to empower them to feel good about their transformation and themselves.

> **The professional achievement I'm most proud of is:** Working with humanitarian lawyer and Philadelphian Susan Burke, in defense of innocent Iraqis tortured in Abu Ghraib. I have taken two trips to Istanbul, Turkey, to be a compassionate witness and note-taker, while former tortured detainees give their testimonies. After such an experience, I needed to do something with (and detox from) what I learned. So I wrote a one-woman show called *Love Lessons From Abu Ghraib* that played to a sold-out audience at the Fringe Festival 2007. I wrote this play to express my passion for my Iraqi friends and my outrage toward the U.S. government's disregard for human rights and the Geneva Convention.

> **What's a yoga position that, after all these years, still gives you trouble? (C'mon, admit it):** Lotus position. It's supposed to be the "Oh-so-peaceful-meditative" pose, but when I'm in it I think, "Who invented this?" I have very long legs, and whoever invented that position must have been in an enlightened trance, half my height, and bowlegged. That or in denial. The other thing that gives me trouble is the good, old "letting go": *savasana*, the final relaxation pose. You know, I am a beginner at nonattachment.

> **Recent book:** *Somatics*, by Thomas Hanna (great on the myth of aging), and *The Language of Letting Go*, by Melody Beattie (great for times when I think, "What am I doing?", which is pretty much every day).

> **Recent movie:** *Sex and the City*. Sarah Jessica Parker is fantastic.

> **I'll know I'm doing a good job if, in five years:** I am creating passionate works of art (offering yoga

meditation/writing retreats, writing plays, performing pieces, painting) that inspire as many people as possible to bring out their truth. If I am working with communities I would never have known I'd work with: political, business and artistic leaders to bridge differences and leave the world more sane and beautiful. I'd like to be the Oprah of yoga.

>

OnePaper: Putting the community back into community news

Thursday, Jun. 5, 2008		St. Thomas, U.S. Virgin Islands		SEARCH SECTION		
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		<p>June 5, 2008 - Mango Tango Seaside Art Gallery opens a four-artist show from 5:30-8:30 p.m., this Friday, June 6, at the Yacht Haven Grande gallery. The exhibit will showcase the oil paintings of Kristen Maize and Brian Murphy, the mixed media paintings of W. B. Thompson and the ceramic sculpture of Mandy Thody. Enjoy the music of 2 Blue shoes during the champagne reception. Kristen Maize is newcomer to gallery. Plein air artist Murphy has been working with the gallery for four years. The maestro of color and texture, Thompson has shown with Mango Tango for over decade, while stellar ceramicist Mandy Thody joined the gallery in 2002.</p>				
		<p>Gallery co-owner Jane Coombes explains the importance of shows for artists. "The artists are given the show date a year in advance. It gives them time for thought, sketching and overall experimenting. At the unveiling, as a gallery owner, I expect growth, new directions and new processes in each artist's oeuvre. Someone might buy a painting at any time, but the paintings enter the gallery setting through the rigors of being part of a show."</p>				
		<p>Maize, who grew up on St. John, participated in the marina gallery's grand opening. Gallery co-owner Smokey Pratt says, "Having a framing division lets us see a great deal of art. We discovered Maize through framing works for her for a show at Michael Banzhaf's fine jewelry and gallery space in Mongoose Junction. At this time her art is a reflection of her love of nature, particularly as it relates to the sea." In her job in the environmental science field she works closely with the natural environment, which keeps her in touch with and appreciative of the beauty of her surroundings. Her direction in painting comes from her formal art training at the University of San Diego and her private art studies with Mercedes Bantz.</p>				
		<p>Brian Murphy received classical training in fine art and illustration at Savannah College of Art and Design. While there he gained experience in oil painting and found direction for his impressionistic landscapes. He is known for talent in his painting on location, working from direct observation, in true plein air fashion. With his hardboard on an easel, natural light becomes central to a Murphy painting. Outdoors, he describes his task as "capturing a moment in life, a time and place, to document the reality of our times."</p>				
		<p>In the studio he uses flowers, fruits and other objects to create superb still lifes. Murphy also uses his studio time to explore different techniques on larger canvas, often using an intimate small outdoor painting for the basis of the composition.</p>				
		<p>W. B. Thompson is one of the most collected artists working in the Virgin Islands. However, he has attained the same status in San Antonio, Texas where he began showing work while he attended Trinity University. Four years ago Trinity University published a book, "San Antonio in Color," featuring over 100 of Thompson's paintings. The Texas Express News hailed it as the "best book of the year." Recently Art Inc. in San Antonio gave Thompson a show featuring the framed works of all the paintings in the book. Over 80 paintings sold before opening night.</p>				
		<p>Gallery co-owner Jane Coombes observes, "we all look forward to a Caribbean book someday." While he is most famous for his wildly exuberant images of familiar streets, buildings, and beaches of the islands, he surprises us with freer works in which he uses more of his imagination than reality. He says he finds this new direction</p>				
		<p><i>Sculpture by Mandy Thody</i></p>				

School of Business Administration

University of San Diego's Burnham-Moores Center Offers Diversity Scholarships for Real Estate Certificate Program



The University of San Diego's Burnham-Moores Center for Real Estate is pleased to announce the "Diversity Scholarship Program for Real Estate Professionals," through which two scholarships will be awarded to real estate professionals interested in earning a certificate in the university's Real Estate Finance, Investments and Development continuing education program.

The scholarships are valued at \$3,600 each and include tuition for eight courses, books and parking. Students graduate with a certificate from the university once they successfully complete all program requirements.

Developed by the Burnham-Moores Center for Real Estate in collaboration with the university's Office of Corporate and Professional Education, the certificate program was launched in February 2006 for real estate and building industry professionals who want to round out their knowledge base.

The program's courses are taught by local industry experts with new courses offered monthly on a variety of essential industry topics, including: the real estate development process; investment and income analysis; legal aspects of real estate; property management; real estate finance; tax considerations; urban development; sales and marketing; and title insurance. A new course on "Opportunities in the

Mexico Real Estate Market" also was just added as an elective.

Professionals take one course at a time, and can either elect to take only specific courses of professional interest within the program or complete the program within two years to earn the Certificate in Real Estate Finance, Investments and Development.

To be eligible for the scholarship, applicants must possess some or all of the following criteria:

Have demonstrated a commitment to advancing the interests of principal minority groups (American Indian or Alaskan native, Asian or Pacific Islander, African-American or Hispanic) in the real estate industry;

Have a minimum of three years of work experience in the real estate industry;

Have an undergraduate degree from an accredited college or university;

Have overcome obstacles such as socioeconomic or educational disadvantages;

Be the first generation in his/her family to attend college;

Have demonstrated a commitment to

See (CERT) page 15

◀ From (CERT) page 13

bringing diverse people together;

Have demonstrated experience in living or working in diverse

environments; Have demonstrated a commitment to serving historically underserved or underprivileged populations; And have demonstrated achievement and determination in the face of personal challenges.

To be considered for the scholarships, candidates should send their resume, qualifications and personal statement indicating what they hope to contribute to the real estate profession. Candidates should also include two letters of reference from real estate industry colleagues or superiors addressing the candidate's potential for leadership. All application materials must be received no later than June 30, 2008.

Applicants will be notified in writing of their status by Aug. 1, 2008; the first class date is Sept. 9, 2008.

Direct non-returnable materials to: John Ferber, Burnham-Moores Center for Real Estate, 5998 Alcalá Park, San Diego, Calif., 92110.

For questions about the application process, contact MBokath@sandiego.edu.

San Diego Daily Transcript

June 3, 2008

Certificate scholarships

The University of San Diego's Burnham-Moores Center for Real Estate announced the "Diversity Scholarship Program for Real Estate Professionals," through which two scholarships will be awarded to real estate professionals interested in earning a certificate in the university's Real Estate Finance, Investments and Development continuing education program.

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The eligible applicant also must be the first generation in his/her family to attend college, have demonstrated a commitment to bringing diverse people together, have demonstrated experience in living or working in diverse environments, have demonstrated a commitment to serving historically underserved or underprivileged populations, and have demonstrated achievement and determination in the face of personal challenges.

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For further details on the certificate program, go to <http://www.sandiego.edu/business/index.php?areaid=12§ionid=228>

Source Code: 20080602tdg

Daily Business Report

June 1, 2008

USD's Burnham-Moores Center for Real Estate is offering the Diversity Scholarship Program for Real Estate Professionals through which two scholarships will be awarded to real estate professionals interested in earning a certificate in the university's real estate finance, investments and development continuing education program. The scholarships are valued at \$3,600 each and include tuition for eight courses, books and parking. Students graduate with a certificate from the university once they successfully complete all program requirements.

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San Diego Daily Transcript

June 4, 2008

L.A. planning director

Gail Goldberg, planning director for the city of Los Angeles, will be the keynote speaker at the graduation ceremony for the University of San Diego's Master of Science in Real Estate program, scheduled for July 11.

USD's incoming School of Business Administration Dean David Pyke will also speak at the event.

Pyke is joining USD from Dartmouth University, where he was associate dean of the MBA program at the Tuck School of Business at Dartmouth College, and the Benjamin Ames Kimball Professor of the Science of Administration.

Goldberg was appointed director of the Los Angeles City Planning Department in February 2006.

In this role, she is responsible for the development, maintenance and implementation of all elements of the city's general plan, as well as a range of other special zoning plans.

Prior to joining the Los Angeles Planning Department, Goldberg worked for 17 years in the planning department of the city of San Diego, the last five years of which she was planning director.

Goldberg is a native Californian and holds a degree in Urban Studies and Planning from the University of California San Diego.

She is an Urban Land Institute trustee, as well as past chair of the San Diego/Tijuana ULI District Council; immediate past president of the San Diego Chapter of the Lambda Alpha Honorary Land Economics Society; a member of the American Institute of Certified Planners; and a member of the California Planners Roundtable.

USD Economic Index Continues To Sputter

San Diego's stalling economy continued to sputter in May, based on a local economic index that showed an eighth straight monthly decline.

The University of San Diego's Index of Leading Economic Indicators dropped 1.1 percent in May, marking the 25th time in 26 months it's declined.

The index, which measures six different components, was weighed down in May by a drop in consumer confidence and smaller declines in the amount of help-wanted advertising and a greater number of unemployment insurance claims filed.

Three other components showed slight increases: the national economic index rate, new building permits issued and stock prices.

Alan Gin, the USD professor who compiles the data, said the region's economy shows no signs of changing and will likely extend through the first half of 2009.

He cited the continued weakness in the labor market, with the region generating a net gain of only 400 jobs through May compared to the same period of 2007.

He said he anticipated next month's employment report to push the number into negative territory.

San Diego's unemployment rate for May was 5.5 percent, an increase of four-tenths of 1 percent compared to April.

In May 2007, the rate was 4.1 percent, according to the state Employment Development Department.

"The labor market is looking particularly weak at this point," Gin said. "How long the job losses will continue and how deep they will be is uncertain at this point."

Earlier this year, Gin said that while the economy would slow and produce fewer jobs, there would likely still be a net gain in employment rather than losses.

— Mike Allen

June 27, 2008

USD indicates consumer confidence remains a slippery slope

By **CHRISTINE MEADE**
The Daily Transcript

SAN DIEGO — The University of San Diego's Index of Leading Economic Indicators fell by 1.1 percent in May, with the biggest drop coming from consumer confidence.

According to USD professor Alan Gin, any drop greater than 1 percent is considered a significant

change. May marks the eighth consecutive month of significant decline, with drops occurring in the last 25 out of 26 months.

Although consumer confidence experienced the biggest blow for the month, it was not as steep as April's drop of 5.66 percent. Help wanted advertising fell by 1.22 percent and unemployment insurance by .82

percent.

Local stock prices saw a slight bump of .14 percent this month, and the national economy by .19 percent. Building permits edged up by a mere .06 percent but the negative slump is now expected to extend at least into the first half of 2009.

The labor market is the new area of concern, as job growth was down in May

compared to the same period last year, making it the second decline in the past three months. If the trend continues, employment growth is expected to turn negative by the next employment report. The severity of the decline is largely unknown at this point.

christine.meade@sddt.com
Source Code: 20080626czn

June 27, 2008

BUSINESS IN

Index shows deepening slump

SAN DIEGO — The mood among consumers grew even gloomier last month, weighing heavily on an index used to gauge the region's economy.

The University of San Diego's Index of Leading Economic Indicators fell to 119.7 points in May, its lowest level in several years, from 120.9 points in April, a decline of 1 percent. A measure of local consumer confidence was the most steeply declining component of the overall index. Other indicators were mixed, with local stock prices and building permits up slightly, and increased claims for unemployment insurance pushing the overall index lower. Help-wanted ads decreased in volume, in another sign of a weakening job market.

USD economist Alan Gin, who composes the index, said the job numbers, along with a monthly report from California's labor department, suggested that San Diego County's economy has probably lost more jobs since the beginning of the year than it has created.

Daily Business Report

June 26, 2008

ECONOMY

USD's Index of Leading Economic Indicators for the county fell 1.1 percent in May. For the sixth consecutive month, the leader on the downside was a sharp drop in consumer confidence. Initial claims for unemployment insurance and help wanted advertising also were down considerably. Three components -- building permits, local stock prices and the outlook for the national economy -- were positive, but only slightly so. With May's decline, the USD Index has now fallen in 25 of the last 26 months and it has declined significantly for eight straight months.

The economic report says there is no sign of any change in the negative outlook for the local economy for the near future, with the slump now likely to extend through the first half of 2009. The labor market is looking particularly weak at this point. For the second time in three months, job growth in May was down on a year-over-year basis. Employment growth for 2008 as a whole through May is now just barely positive with a gain of only 400 jobs compared to the same period in 2007. Barring a huge surge in jobs in June, employment growth for 2008 as a whole will probably turn negative when the next employment report is released. How long the job losses continue and how deep they will be is uncertain at this point.

May's decrease puts the USD Index at 119.7, down from April's revised reading of 120.9.

10News.com

County Economy Slump To Continue

POSTED: 12:30 pm PDT June 26, 2008

UPDATED: 1:52 pm PDT June 26, 2008

SAN DIEGO -- The slump in San Diego County's economy is likely to extend through the first half of 2009, a University of San Diego economist reported Thursday.

The Index of Leading Economic Indicators for San Diego County fell 1.1 percent in May, the eighth straight significant monthly decline, according to Alan Gin, who compiles the index for the University of San Diego's Burnham-Moores Center for Real Estate.

The decline was led by a sharp drop in consumer confidence, fewer help-wanted advertisements and a rise in the number of people applying for unemployment insurance, reported Gin.

The index showed slight gains in local stock prices, building permits and the outlook for the national economy.

"There is no sign of any change in the negative outlook for the local economy for the near future, with the slump now likely to extend through the first half of 2009," the index states.

According to Gin, San Diego's labor market is particularly weak, with job growth in May down on a year-over-year basis.

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SAN DIEGO'S ECONOMIC SLUMP COULD LAST THROUGH MID-2009

Last Updated: 06-27-08 at 7:06AM

A University of San Diego economist reported that the slump in San Diego County's economy is likely to extend through the first half of 2009.



[Enlarge](#)

The Index of Leading Economic Indicators for San Diego County fell 1.1 percent in May, the eighth straight significant monthly decline, according to Alan Gin, who compiles the index for USD's Burnham-Moores Center for Real Estate.

San Diego's Economy Continues to Decline

Jun 26, 2008
 Erik Anderson

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San Diego's economy will continue to struggle if the region's index of leading economic indicators are correct. The University of San Diego index dipped again last month. USD economist Alan Gin says a sharp drop in consumer confidence was a major factor in the decline. He says the slumping housing market continues to pull down the local economy. Gin says high gasoline prices are also having an impact.

Gin: What has been really shocking has been the big run-up in terms of gas prices. Gas prices are about 45 percent higher than they were four or five years ago. And actually, if you look at the month to month moves, actually most of that increase has come since, since February."

Gin says the index is down more than one percent for the eighth consecutive month. A decline in consumer confidence and help wanted ads, along with an increase in jobless claims pushed the index down. Building permits, stock prices and confidence in the national economy were actually all up slightly. Gin says the outlook for the local economy is for continued weakness.



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SAN DIEGO BUSINESS JOURNAL

June 2, 2008

Region's Economic Index Falls: The University of San Diego said its Index of Leading Economic Indicators for the county dropped 1.4 percent in April, for the third consecutive month, and for the past 24 of 25 months. The decline was led by a huge decrease in consumer confidence.

— Mike Allen

SAN DIEGO BUSINESS JOURNAL

June 30, 2008

Retailers May Not See Upturn Until the Holidays

BY LIZ WIEDEMANN

April showers brought May flowers retail-wise, as May industry sales jumped 3.8 percent from that month a year ago, but the forecast for the rest of the year is hazy, economists say.

According to the National Retail Federation's chief economist Rosalind Wells, the economy got a healthy shot in the arm

when consumers received tax rebate checks last month.

Looking ahead, however, things may be slow for local retailers at least until the holiday shopping season.

Alan Gin, associate professor of economics at the University of San Diego, says numerous factors are at play.

"Certain categories are being affected

more than others because of the housing slump, including retailers of furniture, household appliances and home improvement items," Gin said.

In Gin's opinion, the automotive industry has been affected the most, and that will continue as gas prices remain on the rise, he says.

"Consumers have less equity to draw from in terms of home equity loans, and if you haven't lost your home to foreclosure, you're having to pay a higher mortgage because of adjustable rates," he said.

As for back-to-school spending, gas prices continue to muck up prospects for much improvement.

"My sense is that retail sales still will

Please turn to RETAILERS on Page 10

Retailers:

Continued from Page 8

be affected by the time the back-to-school period begins," Gin said.

Gas is up by about 45 percent from last year, and by Gin's estimates, that's taking

about \$100 million per month out of the local economy.

"People are spending that chunk on gas rather than going to the movies or out to dinner," said Gin.

Adding a weaker U.S. dollar to the equation means less imported goods and higher prices domestically, he added.

Gin predicts that Christmastime will mark the beginning of a slow turnaround.

"I do expect the dollar to regain its strength at the year's end, and interest rates will rise again," Gin said.

The NRF's Winter 2008 Retail Outlook report suggests better times ahead for retailers.

According to the report, industry sales are expected to be up to a 3.8 percent increase for the second half of the year, compared with an estimated 3.2 percent gain in the first half of 2008. For the year, projected industry sales are projected to increase 3.5 percent.

Housing Sector Won't Recover in 2008, Experts Predict

Foreclosures Expected To Peak in the Fall

BY NED RANDOLPH

Undermined by the mortgage crisis, which are still wreaking havoc, the housing market will not be saved in 2008, analysts say.

Foreclosures from adjustable rate sub-prime mortgages are expected to peak in the fall and continue through the end of the year, dragging prices and saturating the market with foreclosed properties.

Though good news for bargain hunters and contrarian investors, difficult times will continue for most homeowners, especially those paying a premium on recently purchased homes and now face historical high prices for gasoline, said economist Alan Gin with the University of San Diego.

"It just compounded things. It makes it more difficult for some people to make payments," Gin said. "High gas on top of a mortgage hurts in terms of spending. People are spending money on gas instead of going out to eat."

Gin predicts further declines in home prices by 5 to 10 percent through the year.

"I think prices will continue to edge downward. We may see the bottom in 2009. I actually think most of the damage has already been done," he said.

A recent report from UCLA's Anderson School of Business predicted the housing sector will begin recovery in early 2009—helped by the precipitous fall in prices.

Please turn to HOUSING on Page 9

Housing:

Continued from Page 6

Meanwhile, commercial real estate appears relatively sound compared to the residential carnage.

Demand for space, however, has not kept up with new supply coming on line, said George Gramm, vice president of research for Grubb & Ellis BRE Commercial.

Job losses in the residential real estate sectors are also leaving office space empty.

Trickle-Down Effect

"The overall general economy is not projected to be good and that trickles down into commercial real estate," said Gramm.

May numbers published by the state Employment Development Department showed construction jobs were down 10 percent on the year and real estate jobs were off 7.9 percent.

"If we see in three months or six months from now the job growth numbers start to jump back up from all industry types, we're right back in," he said.

In submarkets Carlsbad and Rancho Bernardo, which have seen lots of new construction, vacancy rates are higher. Carlsbad's vacancy rate of 23.7 percent in the first quarter is "an area of concern," said Gramm.

Second quarter statistics should be available in early July.

Looking at the first quarter, Gramm said, "Overall San Diego County is 12.8 percent, which is not anything to be too concerned about. We're pretty close to the 10. We were at 8 percent in '04 and '05."

Unleased, landlord-controlled office space was 15.1 percent countywide in the first quarter, according to CB Richard Ellis.

Taking the long view, a recent survey by the UCLA Anderson Forecast and real estate firm Allen Matins reported upbeat expectations for the office market by 2011.

Investment in commercial real estate is a little trickier.

Until the larger investment banks, like Bear Stearns, Washington Mutual and Citibank stabilize themselves from the residential mortgage debacle, analysts expect lower institutional lending and soft investment demand.

"As we continue to hear about large investment banks having trouble—like Morgan Stanley profits being 60 percent off—it's not a good outlook from the investment market," Gramm said.



Steep Gas Prices Exerting Wide Strain On Local Companies

By Lewis, Connie

For the past few years gasoline prices have spiked in the spring and gone down at the beginning of the summer driving season. But as oil prices continue to break record highs, analysts predict that relief at the pump is further off.

At least one, Charles Langley with Utility Consumers' Action Network, a local advocacy group, doesn't expect gas prices to drop until the November presidential election nears.

"First of all, we hope that gas does not breach the \$4 level in San Diego, but we think it will shatter that barrier in the next couple weeks," Langley said.

On April 23, regular unleaded gas, according to the AAA Daily Fuel Gauge Report, averaged \$3.91 a gallon, up from \$3.89 the day before, \$3.65 a month ago and \$3.39 on the same day last year.

Langley also thinks that if prices go back down, politics, not market conditions, will be the reason.

"There will be a concerted effort on the part of the oil industry to stabilize prices going into a major election," he said, citing the 2006 midterm election when gas prices dropped 90 cents a gallon as a case in point.

"The oil industry understands that no matter how much money they give to politicians, when prices are high consumers get upset," he said. "They understand that if they want to maintain an oil-friendly government they must lower prices before an election."

According to University of San Diego economist Alan Gin, "Every 10-cent increase in a gallon of gas takes \$7 million a month out of the local economy." But the caveat would be if motorists changed their behavior by buying more fuel-efficient cars or reduced their driving, he added.

"Inflation is also a result of higher gas prices, and because we don't produce much (gasoline), a lot of what we consume is trucked in. That eventually translates into higher prices at the retail level," he said.

Weighing Rate Adjustments

Rebecca Blackwood, co-owner of Crest Offset Printing Co. in National City, said that in the past the company has adjusted its rates upward in accordance with higher paper costs, but has held off additional increases in the face of higher fuel costs.

That was before receiving a recent statement billing her for nearly twice the amount from the prior month for gas charges to fuel a van and two cars used for pickups and deliveries.

"Granted, we're busier so that's part of it, but a big chunk was the increase in gas prices," she said.

How much the company will raise its prices is uncertain, but it may also charge for deliveries of smaller orders, she added.

Bertrand Hug, who owns Bertrand at Mr. A's and Mille Fleurs restaurants, said he's seen food prices go up about 15 percent since last year.

Hug said he's paying about 10 percent more for produce, while beef and fish prices have jumped 20 percent, he added.

Hug estimates that rising food costs, in addition to the delivery surcharges he now pays, will reduce Mr. A's profit by 5 percent and Mille Fleurs' by 2 percent this year. Still, he considers himself lucky because his customer count has remained steady.

According to Steve Zolezzi, executive vice president of the Food & Beverage Association of San Diego, which represents 700 restaurant and hospitality companies, eateries are experiencing decreases in both clientele and check amounts.

Sal Giametta, spokesman for the San Diego Convention & Visitors Bureau, said that while visitors have proven to be resilient to prior gas price increases, he's not so sure about this year.

"Add the global credit crunch, volatility in the stock market, a declining housing market, increased health care costs as well as higher food costs to a significant increase in gas prices and you have a high number of variables that impact consumer confidence," he said. "The visitor industry is very susceptible to consumer confidence, because when it's low people will cut back on discretionary spending and that includes leisure travel."

Effects On Tourism

On the plus side, San Diego is a drive-to destination that traditionally has been able to rely on nearby Los Angeles and Phoenix to supply visitors.

ConVis is concerned, however, that demand for lodging has slowed, both locally and throughout the United States.

According to Smith Travel Research, which tracks the hotel industry nationwide, the county's innkeepers had an occupancy rate of 68.4 percent from Jan. 1 through the end of March, which was down 3.1 percent from the same period a year ago. For the country as a whole, occupancy stood at 57.8 percent, down 2.7 percent.

The Business Case For Green Buildings

by Jerry Yudelson

Posted: June 2, 2008



In a nutshell: The business community has totally bought into green buildings. That's it, end of discussion.

The only question now is how fast will "building green" become the norm for all corporate and developer decisions? In 2007, we saw more than 70 percent growth in cumulative LEED (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design) registered and certified projects, on top of more than 50 percent cumulative growth in 2006. Essentially, the cumulative number of registered and certified projects has increased 250 percent since the end of 2005.

Why? The American public finally is demanding action on climate change, in ways large and small. Since American business does know how to listen to the consumer, it realizes that a good part of its future success will come from reducing its carbon footprint, through energy conservation retrofits and greening new buildings.

So what does this do to the business case for green buildings? Here's what I'm hearing from speaking to more than 20 business and industry groups the past year.

Saving energy – This has gone from being a good idea to a business necessity. It's not just that energy conservation has a positive life-cycle-cost impact, but also that it offers a direct reduction in an organization's carbon footprint. A number of studies have shown that energy conservation not only also offers a positive life-cycle-cost investment (you make money), but that it's the most cost-effective way to lower society's carbon dioxide output – one that doesn't require new technology, just an ability to finance the investment.

It's about the people, stupid – Corporate America is desperate for good people. The Generation X group, now roughly 30 to 43 years old, is particularly in short supply. By 2014, in the 35- to 44-year-old age group, there will be 7 percent fewer people than in 2005, in absolute numbers. In terms of the size of the economy in 2014, it will be a shortfall of more than 20 percent. This age cohort represents senior managers, young CEOs, top salespeople, top technical people, i.e., those who help the most in growing revenues and profits. If a company cannot attract and keep these people, by conforming business practices to their values, it will not prosper. Green building, which represents a visible and positive affirmation of values of sustainability and environmental responsibility, makes the statement that companies need to make to get and keep good people.

Increasing property values – Look no further than a study released last October by Professor Norman Miller of the University of San Diego. Reviewing more than 2,000 large office buildings in the CoStar database of commercial properties, Miller's study revealed that Energy Star-rated office buildings (those in the top 25 percent of energy performance) since 2004 have had 2 percent greater occupancy and a \$2 per square foot greater rents. To top that, in 2006, Energy Star buildings sold at a 30 percent premium (in dollars per square foot) to non-Energy Star-rated buildings. Case closed. Green buildings are more valuable, and destined to become more so each year.

The demand is there – Commercial office tenants are waking up to the business case for productivity and health in LEED-certified buildings, especially those that offer superior daylighting and indoor air quality. A 2006 review by Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory of 33,000 surveys of employee satisfaction with their working conditions showed that certified buildings had statistically significant greater satisfaction than non-certified buildings. In the public sector, the demand also is growing, as one jurisdiction after another makes a commitment to LEED-certify all future public buildings.

Green buildings mitigate risk – Leading insurance companies stepped up in 2007 to offer reduced-cost commercial insurance products, recognizing that green buildings are at lower risk for indoor air-quality problems, and are likely to have smoother operations, because they're all commissioned at the time of occupancy. With faster lease-up of commercial buildings, higher rents and greater occupancy, green buildings also mitigate the market risk for developers. With lower operating costs and greater tenant satisfaction, green building also mitigates the economic risk of return on investment for building owners.

The media is all over it – Just sign up for Internet alerts; put in "green buildings" as a search term – you will get up to 10 news articles every day, plus an equal number of blog posts. In other words, a company with a green building commitment and certification of all future projects receives enormous positive media coverage, with significant benefits for marketing and public relations purposes.

Follow the money – Investors of all stripes made 2007 the year that responsible property investing became the norm for real estate investment trusts (REITs), public and union pension funds, other investment groups, and many individual investors. People want to invest in buildings that will increase in value and that have a lower carbon footprint, and green buildings fill the bill. Even with the global crisis in subprime mortgages, many leading banks have stepped forward with aggressive green lending programs. When it's easier than ever to finance green buildings with

both equity and debt, developers get on board in a hurry.

There's no longer a cost premium – All of the above business case items certainly have stimulated demand for green buildings, but many businesspeople think that the major barrier still is a significantly higher initial cost. A 2007 study by the World Business Council for Sustainable Development showed that businesspeople still believe green building practices carry a 10 percent or greater cost premium. This year, however, Harvard's Green Campus Initiative delivered the first LEED Platinum building with no capital cost premium. With more than 1,100 LEED-certified projects already finished, there's no shortage of design and construction teams with the experience, skill and knowledge to deliver high-performance buildings on conventional budgets. Savvy building owners and developers are beginning to demand this level of performance.

Gaining momentum – The green building revolution is spreading to all commercial market sectors. In 2007, the retail, hotel and healthcare sectors all began to move toward LEED certification and energy efficiency in new projects. For example, last August, Best Buy announced that all future stores would be LEED-certified. Then in November, Regency Centers, a major public shopping-center developer, announced that 60 percent of all new centers in 2010 would be LEED-certified – and there's not even a LEED rating system yet for shopping centers.

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Green Building By the Numbers

- The value of green building construction starts exceeds \$12 billion in 2008, and is projected to increase to \$60 billion by 2010 (Source: McGraw-Hill Construction Analytics, SmartMarket Trends Report 2008).
- The construction market accounts for 14.2 percent of the \$10 trillion U.S. gross domestic product (Source: 2006 DOE Buildings Energy Databook).
- By 2010, approximately 10 percent of commercial construction starts are expected to be green (Source: McGraw Hill Green Building Smart Market Report 2006).
- Since 2000, the U.S. Green Building Council's membership has increased tenfold.
- Every business day, \$464 million worth of construction registers with the Leadership and Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) program.
- Buildings represent 39 percent of U.S. primary energy use, and 70 percent of electricity consumption (Source: U.S. Department of Energy).
- Buildings use 12.2 percent of all potable water, or 15 trillion gallons per year (Source: U.S. Geological Service).
- Building sectors (and expected green building growth, according to McGraw Hill Construction):

Education (64%)
 Government (62%)
 Institutional (53%)
 Office (49%)
 Healthcare (45%)
 Hospitality (21%)
 Retail (20%)

Jerry Yudelson

Jerry Yudelson is principal at Yudelson Associates, Tucson, Ariz., a consulting firm whose motto is "growing the business of green building." He can be reached at Jerry@greenbuildconsult.com.

OTHER VOICES

Choose Efficiency

By Bill Harris
06/09/08

Connecticut's energy costs are among the highest in the nation, giving birth to Gov. M. Jodi Rell's "OneThing Campaign," which, among other things, exhorts business owners to create more energy-efficient buildings by upgrading existing building systems and controls.

Unfortunately, many Connecticut building owners have done little to increase energy performance, often because they are not aware that cost-effective technology is available today. Or they don't know how to take advantage of rebates, incentives, loans and tax credits available to them to offset the costs.



Bill Harris

Becoming energy efficient is now more than a push for environmental responsibility; it's an appeal to the wallet.

Contrary to popular belief, energy efficiency is not a drain on operating costs. Investments in energy efficient upgrades often offer a greater return on investment than investments in a company's core business. For example, upgrading mechanical systems to improve energy efficiency may return more to the company's income statement than adding production equipment.

Energy efficient building systems cost as little as 1 percent more up front. And the payback can come in as little as two years, allowing the company to save millions over the entire life of the systems, which may be 20 years or more.

Plus, energy efficient buildings are more valuable assets. Buildings consume one-third of all energy worldwide, and energy is usually the largest line item in a company's annual operating budget. Saving on energy bills contributes directly to the building's net operating income.

According to a recent study by the Burnham-Moores Center for Real Estate at the University of San Diego, the value of retrofitting energy efficient systems is greater than the cost. In addition, technologies like geothermal and ice storage, which pump energy from underground and use ice made during off-peak hours to cool buildings during peak energy usage hours, respectively, can ensure additional savings. And the technology is reliable and widely available.

Yet, it's not only building owners who stand to benefit. Occupants are often the biggest winners. Higher efficiency systems offer greater control and programming, which creates a more comfortable environment. It's no surprise that more comfortable employees work harder and longer. In fact, organizations that implement energy-efficiency measures outperform their competitors by as much as 10 percent.

The trend toward upgrading systems and controls in Connecticut buildings has quickly evolved from a good idea into a mandate — starting first with public buildings. In fact, any new construction that receives more than \$5 million in state funding, or renovation that receives \$2 million in state funding must meet requirements equivalent to a LEED (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design) Silver rating or risk losing its public funding. Beginning in 2009, this policy will extend the same criteria to schools funded with state bonds.

As of January, the state building code has required that buildings and building elements be designed to provide optimum cost-efficiency over the life of the building.

In response, the governor's "OneThing Campaign," details a list of rebates and incentives that many Connecticut building owners have yet to address.

For example, Connecticut Cool Choice provides a rebate of up to \$200 per ton (up to 30 tons) for energy efficient upgrades.

And the Energy Conscious Blueprint initiative provides up to \$200,000 annually for new construction as well as renovations and equipment replacement projects including HVAC chillers, lighting and lighting controls.

Perhaps most significantly, the state has authorized \$30 million in bonds to fund the net costs of energy efficiency projects in state buildings.

In short, state policy makers have realized that increasing energy efficiency in buildings is a quick and meaningful way to maximize existing resources.

Energy efficiency has evolved from a social issue to a strategic and financial one as well.

The "OneThing" the Connecticut business community has yet to do is take advantage of all this. It's time.

Bill Harris, vice president of Trane Inc., leads the company's commercial business in Connecticut.

newsday.com/sports/baseball/ny-spmark095720750jun09,0,5979938.column

Newsday.com

What a ride it's been for Giese

Mark Herrmann

June 9, 2008

Would you buy a used car from this man? Only if you were lucky, it turns out.

As a salesman, Dan Giese was too much on the customer's side. And he wasn't even selling used cars, but new Hondas. Still, it was no go.

"I'm just not a salesman," he said. "If it was a good deal on my part, and if the person was my age, I just couldn't do it. It wasn't my personality."

Bottom line: He simply could not take advantage of people. Taking advantage of an opportunity is something else altogether, though, and he is more than happy to do that.

More than happy, really. He was in the I-can't-believe-this ecstatic cloud yesterday at Yankee Stadium. At 31, three years removed from a brief, discouraged retirement (and foray into the auto industry), he notched his first big-league win.

You can bet all 54,213 were much more interested in Joba Chamberlain's second start in the big, bold move to make him part of the Yankees' rotation. But by the end of the day, it was Giese who had the souvenir lineup card, Giese who was accepting a handshake from Reggie Jackson, Giese who was told the Yankees were going to give him the game ball once they built a nice little display case for it.

No need for a salesman to get us to buy into this story. Granted, this scribbler has been skeptical about this whole Chamberlain project - the Yankees trying to switch him from a dominant eighth-inning reliever to a starting pitcher on the fly. But I have to admit, it sure is interesting. It gives us something to talk about. Yesterday, it gave us Giese.

Chamberlain essentially was a setup man again yesterday, pitching 4 1/3 so-so innings (leaving his team a run behind the Royals, one of the worst clubs in the majors) and setting up Giese for the best day of his professional life.

No matter what happens the rest of his career, no one ever can take away Giese's thrill of sitting on the Yankees' bench and watching Mariano Rivera save his first win.

"It seems like it's something out of Disney," Giese said. "If I saw it in a movie, I'd say, 'Oh, this is obviously just a movie.' I wouldn't believe it."

Good, resourceful clubs do things like sorting through the scrap heap for a pitcher like Giese and getting a day like yesterday out of him - 2 2/3 scoreless, hitless innings in which the only baserunner reached on a wild pitch on a strikeout. Maybe the Yankees aren't just a big, lumbering, mediocre team after all.

Giese has this opportunity only because of Chamberlain. The Yankees needed someone capable of going long while Chamberlain is on his baby-step pitch count. But Chamberlain said, "He's got an opportunity because of what he's done. The credit all goes to him, doing the things he did in the minor leagues, coming up and throwing strikes."

"Honestly, the way I've been taking it is I'm going to start after Joba," said Giese, who has the starter's certainty of knowing when he's going to throw - in his case, it's after Chamberlain has reached his prescribed limit.

Like Chamberlain, Giese made the transition from reliever to starter this year. The latter acknowledged that doing it in the minors is a world removed from doing it at Yankee Stadium.

Besides, he could not be more different from Chamberlain if he wrote his own script. Chamberlain is immensely celebrated, Giese is obscure. Chamberlain is a flamethrower ("He's a Nolan Ryan-type pitcher," Giese said), Giese tops out at 90 on a good day. Chamberlain's future is being carefully planned and protected, Giese gave up on his own future at 28.



He was in his third organization in 2005, not sensing a sniff at the majors. His pregnant wife had just endured a fender-bender and Giese simply was fed up. He decided to finish his business degree from the University of San Diego, but he still needed to pay the mortgage, so a family friend with a Mercedes dealership promised to hire him if he worked a few months at Honda.

"It was the worst job in my life," Giese said yesterday. "It was enlightening because it really made me want to go back and play baseball."

With his wife's blessing, he returned to the Phillies' organization and ultimately made his big-league debut with the Giants last season. He's hoping to impress the Yankees enough to stick around even after Chamberlain no longer needs a caddie. But it wouldn't be terrible to have him relieve the star-in-the-making for a while, what with the contrast in styles.

"It's a great combination, back and forth," Chamberlain said.

If nothing else, it made for one great day. A great ending would see Giese never having to pack up the two family vehicles for the minors.

Yes, he and his wife both drive Hondas.

"They're good cars," the non-salesman said.

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Pliant Technology Names Greg Goelz Vice President of Marketing

Released : Monday, June 02, 2008 8:00 AM

MILPITAS, Calif., June 2 /PRNewswire/ -- Pliant Technology, developer of a new class of solid state storage devices for enterprise computing, today announced the appointment of Greg Goelz as vice president of marketing. In this new position, Goelz will lead Pliant's marketing programs as the company moves toward market availability of its Enterprise Flash Drive (EFD) storage devices later this year. Pliant's EFDs will deliver dramatically higher levels of performance while meeting the growing need for increased energy efficiency and reliability in enterprise computing environments.

Goelz will be responsible for establishing Pliant's position as a leader in the growing market for EFDs, and for OEM marketing partnerships and industry alliance programs. He will also drive the marketing of Pliant's EFD devices, manage marketing communications and play a key role in sales program strategies. He will report directly to Amyl Ahola, Pliant's CEO.

"Greg's extensive experience in leading marketing initiatives, his focused approach to building bottom line-focused marketing programs, and his impressive industry acumen are significant additions to the Pliant management team at a very important and exciting time in the company's history," said Ahola. "Greg will be hitting the ground running as we're about to begin beta testing our EFDs with first customer shipments planned for the end of this year."

Goelz has more than 25 years of experience as a sales and marketing executive and has a proven track record in growing revenue, expanding market share, reaching new customers, and developing and implementing strategic marketing communications. Prior to joining Pliant, he was the vice president of marketing at UPEK where he helped establish the company in a leadership position in the PC market for trusted fingerprint biometric solutions. Goelz was also with SGI (formerly Silicon Graphics Inc.), as Vice President and General Manager of Workstations and Intel based Servers, Mr. Goelz has also held senior global marketing and sales management positions at several leading companies including Iomega Corporation, and Conner Peripherals. Goelz has a Bachelor of Science in industrial engineering from Lehigh University and a Masters in business administration from the University of San Diego.

About Pliant Technology

Pliant Technology is developing Enterprise Flash Drives (EFDs), a new class of solid state storage devices, that integrate seamlessly into enterprise information systems and dramatically improve performance, reliability, energy efficiency, and TCO. Delivering exponential improvements over today's highest performing hard drive and SSD storage solutions for a range of data I/O intensive enterprise applications, Pliant's solution is expected to be available to OEM and data center customers in the fourth quarter of 2008. The company was founded by a team of successful storage executives and engineers from Fujitsu, Maxtor, Quantum, and Seagate. Pliant is based in Milpitas, Calif. More information is available at <http://www.plianttechnology.com>

 Print |  Close Window**THE ENQUIRER**

Last Updated: 4:29 pm | Monday, June 2, 2008

UC hires property profs

BY CLIFF PEALE | CPEALE@ENQUIRER.COM

The University of Cincinnati has "reloaded" its real estate program after losing longtime director Norm Miller to retirement last year.

Miller, a high-profile presence in the local real-estate community for more than two decades, is now at the University of San Diego after retiring from UC. After his departure and the departure of two others for jobs with other universities or in the corporate world, the program was left with no full-time faculty.

UC has hired John Glascock from the University of Cambridge in England to lead the department starting this summer, College of Business Dean Will McIntosh said. He'll be joined in the fall by Shaun Bond, who also taught at Cambridge.

Both have concentrated their research in real estate finance. Glascock previously had worked in the university sector at George Washington University and in the private sector with the National Association of Realtors.

There will be at least one more full-time professor and several new adjuncts, McIntosh said.



"We basically reloaded," he said. "Fortunately, we saw this coming, so we were able to get out in front of it a little bit."

The moves are good news financially for UC's business school in several ways.

McIntosh had been forced to sacrifice some open positions to help eliminate a deficit that had accumulated over several years, part of a campus-wide cost-cutting, but now says he can start to add faculty in targeted academic programs that can attract students and corporate partners.

This year also will be the first year for a new real estate major at UC.

"We've got a strong industry following in Cincinnati," McIntosh said. "Norm invested 27 years of his life in building this thing and we don't want to give it up."

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The Standard

17 Queen Street, St. Catharines 905.684.7251

« Back

Woman on wheels: Romero's on target

Posted 1 day ago

When it comes to selling cars to targeted markets, Patricia Romero really knows her stuff.

As national manager of multicultural marketing for Hyundai Motor America, Romero's job is to understand the lifestyles and buying habits of Hispanic Americans, and to develop customized promotional campaigns that best speak to them.

"Hispanic consumers are largely unaware of the brand, but we've been able to take its core essence and branding message, give it a cultural twist and make it completely relevant to the Hispanic market," says Romero over the phone from Hyundai's headquarters in Southern California.

Indeed, with about 34 million Hispanics living in the U. S. -- accounting for about 12 percent of the population -- it made good business sense for the auto maker to more actively tailor its marketing efforts to this market.

It also made good sense to hire Romero, an expert marketing strategist with more than 13 years of experience in automotive and consumer products and services, to get the job done.

Romero's connection to cars began early, stemming from her upbringing in the car-conscious culture of Los Angeles.

"I've always loved cars," she says. "I was one of those weird geeky girls who read car magazines and was into what people drove."

The summers of her youth, meanwhile, were spent in Argentina, where she and her cousins spent much time watching street races.

Later, at the University of San Diego, she discovered her interest in business and marketing. She completed a BA in international relations and Spanish in 1992, and an MBA with an emphasis in global business and marketing in 1995.

Her career track since then has included senior-level roles at leading automotive and consumer goods companies.

Her first job out of school was with the American Honda Motor Company, where as global sales and marketing manager, she greatly expanded awareness of the brand in Latin America, leading to a significant boost in sales in that region.

"The position blended my passion for cars and my marketing background, so it was a perfect storm, so to speak," says Romero, 37.

She then worked as marketing manager for Toshiba America, directing U. S. and international advertising and marketing activities. While there, she pioneered Toshiba's first-ever award-winning B2C brand advertising campaign.

After Toshiba, Romero returned to the automotive sector, becoming DaimlerChrysler's California marketing manager responsible for developing marketing and product strategies.

Later, Romero switched gears and honed her ethnic marketing expertise by joining Hispanic advertising agency Bumpercar, Inc., where as director of client services, she developed brands and directed strategic marketing plans for a variety of top brands.

June 23, 2008

Tom York >> SDBJ INSIDER

Showtime! Althea CEO Dons Grass Skirt



Golden Boys With The Golden Touch: I've got a must read for you, "Double or Nothing: How Two Friends Risked It All to Buy One of Las Vegas' Legendary

Casinos," by **University of San Diego** grad **Tom Breitling**. He teamed with **Tim Poster** in the early 1990s to sell Las Vegas hotel rooms via an 800 number. They took that business online, and then sold it for \$100 million during the dot-com explosion. The two then purchased the **Golden Nugget** casino, unloading it a year later for a \$100 plus-million profit. Breitling's tome offers an inside look at what it takes to become a mega-millionaire, twice over. Bonus: The writing is very down to earth ... Speaking of alums, **Laura Roppe**, who attended USD law school and is now a partner at **Tatro & Zamoyski** law firm, recently posted her own music video, "Mama Needs a Girl's Night Out," which is headed for your local iTunes store. The rest of her CD arrives in late July, featuring a dozen titles produced by Grammy-winning producer **Steve Wetherby** of Escondido. Stay tuned ... The **San Diego Foundation** has established a fund for those caught up in the devastating Iowa floods. The **Greater Cedar Rapids Community Foundation** supports nonprofit organizations that are providing first-response efforts and ongoing recovery and rebuilding throughout Linn County, Iowa. Details at sdfoundation.org ... What a gas! Local energy commodities firm **CE2 Capital Partners** is teaming with **Energy Capital Partners**, one of the

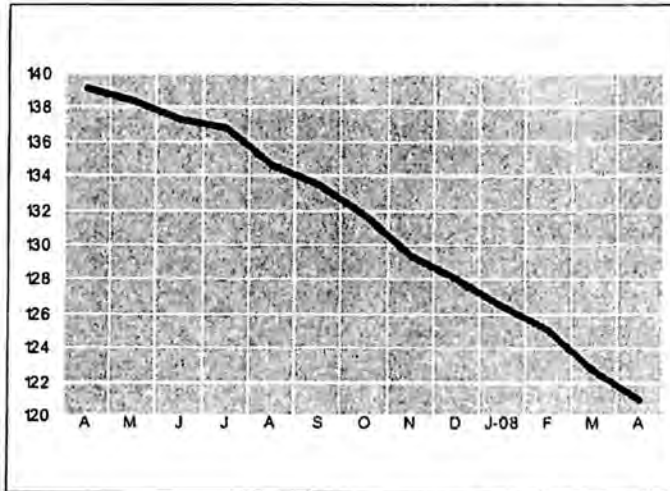
nation's largest equity firms, to launch **CE2 Carbon Capital**, which will build a portfolio of carbon offsets focused on reducing greenhouse gas emissions in North America ... The **San Diego Convention & Visitors Bureau** launches a marketing blitz promoting our local environs as an ideal honeymoon destination for same-sex newlyweds, now that such nuptials are sanctioned by law. "California has always welcomed visitors of various lifestyles and backgrounds, and San Diego is no exception," says ConVis head man **David Peckinpaugh**. San Diego was recently rated as one of the top gay-friendly destinations in the country ... It's in the cards, as they say. **Adrian Gonzalez** is among baseball's **Padres** scheduled to play in the annual **Matt Vasgersian Charity Texas Hold 'em Tournament** on June 26 at **Liberty Station** in Point Loma. The tournament benefits **Tender Loving Canines** and the **Fallen Officers Fund**. Other celebrity players scheduled include **Randy Wolf**, **Edgar Gonzalez** (brother of Adrian) and **Michael Barrett**. Sign-ups at 4SD.com ... The humongo BIO convention here June 17-20 was a success by any measure. One local corporate participant, **Althea Technologies**, celebrated its 10th anniversary during the gathering with a Hawaiian luau held at North Embarcadero Park on San Diego Bay. The tent festivities included spectacular fireworks shot from a barge offshore, and co-founder and chief executive **François Ferré**, bare-chested, performing with hired Polynesian dancers in an imitation, white grass skirt. "We leave all the moves up to François," said one party insider. Happy Birthday!

Send tips to SDBJInsider@sdbj.com.

San Diego Daily Transcript

June 9, 2008

Leading economic indicators



Source: University of San Diego

The monthly changes in leading indicators (initial claims for unemployment insurance, local stock prices, outlook for the national economy, consumer confidence, building permits and help wanted advertising) of the San Diego economy as tracked by Alan Gin, an urban economics professor at the University of San Diego. The highest monthly rate is 139.1 in April 2007.

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Black & Decker: Building a Model for Change

June 02, 2008



Imagine seasoned businessmen and women clutching and stroking plush penguins during a training session. It may sound odd, but that was the scene during a Leading Bold Change (LBC) training session for Black & Decker Hardware and Home Improvement Group executives. "Ninety percent of people hate change," says Bret Skousen, director of employee and organizational development, Black & Decker Hardware and Home Improvement Group. "So people at the session were grabbing the stuffed penguins because they wanted comfort cuddle buddies. They felt better able to deal with the change issue when holding and stroking the stuffed penguins," which represent the characters in the book, "Our Iceberg Is Melting," on which the training is based.

Skousen has been a strong proponent of change at Black & Decker. It all started when he signed up for Ken Blanchard's Master's of Leadership program at the University of San Diego (he's known Blanchard for years and admires him as a mentor). "Two weekends of the program were devoted specifically to change," Skousen explains. "We had to research all the change experts out there and then go forward with one. It was an aha moment for me: Without a good change program, you don't have a good leadership development program."

So Skousen started analyzing what was going on at Black & Decker. He found that the company does lean manufacturing and Six Sigma, but had no concrete, consistent process for change. "We had made some acquisitions a few years before, and there were things we could have done better if we had a change management initiative," Skousen says. "Plus, we found we were tapping the same people all the time to solve problems, but they were getting overwhelmed. And they might have been critical thinkers, but they might not have the right skills to solve that particular problem." Skousen ultimately chose Dr. John Kotter's Leading Bold Change approach because "I felt he was the best, plus I've been involved with ISB Worldwide [the course developer] for a long time."

The group's global operations leader was very much behind the change initiative, Skousen says. Once a year in January, he brings together 150 leaders to discuss strategy, so in January 2007, the decision was made to start the change management training with those executives. "We trained all of them on LBC and trained them to take it back to their teams," Skousen says. "Once in-house, we try to transform the environment into an iceberg—we have blow-up penguins and squid hunts. We try to create a discovery process instead of a training program."

Here's how the global operations leader used the 8 Steps to get the Black & Decker group into the change mind-set:

Step 1: He hit key points of the training, including having iceberg posters everywhere with the penguin symbol under each nametag to create urgency.

Step 2: He pulled together the team, then made it cross-functional and branched out from his team to others.

Step 3: The team laid out what it was going to do and NOT going to do.

Step 4: The team started to communicate with others in the company who would be affected—obtaining buy-in.

Step 5: The leader got the right executive team leadership members to support the effort and made them understand the consequences of not doing this.

Step 6: They celebrated short-term wins.

Step 7: The leader is a soft-spoken guy, but he forcefully said, "We can't let up now. We can't celebrate to the point where we think it's done. We have to put a plan in place to continue to have meetings and checkpoints and accountability."

Step 8: This year, at the global operations meeting in January, the leaders were filmed on where they were at in their change initiatives, so people didn't think it was just a one-hit wonder from last year. This included executives who said they were planning something and didn't get it done but now promised to do something this year.

Skousen says Black & Decker doesn't formally measure employee engagement in change initiatives, but "we pulse it through meetings and informal chats. And while we don't allow people to identify with NoNo, one team does feel strongly about having

CALIFORNIA
REAL ESTATE JOURNAL

June 30, 2008

REAL ESTATE MARKETING COURSE

The **University of San Diego** offers "Marketing & Sales for the Real Estate Industry," a four-day course taught by professors from USD's Burnham-Moores Center for Real Estate, as part of a certificate program designed to provide competitive skills to today's real estate and building industry professionals.

- July 9, 16, 23 and 30, 6 to 9 p.m.
- University of San Diego, Douglas F. Manchester Conference Center, in San Diego
- Cost: \$450
- Visit www.usdrealstate.com or call (619) 260-5986

San Diego Daily Transcript

June 30, 2008

OTHER EVENTS

WEDNESDAY, JUL 9 - CLASSES

REAL ESTATE INDUSTRY MARKETING & SALES

Professionals who strive to increase their job performance, promotional opportunities and take their career to the next level will benefit from this program. **Organization:** USD/Burnham-Moores Center
Information: (619) 260-4231
www.USDRealEstate.com **Cost:** \$450.00 **When:**
Hours: 6:00 PM - 9:00 PM **Where:** USD - Douglas F. Manchester Conference Center, 5998 Alcalá Park, San Diego

San Diego Daily Transcript

June 4, 2008

REAL ESTATE CALENDAR

OTHER EVENTS

WEDNESDAY, JUN 4 - CLASSES

ADD/EDIT LISTING MAINTENANCE PROPERTY PANORAMA

Join us for training on Add/Edit Listing Maintenance Property Panorama. **Organization:** East County Assoc. of REALTORS **Information:** (619) 579-0333 **Cost:** No Details Available **When:** Hours: 12:15 PM - 3:00 PM **Where:** East County Assoc. Of REALTORS, 1150 Broadway, El Cajon, 92021, Venue Phone - (619) 579-0333

THURSDAY, JUN 5 - CLASSES

TAX CONSIDERATIONS OF REAL ESTATE

Professionals who strive to increase their job performance, promotional opportunities and take their career to the next level will benefit from this program. **Organization:** USD/Burnham-Moore Center **Information:** (619) 260-4231 www.USDRealEstate.com **Cost:** \$450.00 **When:** Hours: 6:00 PM - 9:00 PM **Where:** USD - Douglas F. Manchester Conference Center, 599B Alcalá Park, San Diego

THURSDAY, JUN 5 - CLASSES

CONTRACTS BEYOND THE RPA

Take a detailed look at real estate contracts you might need in your transactions and learn the major differences between these and the Residential Purchase Agreement (RPA). Other Dates: Friday, Jun 6 **Organization:** San Diego Association of REALTORS **Information:** (858) 715-8000, Fax (858) 715-8088 www.sdar.com **Cost:** \$150.00- \$206.00 **When:** Hours: 9:00 AM - 3:00 PM **Where:** S.D. Assn. of Realtors- Kearny Mesa, 4845 Ronson Court, San Diego

TUESDAY, JUN 10 - SEMINAR

ALAN NEVIN ANSWERS QUESTIONS ABOUT SAN DIEGO REAL ESTATE

Rex Downing, President of Rex Downing & Associates, in conjunction with Tom Chapman of Fidelity National Title, will present an evening with noted economist Alan Nevin. Mr. Nevin will answer questions about the future of San Diego's real estate. **Organization:** Rex Downing & Associates and Tom Chapman **Information:** (619) 280-7399 for reservations call or email rex@rexdowning.com w/Alan Nevin in subject line **Cost:** No Cost **When:** Hours: 6:00 PM - 8:00 PM **Where:** Normal Heights Community Center, 4649 Hawley Blvd., San Diego

THURSDAY, JUN 12 - AWARDS

FRAMING LIVES AND BUILDING HOPE

Please join us for the San Diego Housing Federation's 13th Annual Affordable Housing and Community Development Recognition awards, celebrating projects and the people making them happen. **Organization:** San Diego Housing Federation **Information:** Tom Scott (619) 239-6693 http://www.housingsandiego.org/conference_link.htm **Cost:** No Details Available **When:** Hours: 5:00 PM - 7:30 PM **Where:** Handlery Hotel & Resort, 950 Hotel Circle N., San Diego, 92108, Venue Phone - (619) 574-0099

THURSDAY, JUN 19 - MIXER

QUAIL CHARITY MIXER

This mixer will feature a discussion on lease negotiations with a munic-

pality, construction management, funding challenges and more, as well as an auction and a raffle. **Organization:** IREM San Diego Chapter **Information:** (619) 209-2997 <http://www.iremsd.org> **Cost:** \$20.00- \$30.00 **When:** Starts: 5:45 PM **Where:** Quail Botanical Gardens, 230 Quail Gardens Dr, San Diego, Venue Phone - (760) 436-9236

FRIDAY, JUN 20 - TRAINING

REAL ESTATE EDUCATIONAL WORKSHOP

Learn how to buy bank repos, foreclosures, short sale properties. Find out if attending a trustee sale or auction a good or bad idea and why? Find websites for research, leads and property information. Learn how to make lower offers and get them accepted. You'll also learn financing strategies, how to find vacancy rates, property information and area demographics. Also included, tips for a better, less stressful and more rewarding life. Seating is limited, please RSVP today! **Organization:** Chicago Title **Information:** Fred Eckert (619) 507-5688 jayv@ctt.com or supmanx@aol.com **Cost:** No Cost **When:** Starts: 9:30 AM **Where:** Chicago Title, 2365 Northside Drive, 6th Floor, San Diego, 92108, Venue Phone - (800) 448-4267

FRIDAY, JUN 20 - SEMINAR

BUILDING REAL ESTATE RELATIONSHIPS

Learn valuable tips on building relationships in real estate. **Organization:** East San Diego County Assoc. of REALTORS **Information:** (619) 579-0333 esdfair@esdcar.org **Cost:** No Details Available **When:** Starts: 10:00 AM **Where:** The East San Diego County Association of REALTORS, 1150 Broadway, El Cajon, 92021, Venue Phone - (619) 579-0333

WEDNESDAY, JUN 25 - CLASSES

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LOS ANGELES DAILY JOURNAL • MONDAY, JUNE 23, 2008 • PAGE 3

Law Firms Reorganize to Help Clients Weather Climate Change Issues

By Pat Broderick
Daily Journal Staff Writer

SAN DIEGO — Climate change is spawning new rules and regulations, as well as the inevitable threat of litigation — and it is carving out new turf for lawyers.

Meeting the challenge, Luce Forward, Hamilton & Scripps recently launched a climate change and sustainable technology practice. Dedicating almost a dozen San Diego lawyers, along with a half-dozen more in Los Angeles and San Francisco, the new group will bring expertise ranging from corporate, insurance and intellectual property, to real estate, land use and litigation.

"Increasingly, clients have asked attorneys in these areas about our capabilities in the area of climate change," said John Leslie, a partner in the real estate litigation

practice group of Luce Forward's Del Mar office. Leslie, who advises energy companies on renewable energy standards and greenhouse gas emissions compliance, is helping to coordinate the new practice.

"It's one-stop shopping when they have climate change issues," he said, "and it helps us internally to play off one another and help each other."

State legislation on reducing greenhouse gas emissions has ramped up the anxiety level of everyone from small businesses to major corporations.

"It hasn't been a major issue until recently," said Suzanne Badawi, a partner in the insurance litigation department of Luce Forward's Los Angeles office, who is chairing the new practice group.

But, now, with judicial and legislative scrutiny over the causes

of global warming, she noted, the issue "will impact virtually every industry."

"We want to be proactive and tell our clients now that there are laws and regulations being enacted

question of coverage for individuals or corporations regarding compliance and remediation costs.

"They will try to tap into their insurance policies and cover those risks," she said. "It's the emer-

'As the regulatory framework develops, questions loom and companies need to make decisions, and they will need lawyers.'

Lesley McAllister,
University of San Diego School of Law

— or will be enacted — that will impact your business and you have to be prepared for this," she said.

In Badawi's insurance practice, this could mean global warming claims related to personal injury and real estate damage, and the

gence of global warming insurance claims."

Law firms are starting to heed the call. According to a survey in January by Bloomberg, 20 of the 100 highest-grossing U.S. law firms — including Heller Ehrman

and Sheppard Mullin Richter & Hampton — have started practices related to climate change.

"It makes sense for law firms in this region to start developing these specific practices," said Lesley McAllister, an associate professor at the University of San Diego School of Law, whose courses include environmental and climate change law. "It brings together a lot of traditional practices and puts them under a new umbrella."

The university has long been at the forefront of environmental issues, operating the Energy Policy Initiatives Center, which teaches energy law and policy courses. The law school faculty recently approved a new publication, "San Diego Climate and Energy Law Journal," which will begin publication next year; and will be among the first in the country devoted to climate and energy, McAllister said.

"A lot of people, particularly professors and lawyers, are realizing that climate change is the most important issue facing the field," McAllister said. "As the regulatory framework develops, questions loom and companies need to make decisions, and they will need lawyers."

In agreement is Cyndy Day-Wilson, a partner in the environmental law and natural resources practice group in Best Best & Krieger's San Diego office and a member of the executive committee of the State Bar's environmental law section.

"It's a huge area," Day-Wilson said. "Everything that we are doing is being affected — energy, the gas crisis, how we water our lawn. As attorneys, we have to be mindful of it and advise our clients."

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\$842M in stimulus cash held back from debtors

Government 'offset' program holds back money from 1.5 million tax filers who owe back taxes and child support.

By Catherine Clifford, CNNMoney.com staff writer
Last Updated: June 11, 2008: 2:45 PM EDT

NEW YORK (CNNMoney.com) -- The government has intercepted \$842 million in economic stimulus payments for 1.5 million Americans who have skipped out on child support obligations, student loans or tax bills.

The amount withheld represents about 1.5% of the more than \$57 billion distributed under the stimulus program. So far, 67 million tax filers have received payments.

About 54% of the cash intercepted will be funneled to states for child support, according to Dean Balamaci, a U.S. Treasury Department official. "We are really proud of that," he added.

Congress and the Bush administration came together earlier this year to enact a \$170 billion economic stimulus package. The Treasury started distributing payments - \$600 for individuals, \$1,200 for couples and \$300 per child - to tax filers. The goal was to juice the economy by putting money in the pockets of consumers.

Stimulus Cash for Child Support

One unanticipated side effect of the stimulus program is the recovery of money owed single parents and government programs that support children on welfare.

Of the stimulus cash that has been recaptured, \$459 million is being sent to states to distribute for child support payments. And of that amount, \$166 million is used to fund state child welfare programs and \$292 million goes to custodial parents who have not qualified for welfare payments but are owed child support, according to Balamaci.

"It is important symbolically," said Robert Fellmeth, director of the Children's Advocacy Institute at the University of San Diego School of Law. "The government is saying that you owe this and your debt is more important than having you run out and spend the money."

Social service officials says the intercepted stimulus money helps reimburse state coffers, according to Anthony Farmer, spokesman for the New York State Office of Temporary and Disability Assistance.

"The state has an interest in being involved in helping to collect child support because if people don't pay child support, then those parents go on public assistance," said Farmer.

Nearly 40% of the stimulus money that has been recovered by the Treasury Department is going back to the federal government in the form of back taxes owed and student loans. About 6% will go to states that are owed back taxes. Georgia, Maryland and New York - each of which has received more than \$4.5 million - are receiving the biggest stimulus offsets.



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Accountants, consumer groups clash over accounting credentials

By **Malcolm MacLachlan** (published Thursday, June 12, 2008)

Assemblyman Roger Niello, R-Sacramento, is an accountant by training. He said he would like to bring CPAs in California in line with an increasingly national set of rules that govern the profession. Niello is carrying a bill, AB 2473, that he said will standardize training for accountants and make it easier for them to work in different states—and that consumers will benefit.

"The CPA mobility bill is frankly a national movement supported by the accountancy board itself, as well as the CPA profession," Niello said. "It's a recognition of the reality of the global economy."

But the bill is being opposed by a coalition of consumer and labor groups, led by the Center for Public Interest Law (CPIL). Housed in the University of San Diego School of Law, the CPIL has lobbied state professional boards for nearly three decades. Often, as is the case with AB 2473, they oppose changes sought by professional groups.

"The accountancy bill is a reintroduction of several concepts that the accounting profession has wanted to enact for a long time," said Julianna D'Angelo Fellmeth. She claimed that the American Society of CPAs and other professional groups want the bill as a means of reducing oversight and making it harder for new accountants to enter the field.

Fellmeth particularly objects to a provision calling for all CPAs to have 150 credit units of college credit, the equivalent of an undergraduates and a master's degree. As the bill is written, there is no requirement that these hours be in accounting, business or another relevant field.

"They can be in underwater basket weaving," Fellmeth said.

She's lobbying to reduce the requirement to 120 hours, or the equivalent of a bachelor's degree. But David Swartz, a member of the California Board of Accountancy, said the requirement is designed to bring California in line with rules agreed on by 36 other states.

"Personally, I'm okay with just an undergrad degree," Swartz said. "But we're trying to get a national standard. If California has 120 hours and most other states have 150, out accountants aren't going to be able to active in other states."

Swartz said there is no evidence that the in those states that the requirement is keeping would-be minority accountants from being able to practice, as Fellmeth has alleged. He also noted that his board—which includes seven CPAs and eight "public" members—unanimously voted to endorse AB 2473.

The other main bone of contention is a clause that would call for California to recognize licenses given in other states. It would do away with most of the fees and reporting requirements that out-of-state accountants have to deal with to work in California. This merely recognizes the reality that much of the accounting work in the state is done by the "Big Four" national accounting firms, he said.


Fellmeth notes that the "Big Four" used to be the "Big Eight," and before that was the "Big 12." Financial scandals caused by a lack of oversight caused several of these subtractions, most spectacularly the venerable





Also in this issue

- **Personnel Profile**
by Nick Brokaw
- **CSEA members named California's Classified School Employees of the Year**
by Capitol Weekly Staff
- **Big Daddy**
by Big Daddy
- **Julia Fellmeth: Consumer attorney is bane of many boards**
by Malcolm MacLachlan
Law center bills itself as consumer watchdog, but has many critics
- **Experts Expound**
by Capitol Weekly Readers
- **School districts tense over new diesel rules**
by John Howard
Clean buses or academic cuts?
- **Obscure veto threatens \$3 billion loss to state from power settlements**
by John Howard
Ghost of electricity crisis stalks Capitol, as Senate cuts \$60 million from PUC budget
- **Member's heroic effort helps end hostage situation**
by Capitol Weekly Staff
- **Lenders resist attempts to help strapped consumers**
by Paul Leonard, Ronald Coleman
- **Global warming solutions: do your homework**
by Shelly Sullivan
- **Dust-up over Verizon bill irks some Dems**
by Anthony York
Padilla bill blocked by Perata after colleagues complain

AB 1634 - CA HEALTHY PETS ACT



"I just cannot see the rationale of being opposed to this law if you truly love animals."
Ben Stein

Arthur Anderson LLP, which went down in the Enron debacle. As soon as it can be shown that oversight standards in other states are as high as in California, the CPIIL has stated, they would be approve of a national standards.

Niello said that the bill does not call for the state to give up it's oversight of accountants—it just streamlines and simplifies matters. He said the opposition largely consists of labor groups, including those representing nurses and machinists, who have been led

to believe "that unsuspecting consumers might be taken advantage of by CPAs who are licensed by some one other than the California board."

<< Back

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Julia Fellmeth: Consumer attorney is bane of many boards

By **Malcolm MacLachlan** (published Thursday, June 12, 2008)

Julianne D'Angelo Fellmeth might be the Zelig of state professional boards. Along with her husband, Robert Fellmeth, and the organization he founded 28 years ago, the Center for Public Interest Law (CPIL), she is on a quest to change the way professional boards are governed in California: more transparency, more public input, and stronger disciplinary enforcement against professionals who break their code of conduct.

To their critics, the Fellmeths and CPIL are opportunists with little understanding of the professions they're meddling with—and who sometimes end up harming the public they claim to protect. Others question CPIL's importance, dismiss them as media hounds, or say the group is mainly pursuing lucrative contracts to monitor the very type of aggressive enforcement they're pushing. The Fellmeth's critics among professional organizations are many. Their critics who will speak on the record are far fewer in number—something that some attribute to the sway the CPIL holds over several legislators and boards.

Representatives of CPIL can be found at nearly every professional board meeting held in the state. Each year, about two dozen law students sign up for a year-long class in the University of San Diego Schools of Law, which houses the CPIL. Each one serves as a kind of intern for the group, attending the meetings of two different boards for the entire school year. Julia Fellmeth herself claims to have attended every California Medical Board meeting for the last 22 years, an experience she doesn't recommend.

Fellmeth said her mission is simple: to put power in the hands of the public. For too long, she said, state boards have sought mainly to protect the professionals they are supposed to be monitoring instead of the public. While professionals pay for this oversight in the form of annual fees, these costs are ultimately passed on to consumers.

"If I'm going to be paying for the cost of these licensing boards, I want them to do what they're supposed to do," Fellmeth said.

David Swartz, a certified public accountant (CPA) and current member of the California Board of Accountancy, takes a somewhat different view.

"People like Julie think they know more about our profession than we do," Swartz said. "It's like, if we want it, she doesn't. She thinks these boards are manned by people in the professions who are only going to do things looking out for members of the profession. We want to do what's best. We want the profession to be elevated."

This ignorance of the accounting profession and the rules that apply in other states is actually putting the public at risk, Swartz argued. He also said that many others feel the same way, but are afraid to speak out. A past president of the board, Swartz's term ran out on June 1. He said that his well-known disagreements with Fellmeth may keep him from being reappointed.

One thing both Fellmeth and Swartz agree on is that these boards increasingly are not just manned by people in the profession anymore. Fellmeth said that if you go back a few years, most California professional boards had strong majorities of professional members. These days, she said, all boards outside of the health care field have majorities of "public members," people who are not members of the professions they monitor and who are there mainly to look out for consumers. Fellmeth said this is largely due to years of lobbying by her organization, a claim that some people associated with professional boards dismiss.



Also in this issue

- **CSEA members named California's Classified School Employees of the Year**
by *Capitol Weekly Staff*
- **Personnel Profile**
by *Nick Brokaw*
- **Member's heroic effort helps end hostage situation**
by *Capitol Weekly Staff*
- **Accountants, consumer groups clash over accounting credentials**
by *Malcolm MacLachlan*
- **Lenders resist attempts to help strapped consumers**
by *Paul Leonard, Ronald Coleman*
- **Experts Expound**
by *Capitol Weekly Readers*
- **School districts tense over new diesel rules**
by *John Howard*
Clean buses or academic cuts?
- **Big Daddy**
by *Big Daddy*
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Ghost of electricity crisis stalks Capitol, as Senate cuts \$60 million from PUC budget
- **Dust-up over Verizon bill irks some Dems**
by *Anthony York*
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by *Shelly Sullivan*

The health care boards that still have professional majorities are also some of the boards that CPIL has tangled with the most in recent years—something that no one seems to think is a coincidence. This group includes the Medical Board, as well as the boards governing chiropractors, dentists, optometrists, ophthalmologists and osteopaths.

Tim Hart, a lobbyist for the California Optometric Association, said that he's had plenty of run-ins with Fellmeth and the CPIL over the years. But as opposed to some other self-styled consumer watchdog groups that seem to be "against everything," he said, disagreements are with the CPIL "are always over policy," and the group is always very clear about what they stand for.

AB 1634 - CA HEALTHY PETS ACT

"I just cannot see the rationale of being opposed to this law if you truly love animals."
Ben Stein

"It's very easy to invoke 'the fox guarding the henhouse,'" Hart said. "They don't do that."

But that doesn't mean he usually agrees with them. He said the CPIL advocates that nearly every complaint against a professional be available for the public to see. The problem with this idea, he said, is that many complaints come from consumers upset that "their glasses cost too much." Few of these complaints rise to the level of actual misconduct—and actual members of the profession are much better at

determining when someone has actually done something wrong.

Cathy Mudge, chief spokeswoman for the California Dental Association, had a similar take. She said Fellmeth and others with the CPIL have an excellent knowledge of parliamentary procedure and have made many positive changes to state boards. But she also agrees that their idea of a "meaningful threshold" of what level of misconduct should be made available via public databases may sometimes go a bit overboard.

Another plank of the CPIL's program is "vertical enforcement." Currently, professional misconduct cases are usually sent to an investigator employed directly by the board. The investigator compiles the information on a case, and then turns it over to a deputy attorney general (DAG), who may then bring a case against the professional in question. Fellmeth wants to move several classes of specialized investigators into the Attorney General's office and have them work directly with the DAG while they build a case. This would result in investigator's gathering more useful information and prevent them from spending a lot of time on cases that probably won't go anywhere, Fellmeth said. But many boards also see this idea as a threat to their autonomy, she said.

A bill passed this week by the legislature, SB 797 by Senator Mark Ridley-Thomas, D-Los Angeles, directs the Medical Board towards a vertical enforcement model. Ridley-Thomas sees the Medical Board as a kind of test case for moving other boards towards this model of enforcing rules on licensees.

"Precedent has to be set and tested in order for others to follow suit," Ridley-Thomas said. When asked how closely he worked with the Fellmeths and the CPIL in putting SB 797 together, he added: "There is an ongoing conversation with them on a range of subjects."

The Fellmeths are part of a small network of consumer attorneys in California. In 1995, Robert Fellmeth co-authored a book still used in law school courses, "White Collar Crime," with another attorney active with the CPIL, Thomas Papageorge. Named 2004 Antitrust Lawyer of the Year by the California State Bar, Papageorge has headed the Consumer Protection Division of the LA DA's office since 1984.

Another associate of the Fellmeths, Jim Conran, has been serving as a public member of the Board of Chiropractic Examiners since February of last year. Conran, who is also president of the group Consumers First, has clashed publicly with professionals members of that board, which was in the news last year due to disputes with staff and other problems.

Julia Fellmeth is also a registered lobbyist. The group's most recent lobbying report shows them active on 11 different bills concerning professions in California. She said that technically she might not have to register as a lobbyist, since she thinks she spends less than a third of her working time lobbying legislators or boards.

"I'm registered as lobbyist out of an abundance of caution," she said.

The CPIL's most controversial activity may be one that Fellmeth said they actually do very little of—enforcement monitoring contracts. She was employed as the

enforcement monitor of the Medical Board from November 2003 to November 2005; a \$237,466 fee was paid to CPIL for these services. This followed a well-publicized scandal around the boards monitoring of doctors with substance abuse problems.

Candice Cohen, chief spokesperson for the Medical Board, said they are frequently stuck in the middle in disagreements between the CPIL and the powerful California Medical Association—but lean a little more towards the CPIL's model of increasing disclosure.

"We thought her criticism was quite constructive," Cohen said of Julia Fellmeth's work as enforcement monitor.

Bob Fellmeth served as the State Bar discipline monitor from 1987 to 1992. Julia Fellmeth said the CPIL has no current enforcement monitoring contracts.

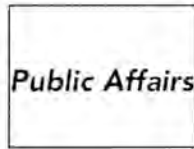
One thing is for certain. After 28 years, no one thinks the CPIL is going away anytime soon. Professional groups around the state say they plan on working with—and sometimes against—the CPIL to try to get the group to see which changes will actually help consumers.

"I certainly think their intentions are well-meaning," the Dental Association's Mudge said. "The devil is always in the details."

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Diversion program for substance-abusing doctors set to expire

(published Thursday, June 19, 2008)

For years, doctors who were found to have alcohol or drug problems were referred to a state-run program that sought to get them into treatment and make sure they didn't harm patients. As of July 1, that program will no longer exist. The move is designed to better protect patient safety, but some question whether the new system will be an improvement.

The Medical Board of California voted unanimously last July to allow their Diversion Program to sunset. The 203 doctors who were in the program as of last September have been divided into three categories for continued treatment and monitoring under a transition plan approved by the board.

The changes came in response to a report from the California State Auditor that found major problems with the diversion program. That report, in turn, cites the work on the enforcement monitor who looked at the board's programs from 2003 to 2005: Julianne D'Angelo Fellmeth of the Center for Public Interest Law (CPIL) at the University of San Diego Law School.

"We started criticizing the Medical Board's enforcement programs back in 1989," said Fellmeth. "We have just never gone away ever since then. We didn't get everything we wanted. In fact, we got very little of what we wanted. But we kept going back."

Fellmeth is able to cite numerous examples of doctors she said slipped through the cracks of a program that provided little diversion and even less enforcement. These are backed up by stories of patients who didn't know about their doctors' multiple DUIs—and sometimes by photos of the butchery allegedly visited on patients by some impaired doctors.

But Jim Conway, a psychotherapist who has been involved in diversion programs for medical professionals since 1990, said that eliminating the program could create new problems. The new system, he said, is more likely to move the most impaired doctors to harsh disciplinary actions—such as the suspension or revocation of their licenses—while providing less oversight to physicians whose troubles are less obvious.

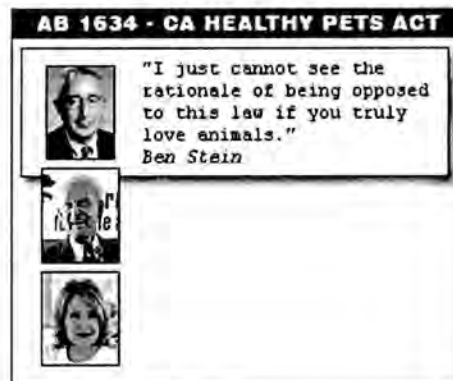
He said he was particularly troubled by the lack of a self-referral system directly connected to board. Under the new system, according to a document provided by the Medical Board, physicians can self-refer to private substance abuse programs; "the Board is not aware of a physician's treatment unless a complaint is received."

Under the old system, Conway said, doctor's could self-refer and meet with counselor's with a direct connection to the board. A physician would need to attend group sessions one or two times a week, depending on their progress, for five years. Conway said that he is now working with a pair of noted addiction-medicine doctors, David Greenberg and Michael Sucher, to create a private sector equivalent called the Pacific Assistance Group to provide the oversight the board once offered. It's modeled on a program in Arizona.

The auditor's report cites problems such as lack of contact with physicians'

substance abuse counselors, lack of verification that physicians were attending group therapy sessions, and very slow turnaround times for getting physicians into drug testing. Fellmeth's work on diversion was part of a larger effort to move the Medical Board from a roll of representing the medical profession to protecting consumers, she said. It remains one of the few state boards that still has a majority of "professional" members—that is, doctors, rather than "public" members. However, the board now has eight doctors, down from 12 a few years ago; the number of public members has remained constant at seven.

She takes a dim view of professional groups that claim that "public" members don't have the specialized knowledge needed to govern a complex field like medicine.



"They [enforcement issues] mostly have to do with drugs and sex [with patients]," Fellmeth said. "Did he commit that misconduct on such and such a day? You don't have to be a doctor to opine on that. We ask laypeople every day to make these kinds of decisions. They're called juries."

The poster child offered up by some critics of the diversion program is a Beverly Hills plastic surgeon named Brian West. A Google search on his name will turn up a DUI mug shot, some gruesome pictures

of his work allegedly gone wrong, and an entire website designed to warn people about him. It will also turn up newspaper stories detailing sordid scenes, like West downing eight Heinekens in a McDonald's parking lot during a 2003 relapse.

What you are less likely to see, Conway said, is information that reflects more positively on West. Two of West's former patients—Tina Minasian and the late Becky Anderson—were key members of a "victim's posse," that often show up in news stories and hearings, Conway said. He claims both women ignored West's post-surgery advice for their abdominal plastic surgeries, which included orders such as avoiding smoking and weight gain. He added that it will take some digging in many of the stories to turn up the fact that Minasian has lost several malpractice suits against West, that no one has been able to successfully show he worked while intoxicated, and he is still employed by a prestigious practice in Southern California. As of press time, West had not returned a call seeking comment.

Fellmeth's two-year contract as enforcement monitor paid the CPIL \$237,466. The work included two major reports on the board's enforcement programs. According to the school's 2005-2006 annual report, the CPIL and the Children's Advocacy Institute, which Julie's Fellmeth's husband Robert Fellmeth founded in 1989 under the banner of the CPIL, brought in \$700,741 for the school. This was over a quarter of the law school's revenue. It came second only to academic programs, mainly tuition, as a revenue source.

Candis Cohen, public information officer for the Medical Board, said this was money spent on Fellmeth's final report was well-spent. "It got a lot reaction by the board and board staff, all of it positive," Cohen said. "We made many changes based on that report."

Conway noted the West's story also appeared in a multipage story in the Spring 2008 issue of the USD Law School's Journal. This included the mug shot and a 20 year account of drinking and patient complaints. He questioned the group making money on enforcement programs while also printing "sensational" reports about doctors whose cases are still pending—something he said "intimidates" critics of the CPIL.

"They don't want to be in her crosshairs," Conway said.

<< Back

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Julie D'Angelo Fellmeth

From: Candis Cohen [CCohen@mbc.ca.gov]
Sent: Tuesday, June 10, 2008 1:43 PM
To: julied@sandiego.edu
Subject: Voila!

Sacramento Business Journal (California)

June 9, 2008 Monday

HEADLINE: Medical Board Scraps MD Substance Abuse Oversight;
Audits showed flaws in rehabilitation program, which cost \$1.4M each year

BYLINE: Kathy Robertson

The mental health and substance abuse diversion program for California doctors will end June 30, with no formal alternative in its wake.

The potential gap of months -- and possibly years -- could drive the problem underground and harm patients.

The program has been criticized for inadequate enforcement and poor administration in five audits over its 28-year existence, including the most recent audit in 2007.

The Medical Board of California, the agency that licenses doctors and runs the diversion program, voted in July to immediately stop accepting self-referrals and close down the program within a year. A coalition of physician organizations is working on a statewide program to replace it, but there will be a significant gap in services.

"The Medical Board, in our view, abrogated their obligation to the public without putting in an alternative," said Ned Wigglesworth, a spokesman for the California Medical Association in Sacramento. "We're still working on making sure there is an avenue ... to make sure (doctors) get the help they need before somebody gets hurt."

A bill moving through the state Legislature takes a different approach and seeks to establish consistent standards for handling drug abuse and mental health treatment for a variety of licensed professionals in California.

"If you are a substance-abusing health care practitioner ... you are either dangerous or not," said Julianne D'Angelo Fellmeth, administrative director of the Center for Public Interest Law at the University of California San Diego and a longtime critic of the medical board's diversion program. "If you are, all boards should have consistent standards and impose consequences for relapse."

The five-year monitoring and rehabilitation program for doctors with substance abuse problems or mental health disorders was established by legislation in 1980. It's been administered by the state medical board, the agency that licenses doctors, at an annual cost of about \$1.4 million.

The most recent audit of the program, conducted by the California state auditor and released a year ago, concluded that monitoring was inconsistent and the board didn't always require doctors to stop practicing immediately after testing positive.

Doctors entered the program in one of three ways:

- . Self-referral, often the result of encouragement by concerned colleagues or family members,
- . Referral from the medical board's enforcement unit instead of disciplinary action, or
- . Ordered by the board to participate as part of a disciplinary action.

To graduate, doctors must be alcohol- or drug-free for at least three years and have demonstrated a lifestyle that will maintain stability. In mental health cases, doctors must comply with treatment recommendations and demonstrate stability.

There are 127,000 doctors licensed in California, about 100,000 of them in active practice. Experts estimate 10,000 to 14,000 California doctors suffer some degree of substance abuse in their career and "a significant portion" are in need of treatment at any given time, according to board president Dr. Richard Fantozzi.

"Our diversion program is a failed concept and does not put public protection as its priority," he said.

The average number of doctors in the medical board program at any time was about 300, leaving at least 9,700 practicing who may or may not be in treatment, said Kim Kirchmeyer, deputy director of the board.

The program has been run from medical board headquarters in Sacramento with a 14-member staff. Some have been placed in other positions in the agency, while others have found or will seek jobs elsewhere, board spokeswoman Candis Cohen said.

The program posed an inherent conflict for the medical board as both healer and enforcer of errant doctors, sources say. It did offer a strong incentive to wayward doctors who sought help before their abuse resulted in a complaint: confidential treatment.

"The first thing they worry about is losing their license," said Bill Sandberg, executive director of the Sierra Sacramento Valley Medical Society. "A major incentive to do something about (their) addiction is gone, and it will be a long time before something else is in place."

The medical board recommended, when it voted last summer to pull the plug on the program, to establish a new state agency or entity to provide diversion/monitoring programs for all California licensed health care professionals.

Senate Bill 1441 by state Sen. Mark Ridley-Thomas, a Democrat from Los Angeles, would establish committees within the state Department of Consumer Affairs to develop guidelines by January 2010 related to all providers with alcohol and drug problems.

While the medical board ran its own program, other state boards outsource the work.

Consumer Affairs manages a master contract with Maximus Inc., a government operations consulting company in Reston, Va., that provides diversion services to nurses, dentists, pharmacists, physical therapists, veterinarians, osteopaths and physician assistants.

"Come July 1, the lights will go out (at the medical board program), and there will be physicians out there who need help," Wigglesworth said. The medical association operates a confidential hotline for members with substance abuse problems, he added, "but it doesn't provide the consistent monitoring people need going forward."

>>> <julied@sandiego.edu> 6/10/2008 12:56 PM >>>

Business Spectator

NEWS

7:44 AM, 26 Jun 2008

Ratings power extends beyond information: critic

By Jane Baird of Reuters

LONDON -- The core problem of the current credit ratings system is that ratings are so embedded in financial regulation that they serve as regulatory licences, not just information, a well known former banker and academic said.

"The regulatory dependence on ratings is a cow that the ratings agencies have been milking for many years, and the cow has gotten fatter and fatter and fatter," said Frank Partnoy, a law professor at the University of San Diego and author of "Infectious Greed".

"If there were some way that we could get rid of it, we could move to the next stage and not have all this disfunctionality where people have to have a rating for capital reasons," he told the Euromoney Global Borrowers & Investors Forum on Wednesday.

The US Securities and Exchange Commission said on Wednesday that it may propose eliminating the requirement that money market funds hold only securities with high ratings, among other measures to reduce reliance on ratings.

Europe, meanwhile, is moving to enshrine ratings in regulation with implementation of Basel II, which uses them to fix how much capital banks must set aside for different assets.

At the forum, executives of the three major agencies -- Standard & Poor's, Moody's Investors Service and Fitch Ratings -- said that they did not want ratings to play a regulatory role.

"What we produce is an opinion ... that's all it is intended to be," said Ian Bell, S&P's European head of structured finance ratings. "A number of governments, particularly the US government, have decided to take that opinion and to attach certain rights to it.

Wrong thing to do

"We have vociferously said it is the wrong thing to do, but nevertheless governments have chosen to do that," he added.

Frederic Drevon, Moody's head for Europe, the Middle East and Africa, said, however, that investors in parts of the world without regulatory intervention had also become dependent on ratings.

"If you look at Basel II, trying to find a simple way of addressing credit risk is very difficult if not relying on some external independent source, and for better or worse you have the agencies doing that," he said.

"Alternative solutions do not always exist in the market," he added.

Mr Partnoy acknowledged that the problem is deeper than regulation. "There is a follow-on behaviour effect that is associated with regulation. Once people start to use a certain kind of nomenclature, they lock in."

But he also proposed an alternative system.

"Regulation should depend on market prices ... on credit spreads," he said.

Some objections to this idea are that there are no spreads for a lot of securities that are not liquid and that market pricing could be manipulated over the short term, he said.

"But those are objections of the second order. If we could agree that we would like to harness the power of the market for regulatory purposes, then we could come up with some kind of a measure of a rolling average of the market's assessment of credit risk associated with particular investments."

Such a system would be simple and would react more quickly to an underlying change in creditworthiness, he added.

Philip McDuell, Fitch head of European and Asian structured credit, said, however, that if the agencies had performed better leading up to the credit crisis, "we wouldn't be having this debate".

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Embedding ratings in regulation is mistake-critic

Wed Jun 25, 2008 1:28pm EDT

By Jane Baird

LONDON, June 25 (Reuters) - The core problem of the current credit ratings system is that ratings are so embedded in financial regulation that they serve as regulatory licences, not just information, a well known former banker and academic said.

"The regulatory dependence on ratings is a cow that the ratings agencies have been milking for many years, and the cow has gotten fatter and fatter and fatter," said Frank Partnoy, a law professor at the University of San Diego and author of "Infectious Greed".

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Thursday

Rating agencies have 'milked' regulatory relationship

Duncan Kerr
26 Jun 2008

The deeply embedded nature of the credit ratings system in financial market regulation is a fundamental problem that needs to be addressed as rating agencies have exploited this regulatory dependence over many years, according to an academic and commentator.

Frank Partnoy, a law professor at the University of San Diego and author of "Infectious Greed", a book that chronicles the rise in the use of derivatives in the financial markets, told conference delegates the agencies have been "milking" this regulatory dependence, Reuters reports.

He said the credit ratings serve as a kind of regulatory licence, not just information or opinion, and that "this regulatory dependence

on ratings is a cow that the ratings agencies have been milking for many years, and the cow has gotten fatter and fatter and fatter."

Partnoy, who was speaking at a conference in London yesterday, added: "If there were some way that we could get rid of it, we could move to the next stage and not have all this dysfunctionality where people have to have a rating for capital reasons."

The US Securities and Exchange Commission said yesterday that it may propose eliminating the requirement that money market funds hold only securities with high credit ratings, among other measures to reduce reliance on the ratings produced by the agencies.

At the conference, senior executives of the three major rating agencies Standard & Poor's, Moody's Investors Service and Fitch Ratings said that they did not want the ratings they afford securities to play a regulatory role, and ratings should be considered mere opinions.

Ian Bell, S&P's European head of structured finance ratings, said: "What we produce is an opinion ... that's all it is intended to be. A number of governments, particularly the US government, have decided to take that opinion and to attach certain rights to it."

He added: "We have vociferously said it is the wrong thing to do, but nevertheless governments have chosen to do that."

Partnoy acknowledged that the problem with the credit rating system is deeper than regulation. "There is a follow-on behaviour effect that is associated with regulation. Once people start to use a certain kind of nomenclature, they lock in." But he also proposed an alternative system.

He said: "Regulation should depend on market prices ... on credit spreads."

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June 26

Diversity Meets Data at George Mason Law

The American Bar Association considers, as part of its accreditation requirements, a law school's commitment to a diverse student population. For top-ranking institutions, that usually means some combination of aggressive outreach, race-conscious affirmative action and on-campus support services to help recruit and retain underrepresented minorities.

But what if the ABA's diversity standard led some students on the path to failure?

Since 2005, when *The Stanford Law Review* published a controversial and highly publicized study concluding that there would be more black lawyers if law schools did not use affirmative action in admissions, opponents of such policies have argued that race-based preferences actually harm those whom it is intended to help. Yet there is also evidence that concerted outreach and support efforts can, if applied properly, prevent the potential negative effects of race-conscious admissions practices.

The "mismatch" theory, as it's been called, posits that some African-American students have struggled and at times dropped out of highly competitive law schools even though they might have thrived at lower-ranked or less rigorous institutions, and gone on to pass the bar exam. The article concluded that without affirmative action, black students would be better "matched" with institutions that meet their qualifications, and that disparities in failure rates would disappear.

Now, an organization that opposes race-conscious admissions policies asserts that it has found data from one particular institution illustrating the sort of dynamic the study would predict. According to data obtained through a public records request, from 2003 to 2005 some 45 percent of African-American students at George Mason University School of Law, outside of Washington, had grade-point averages below 2.15, defined as "academic failure." For the rest of the student body, however, the figure was 4 percent.

While the law school confirmed the numbers, it also provided details showing that since those years, the number of admitted African-American students increased while instances of "involuntary academic attrition" — in which students are no longer permitted to continue the program unless they reapply and show improvement to achieve good standing — dropped to zero. Moreover, officials attributed the gains to an expanded outreach program that pairs each incoming minority student with both a student and an alumni mentor.

In 2004, the law school enrolled seven black students, four of whom were placed on involuntary academic attrition. In 2005, an equal number of black students enrolled, but five of them could no longer continue for the same reason. The next year, the law school began to see improvements: In 2006, one black student out of eight admitted suffered academic failure; in 2007, the enrollment of first-year African-American students climbed to 13, and none of them failed out.

"We feel that we've made significant progress, although you can always do better," said Christine LaPaille, George Mason's vice president for university relations. "The numbers speak for themselves. In the early 2000s, we had an attrition rate of more than 60 percent of our first-year African-American students. This year we admitted more African-American students than in any of the last four years, and this year we had an attrition rate of zero."

The law school has seen its share of controversy surrounding diversity issues. The ABA has repeatedly questioned whether the school was doing enough to attain a sufficiently representative student body, a dispute that has at times spilled over into the public arena. The public records request, filed under the Freedom of Information Act by the Center for Equal Opportunity, revealed the stark gap in academic failure rates contained in a letter from the law school's dean, Dan Polsby, to the ABA in response to a site visit report.

"We have an obligation to refrain from victimizing applicants, regardless of race or color, by admitting them to an educational

program in which they appear likely to fail," Polsby wrote. "This obligation is recognized in Standard 501(b), but we believe it exists independently of any ABA regulations. Adhering to this principle is the greatest obstacle to our efforts to increase the diversity of the George Mason student body."

ABA Standard 501(b) states: "A law school shall not admit applicants who do not appear capable of satisfactorily completing its educational program and being admitted to the bar."

While some critics have placed blame for the disproportionate failure rate of some minority students on the ABA, others defend the association's standards and contend that schools should be taking more responsibility for the success of their students. "I don't think any school should be failing 45 percent of any of its cohorts," said Michael A. Olivas, the William B. Bates Distinguished Chair of Law and director of the Institute of Higher Education Law & Governance at the University of Houston Law Center.

Olivas, who has participated in ABA accreditation site visits, said the attacks on the diversity standard as applied to Mason were "very unfair and very misleading" because of the small sample size and suggested that minority students at a law school like George Mason might not feel welcome. "I think the support program has made a difference and I think the appropriate admissions standards for a top-40 law school have also made a difference," LaPaille said of the law school's more recent efforts.

The ABA concluded in its site evaluation report in 2000 that the relatively low enrollment of minority students at the school could be attributed to a dearth of "need-based scholarship grants, to minority or any other applicants" (which has since changed); an "[unwillingness] to engage in any significant preferential affirmative action admissions program"; and "its general reputation as a conservative law school." In 2004, the school admitted 63 African Americans to the law program; seven accepted the offer.

Faculty critics, however, place the blame for George Mason Law's low enrollment of African-American students elsewhere: on the distorting effects of affirmative action. If the school has historically been more reluctant to embrace race-conscious admissions policies than its peer institutions, then, the theory goes, minority students admitted to Mason would have higher-ranked alternative choices than their white and Asian peers. But "black students tend to turn down our offers" in disproportionate numbers, said Michael I. Krauss, a law professor on the faculty.

Standards and Accreditation

The ABA's standards on equal opportunity and diversity affirm that law schools must take "concrete action" to provide "full opportunities for the study of law and entry into the profession by members of underrepresented groups, particularly racial and ethnic minorities, and a commitment to having a student body that is diverse with respect to gender, race, and ethnicity."

An attached interpretation to the standard clarifies, moreover, that the ABA does not have specific policy recommendations for achieving those goals — a standard that critics have attacked as "ambiguous" at best and disingenuous at worst.

"This Standard does not specify the forms of concrete actions a law school must take to satisfy its equal opportunity and diversity obligations," the interpretation states. "The determination of a law school's satisfaction of such obligations is based on the totality of the law school's actions and the results achieved. The commitment to providing full educational opportunities for members of underrepresented groups typically includes a special concern for determining the potential of these applicants through the admission process, special recruitment efforts, and programs that assist in meeting the academic and financial needs of many of these students and that create a more favorable environment for students from underrepresented groups."

The ABA itself, however, wrote an *amicus curiae* brief in support of the University of Michigan Law School's affirmative action policies in the 2003 *Grutter v. Bollinger* case, in which the Supreme court allowed the voluntary use of race in admissions to achieve diversity as long as it was one among many factors. "[I]t is unquestionable that the improvement in minority participation in our law schools, and thus in our legal system, has been achieved largely by the use of race-conscious admissions policies such as those under attack here," the brief stated.

Gail Heriot, a professor at the University of San Diego School of Law and a former associate dean at George Mason Law, cited the document in her concurring statement in the U.S. Commission on Civil Rights's 2007 [Report on Affirmative Action in American Law Schools](#). Heriot, who is a member of the bipartisan commission, first publicized the numbers from the public records request, which described student data after she left the school, in a blog post last week critical of the ABA's practices on diversity.

"I think it's fair to say that the standards [encourage] schools to seek diversity in an individualized way," said Steven R. Smith, dean of California Western School of Law and former chairman of the ABA Section on Legal Education and Admissions to the Bar. "In that sense, I think they're fairly open to schools being able to approach diversity in ways they want, as is true in most accreditation standards."

The ABA said it completed its most recent periodic inspection of the law school in 2007, a requirement for maintaining accreditation status, which is necessary for enrolled students to be eligible for subsidized federal loans. While critics of the ABA's diversity practices have sounded the alarm about George Mason potentially losing its accreditation, those with knowledge of such



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Revolutionaries

The Law Goes Open Source

Daniel Fisher 06.30.08, 12:00 AM ET

A new breed of online services is putting the law within the reach of everybody

Philip Rosenthal and Edward Walters were young lawyers at Covington & Burling, a prestigious Washington firm, when they got an unusual request from a large corporate client to start looking up legal case histories on the Internet. The client was fed up with paying the firm's stiff bills for legal research.

At first they were shocked. Rosenthal and Walters were used to racking up hours on the online research services lawyers snidely call *Wexis*, after *Westlaw*, a unit of Canada's Thomson Reuters, and *LexisNexis*, owned by Anglo-Dutch publishing conglomerate Reed Elsevier. Big law firms pay as much as \$4 million a year for access to *Westlaw* and *Lexis*.

This was in 1999. When the two lawyers started trolling for cases on the Web, they noticed courts around the country were beginning to post filings online. Why pay *Westlaw* and *LexisNexis* so much for documents that were already in the public domain?

"The courts produce this stuff at taxpayer expense, it gets shipped to these foreign companies for free and then they charge us to read it," says Rosenthal, a Caltech-educated physicist who graduated from Harvard Law School.

"I thought, 'This is completely stupid. I've got half a mind to start the alternative to *Lexis/Westlaw*,'" adds Walters, who attended law school at the University of Chicago and was once a speechwriter for George H.W. Bush.

Eight years and \$7 million later Rosenthal and Walters have their alternative, an online legal-research service called *Fastcase*. It uses computer algorithms to perform all the case indexing now done by the thousands of human editors at *Westlaw* and *Lexis*. Operating out of a slightly seedy Washington office building, *Fastcase* brings in less than \$10 million a year in revenue, hardly a threat to the *Wexis* duopoly, which last year roughly split a combined \$1.6 billion in pretax profit on sales of \$6.5 billion.

Disruption is in the air, however. *Fastcase* sells bulk memberships to state bar associations for as little as \$2 per member per year, a compelling reason for law firms to at least try it out. Just as cheap personal computers undermined the mainframe business in the 1980s and open-source programs like *Linux* and *MySQL* are challenging *Microsoft* and *Oracle* today, outfits like *Fastcase* are attacking *Wexis*' stranglehold on legal research from the bottom up.

A mix of for-profit and not-for-profit firms have missions similar to *Fastcase*'s, including *PreCydent*, *Public.Resource.org* and *Collexis Holdings*' *Casemaker* division. They are assembling a digital version of the collections that fill miles of shelves at law libraries across the country.

What people will do with it is anybody's guess. *Public.Resource.Org* is the brainchild of Carl Malamud, a data-access advocate who in the mid-1990s started putting filings from the Securities & Exchange Commission online for free. The SEC later took up his idea and created the *Edgar* online service for accessing filings. Malamud prodded the U.S. Patent & Trademark Office to do the same with patents in 1998.

With the help of influential backers like *Ebay* founder *Pierre Omidyar*'s foundation, Malamud's *Public.Resource.Org* is filling up a 24-terabyte *Sun Microsystems* server with case law going back to 1754. (That's a lot of bytes, enough to type out 12 million novels.) Malamud bought some data from *Fastcase* while building his service, which is available for free on the Web. "If we do it and do it right, there are 100 other people who will copy our data and use it in interesting ways," Malamud says.

Bigger law firms will continue to use Westlaw and Lexis for a long time. The established vendors have the most current and comprehensive databases, and, says Thomas Fleming, lawyers know them best. Fleming oversees the research department at 150-attorney Jeffer Mangels Butler & Marmaro in Los Angeles. His firm uses Fastcase for quick searches and to cross-check citations, but he says it has a "phenomenal niche" serving smaller firms that can't afford Wexis.

Those who would unseat Wexis have the arduous task ahead of digitizing all of the court records still in books. Optical scanning systems have a 98% accuracy rate, which means an unacceptable 40 errors per page. So Fastcase and others are paying Indian data-entry firms 40 to 60 cents per 1,000 characters to "triple-key" the books into digital form, with three typists entering the text and a computer picking the version at least two agree upon. Malamud estimates it will cost \$6 million to digitize all 10,000 books covering the entire history of district, appellate, Supreme Court and bankruptcy law. The Indian typists have to leave out the editors' notes in the Westlaw or risk copyright infringement.

Another tricky task will be training computers to determine whether a holding in a case has been overruled or altered by a subsequent decision. The army of lawyers and editors at Westlaw and Lexis do this now, coding cases with helpful symbols like red flags to warn lawyers that a particular section of a case is no longer valid. "In the free-case world, it's all probably there, but is there a way to relate one case to another?" asks Richard King, chief operating officer of Thomson Reuters' West division.

Working in the open-sourcers' favor is the fact that what lawyers do for a living is quite similar to what Google's software algorithms do with Web sites. Lawyers prepare cases by looking through old court decisions to find arguments that will help their cause. Then they rank those cases according to a well-established hierarchy. Decisions that have been cited frequently by other judges are considered more reliable than ones that nobody cites. Appeals courts rank higher than trial courts. Recent decisions trump old, stale ones. Google's servers use similar logic, ranking Web sites according to how many other sites link to them and how lofty the referring sites are in the ranking.

The similarity struck Thomas Smith, a professor at the University of San Diego School of Law, a few years ago. Thomas got LexisNexis to share data on millions of court citations, and with the help of mathematician Antonio Tomarchio, he showed that citations display a highly skewed distribution, similar to that of links among Web sites or the likelihood that top movie stars will appear in a film together. Out of 4 million cases he studied, 400,000 weren't cited at all, and 773,000 were cited only once. Only 0.3% had been cited more than 500 times.

Smith and Tomarchio used this knowledge to develop a free search engine called PreCydent. In recent tests Smith and others have shown that PreCydent turns up those cases legal experts consider the most authoritative more reliably than any of the existing legal-research services.

"These little guys [Fastcase and PreCydent] are throwing a lot of Internet technology at the problem, and they may be getting close to replicating human analysis," says David Curle, an analyst at Outsell, a market research firm that tracks the legal information business.

Fastcase, with seven full-time programmers, is working on new ways to display data, including a four-dimensional chart that sorts cases by relevance and time (see *chart below*). Type in "abortion" and "privacy," for example, and Fastcase displays a field of circles, with the largest at 1973: *Roe v. Wade*, the U.S. Supreme Court decision that legalized abortion. Click on the circle and the case is displayed, with hypertext links to other cases cited within it.



PreCYdent Legal Research Web Site Takes on LexisNexis, Westlaw

By Mowad, Michelle

A San Diego- and Milan, Italy-based startup company recently launched its version of a legal research Web site and is quickly growing its number of searchable cases.

PreCYdent Inc.'s search engine aims to be more effective at finding relevant case law than LexisNexis or Westlaw, which have billions of searchable documents from thousands of sources in more than 100 countries and are the dominant legal research providers.

Tom Smith, a law professor at the University of San Diego's School of Law and chief executive officer of PreCYdent has heard many law students say they can't do legal research with a few search words the way people do searches on Google.

"As an academic I use the two big online legal research services - Lexis and Westlaw - a lot and it always frustrated me that they didn't have search technology that was as good as what I use on the Web," said Smith, whose company refers to its Web site as the "beta" version because it is still in an early development stage.

Free Searches

But now, anyone can search cases for free by typing just a few key words. The site, which was created and launched for less than \$1 million, is supported by advertising, Smith says.

PreCYdent earns advertising money when site visitors click through to hosted Google ads, which are posted adjacent to search results.

"PreCYdent searches the legal citations network the way the major Web search engines search the Web," said Smith.

Smith was introduced to Antonio Tomarchio, now chief technical officer and co-founder of PreCYdent, by a mathematics professor at Cornell University in Ithaca, N.Y., several years ago. Tomarchio, a graduate of Politecnico di Milano, Italy's largest technical university, teamed up with Smith to form PreCYdent in April 2006. Tomarchio and a team of computer science engineering consultants designed and tested the new legal research technology for several months on a database of U.S. Supreme Court and Court of Appeals cases.

Smith and Tomarchio, who lead the company's six full-time consulting staff, say that all lawyers, law librarians, law students and the public should have free access to state-of-the-art search technology to help them navigate through the large and complex body of legal authority.

"We want to spread the legal knowledge for free over the Internet," said Tomarchio in a video statement released on the company Web site and YouTube. "And we aim to drastically change how legal research is done and create a legal community where people and legal professionals can interact."

Nationwide Coverage Coming

The beta version contains U.S. Supreme Court and U.S. Court of Appeals cases from 12 states, including California, Florida, Hawaii and New York. Within the next two to three months, Smith says he anticipates extending the service to cover all 50 states.

These cases are available in the original Portable Document Format, or PDF, and may be read, downloaded and printed at no charge.

While basic searches are free, users can register to become a member of the PreCYdent professional network. The objective is to create a space where people interested in law will be able to share knowledge, find help and exchange experiences.

Developers are incorporating a number of Web 2.0 features. The site already allows users to add commentary, recommendations and ratings to cases. In addition to opinion and statute searches, users can upload documents from the U.S. Government Printing Office, including all materials printed by the U.S. Congress.

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Court names Hirsch, Lund as commissioners

From staff reports
Saturday, June 7, 2008

Ventura County Superior Court judges announced Thursday that they have selected David M. Hirsch and Roger L. Lund as the court's newest commissioners.

The two men fill vacancies left by the appointments of Kevin G. DeNoce and David R. Worley to judgeships last month.

Hirsch, who takes the bench Monday, has been a deputy public defender for the Ventura County Public Defender's Office since 2003. Before that, he worked for a criminal defense firm and as a sole practitioner.

"I am ecstatic. I am really looking forward to it," Hirsch, of Ventura, said Friday.

He said he is being assigned to Department 10, which is traffic court.

A graduate of the University of San Diego School of Law, Hirsch also served three years as a deputy district attorney in Shasta County.

Lund, who takes the bench Friday, is a principal in the law offices of Gose, Lechman & Lund, specializing in estate planning, real estate and business law.

"I am excited, very excited," Lund, of Camarillo, said.

He said he will be assigned to Department 34, which handles family law cases.

Lund is a former planning commissioner for Camarillo and has been active in several school-related organizations. His law degree is from the Pepperdine University School of Law.

Superior Court commissioners hear a variety of matters, including family law, juvenile delinquency, traffic, criminal and small-claims cases.



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Colorful candidate for judge touts experience

By Wendy Thomas Russell Staff Writer

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LONG BEACH - He curses like a sailor. He's been known to pick a fight or two. And he said he's dated some of the female attorneys in the county court system.

Deputy District Attorney Patrick Connolly may not be your typical candidate for Superior Court judge.

Yet the 43-year-old bachelor earned more votes in Tuesday's primary - 39 percent - than any other candidate in the race for Judicial Office No. 84, soon to be vacated by Long Beach Juvenile Court Judge Gibson Lee.

That puts Connolly in good position for the November runoff with Commissioner Lori-Ann C. Jones, who came in second last week with 27 percent of the vote. Whoever wins won't necessarily replace Lee; once elected, judges can be assigned to courtrooms throughout the county.

A 15-year prosecutor and Rossmoor resident, Connolly has handled some of Long Beach's most complicated and high-profile murder cases in recent years. This year, he won convictions against Justin Flint and Frank Gonzalez, methamphetamine users who murdered an off-

duty sheriff's deputy during the commission of a robbery two years ago.

"I feel like I have the experience and the knowledge," Connolly said of his run for judge. "There are a lot of great judges who have retired or will be retiring soon, and I'd like to think I could follow in the mold of several of them."

If elected, Connolly might well be considered among the bench's more colorful characters. He readily acknowledges his occasional hard-partying ways, as well as his outspoken nature.

As popular as he is personable, Connolly has been known to spend sleepless weekends in Las Vegas with friends, playing blackjack and taking in football games over endless cocktails.

His language is direct and drips with expletives.

And his charms have led to more than a few romantic liaisons over the years. At the start of the Gonzalez trial, for instance, Connolly made a record of the fact that he'd once dated the court reporter, in the interest of full disclosure.

But the University of San Diego graduate and football star has gained the respect and admiration of countless attorneys and judges throughout the county - including, he points out with a grin, many of his ex-girlfriends.

He's regarded by many as capable, caring, organized, passionate and supremely confident. He plays hard, some have said. But he works harder.

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June 18, 2008 08:00 AM Eastern Daylight Time

Liquid Realty Hires John J. Arens as Director

SAN FRANCISCO--(BUSINESS WIRE)--Liquid Realty Partners, the global leader in acquiring interests in private real estate funds, partnerships and trusts on a secondary basis, has hired John Arens in the new position of Director, the firm announced today.

Mr. Arens, age 40, will have both day-to-day operations and strategic planning responsibilities at Liquid Realty.

"John will contribute to the operational excellence of the firm and help us achieve our strategic goals as we continue to grow," said Scott Landress, Managing Principal and Chief Executive Officer of Liquid Realty. "His strong experience in real estate financial services, risk management and securitization will be especially valuable in the context of limited partners re-evaluating their real estate portfolios and initiating secondary sales in the current environment."

Prior to joining Liquid Realty, Mr. Arens was a Vice President at Redwood Trust (NYSE: RWT), a publicly traded mortgage real estate investment trust. Mr. Arens managed the company's residential investment services and was responsible for the development and implementation of operating systems and strategic planning. In addition, Mr. Arens held senior management roles with Redwood's mortgage conduit subsidiary. Previously, Mr. Arens was a managing director at Dorado Corporation, a privately held enterprise software provider for large banks and lenders. His responsibilities included the marketing and sales of home lending technology to national accounts. Prior to Dorado, Mr. Arens was a mortgage transaction manager at Countrywide Securities Corporation. He began his career as an associate attorney at Booth, Mitchel & Strange, a southern California-based commercial and business law firm.

Mr. Arens holds a JD degree from the University of San Diego School of Law, and a BA degree in Business Administration from the University of San Diego. Mr. Arens is a member of the State Bar of California, and a licensed real estate broker in the State of California.

About Liquid Realty

Liquid Realty Partners (www.LiquidRealty.com), the real estate secondaries firm, specializes in acquiring interests in private real estate private equity funds, partnerships and trusts on a secondary basis worldwide. With over \$1 billion of closed equity investments, Liquid Realty is the largest and the only dedicated buyer of real estate private equity interests on a secondary basis. Liquid Realty's Managing Principals, Scott Landress and Jeff Giller, are real estate investment and finance veterans supported by the largest and most experienced real estate secondary investment team. The firm works directly with institutional sellers and through intermediaries, and invests alongside private equity secondary investors. Liquid Realty's investments range from small, single-fund interests, to large, multi-fund portfolios; span all global geographic markets; include unfunded and primary commitments; and encompass core, core-plus, value-added and opportunistic styles.

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June 18, 2008

Your business community

JOB CHANGES

Steve Smith Photography Inc., a boutique commercial and wedding photography provider, has announced that **Ray J. Gadd** has joined the firm's Boise studio. Gadd, a graduate of the Boise State University College of Business and Economics, is currently marketing the launch of the company's newest division, Steve Smith Weddings.

Adam Johnson has joined ESI Construction as project engineer on its Green Team, which focuses on environmentally sustainable building projects in ESI's 31-state trade area. Johnson has eight years construction experience in Idaho and Nevada and holds a bachelor's degree in construction management from Boise State University.

Foley Freeman PLLC in Meridian has announced **Timothy S. Callender** has joined the firm as an associate attorney. Callender received his bachelor's degree in history and political science from The College of Idaho in June of 2000. He graduated from the University of San Diego School of Law in May 2004. He was admitted to the Idaho State Bar in January of 2007 and has been practicing in the Treasure Valley since.

Callender's areas of emphasis include civil litigation, criminal defense, immigration law and workers' compensation. He is a member of the Young Lawyers section and Workers Compensation section of the Idaho State Bar.

RECOGNITION

World fair trade leader **Ten Thousand Villages** has been recognized as one of the "World's Most Ethical Companies" by The Ethisphere Institute and Forbes Magazine. Recipients of the internationally acclaimed award were revealed this week during an awards ceremony in New York City.

The Boise Ten Thousand Villages store is at 1609 N. 13th St. in historic Hyde Park and is one of over 90 stores in North America. The Boise store has been operating for more than 11 years.

KTVB News Group has won the National Association of Broadcasters Education Foundation 2008 "Service to America" Award, recognizing outstanding community service by local broadcasters.

KTVB News Group won the award for its 2007 "March Against Meth" campaign, which helped raise awareness of the growing danger of methamphetamine abuse in Idaho. The comprehensive campaign included components such as news stories, a documentary, over 10 community events, public service announcements, seven long-form television broadcasts, and aggressive Internet awareness campaign. The culmination of the project was a community event at the Idaho Center that drew 4,000 people and featured Gov. Butch Otter and anti-drug speaker Milton Creagh.

News Assistant Pat Carson compiled this report. E-mail items to bizcom@idahostatesman.com, fax Your Business Community at 377-6449, or mail items to Your Business Community, c/o Newsroom, Idaho Statesman, P.O. Box 40, Boise, ID 83707. Individual portraits are welcomed. Information submitted to the Idaho Statesman may be published or distributed in print, electronic or other form.

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No Deal

In Riverside County, a tough-talking DA stands accused of paralyzing the courts by taking too many cases to trial.

By Bill Blum

During his long career as a prosecutor, Riverside County District Attorney Rod Pacheco had done everything from putting gangbangers behind bars to sending murderers to death row. But one thing he had never done was attend a "bake sale" with a group of judges.

The idea came up in 2003. Pacheco, a Republican who a year earlier had returned to the DA's office as a chief deputy after spending six years in the State Assembly, recalls being dispatched to a meeting with local judges to discuss the county's growing backlog of untried criminal cases. "They said they needed to fix the system," he recounts with an incredulous smile. "They said they wanted to hold a 'bake sale,' and put all the old backlogged cases on calendar for one day in one department. They told me, 'You're going to cut your offers, and we'll get rid of all the cases.'" Pacheco promised to discuss the request with his boss-Grover Trask II, who was DA at the time-but not before declaring, "I don't agree with it, and we're not doing it."

Looking back on the "bake sale" proposal-which Trask also eventually nixed-Pacheco acknowledges he made no friends. "The judges got very mad at me," he remembers. But that didn't change his mind. As he told the assembled jurists back then, "We have an obligation on every one of these cases to reach a just result. These cases aren't widgets."

Five years later Pacheco himself is the DA, and he still refuses to cut corners. "I'm going to remain true to my principles," he says. "We're not going to move cases [through dismissals or expedient plea bargains] just because someone's inconvenienced."

A stocky man with a commanding presence, the 50-year-old Inland Empire native can be both blunt and folksy. His father was in the Air Force for 23 years and held down a second job as a night clerk in a liquor store. His mother worked for the local draft board and later as a real estate agent. Pacheco considers himself fortunate to have gone to college (at UC Riverside), and even more fortunate to be admitted to the University of San Diego School of Law. He graduated in 1983 and says launching his career in the DA's office back in Riverside was one of the best professional decisions he ever made.

A less fortunate turn came after his second return to Riverside-this time from the Statehouse in Sacramento-when the backlog of untried felony cases in the county began to mushroom. In the county's western district alone, the backlog ballooned from an estimated 400 cases in 2003 to more than 1,315 last September. And several times over the past four years, the county has been forced to suspend civil trials to make every judge available to hear criminal matters.

Even though Riverside County's 69 judicial officers-including 20 commissioners-were working harder than ever, they continued to fall further behind. In fiscal 200506 the jurists faced an average per-judge load of 6,500 cases, about the same as the average load in neighboring San Bernardino County (6,704). But while San Bernardino courts, with seven more judges, conducted a total of 272 criminal jury trials that year, Riverside handled 709. Clearly, more cases were settling just across the county line.

That put Pacheco in the eye of the storm: Critics accused him of aggravating the situation with his policy against plea bargaining in "serious" felony cases-for crimes involving murder, rape, sodomy, robbery, and kidnapping. "The district attorney is in many ways the gatekeeper of the system," says Associate Justice Richard Huffman of the state's Fourth District Court of Appeal. And Pacheco, he adds, "is not as willing as some other prosecutors to negotiate settlements, so you end up with a higher number of trials." And a mounting backlog of cases awaiting trial.

"By mid-2007, the courtroom-congestion problem had truly become unconscionable," says Gary Windom, who since 1999 has served as Riverside County's public defender. "Felony defendants, on average, were logging 26.9 court appearances before being sent to trial. A full 7 percent of our felony cases were taking a year to get out of arraignment before being assigned to a trial department. Something had to be done."

In June 2007, after three years of study by county officials and the Administrative Office of the Courts (AOC), state Supreme Court Chief Justice Ronald M. George dispatched a "strike team" of twelve retired and out-of-county judges led by Justice Huffman to try felonies and help ease the backlog. The AOC also hired a nationally recognized court consultant-John Graecen of New Mexico-to help the county restructure and streamline its criminal court calendar. And early this year three additional strike-team judges were added to handle the civil docket, setting up courtrooms in space leased from a former elementary school in Riverside.

The strike team began its work last July, tackling the county's oldest cases first. By all accounts, the effort has paid solid dividends: The felony backlog was brought below 1,150 by year's end and, more important, the rate of increase in the backlog was reversed. Although the team initially was scheduled to work only through December 2007, a skeleton crew of six judges was authorized to continue through June. At the same time, Huffman brought



June 17, 2008

FdL lawyer challenges O'Rourke for DA post

By Sharon Roznik
The Reporter sroznik@fdlreporter.com

November elections could heat up with a district attorney race for the first time in decades in Fond du Lac County.

Daniel Kaminsky, 36, an attorney who with his family moved to Fond du Lac from California in January 2007, is circulating nomination papers to run as a Republican against District Attorney Michael O'Rourke.

O'Rourke, who announced he is running as a Democrat, was appointed last year by Gov. Jim Doyle after longtime District Attorney Tom Storm took a position in the State Justice Department.

The last time a Democrat was elected to office in Fond du Lac County was in 1988 when Peg Lautenschlager was chosen to represent the Fond du Lac area in the state Assembly.

The last time there was a race for the district attorney was in 1986, when Republican Michael Kneeland upset Democratic District Attorney Garrett Kavanaugh, said County Clerk Joyce Buechel.

O'Rourke said although his leanings are toward the left, the office should not be affixed with a party affiliation.

"Really, I think, the district attorney's office, like that of judges and sheriffs, should not be partisan," O'Rourke said. "It isn't about politics, it's about law enforcement."

Kaminsky, who is a criminal defense and trial attorney and also serves as a guardian ad litem for children, said he is a strong proponent of professional ethics. He describes himself as a fiscal conservative and says taxpayer money is a valuable resource not to be wasted.

"There are aspects of managing the office that may be affected by partisan ideas. There's a large amount of discretion from the top down on how cases are pursued within the office," Kaminsky said.

Members of the Fond du Lac Republican Party approached the local attorney two weeks ago and asked him to run against O'Rourke, he said.

Although both candidates see the need for reform when it comes to drunken-driving laws they differ in approach.

"I'm for stronger penalties when it comes to OWI offenses, but not what is being currently proposed," O'Rourke said, referring to lobbying to change the OWI charge from a misdemeanor to a felony crime by the third offense, instead of the fifth offense, as it is now.

Instead, O'Rourke said he would promote mandatory probation for a first offense so early treatment could prohibit re-offending. He also supports developing a county treatment court — that would save money by monitoring offenders — as an alternative to prison, for non-violent crimes.

Kaminsky said the way to reduce repeat offenders is strengthen penalties.

"That is the hallmark of our criminal justice system. We need to make the public even more aware of how little alcohol it takes to become impaired," he said.

The candidates also differ on basic issues like the death penalty and the concealed carry law.

Kaminsky is a 1998 graduate of the University of San Diego School of Law and was in private practice in California as a trial attorney for civil litigation, family law and construction law. He and his wife Denise have two children.

O'Rourke spent five years in the public defender's office before becoming a prosecutor in 1998. He is married to Alice and has two children in college.

Kaminsky said he moved from the west coast to be near his wife's family in Fond du Lac and to raise children in a positive environment.

"I grew up in a very populated area my whole life so it's nice to be in a community where people know each other and are a lot friendlier," he said.

He and his wife Denise have two children.

School of Leadership and Education Sciences

June 12, 2008

Most approve of job charities doing

Study: Facts sought on how groups work

By **Jeff McDonald**
STAFF WRITER

An overwhelming majority of San Diego County residents thinks local charities deliver quality services, but nonprofits should do a better job explaining how they work, according to a new study to be released today.

Eighty-six percent of people surveyed in the University of San Diego analysis said they have a "great deal" or "fair amount" of confidence that the region's charities effectively provide quality services.

The number far exceeds the findings of a national study released in April, which said 64 percent of Americans share that same level of confi-

Online: To read the report, go to uniontrib.com/more/documents

dence in nonprofits. Local experts were at a loss to explain the difference.

"Confidence in the nonprofit sector nationally has been declining, but that doesn't appear to have affected San Diego," said Lindsey McDougle, a doctoral candidate and lead researcher for the USD study. "It's great news."

The report, titled "The Appreciated Sector: Public Confidence in San Diego County Nonprofit Organizations," is the first of its kind in this region. The findings will be presented to a gathering of nonprofit professionals this morning.

SEE **Charities, B8**



Andrea Chapman, (left) a licensed vocational nurse, took information from Wendy Brick, who was donating blood at the nonprofit San Diego Blood Bank on Tuesday. *Peggy Peattie / Union-Tribune*

► CHARITIES

CONTINUED FROM PAGE B1

Groups hesitant to spend funds on marketing

Bob Kelly of the San Diego Foundation, which underwrote the USD analysis, said the report's findings are the first step in helping nonprofit executives explain the challenges they face balancing the needs of board members, donors, volunteers, employees, regulators and the public at large.

"The nonprofit community needs to promote its results better, talk about the number of people they serve and the impacts they have on people's lives," he said. "Running a nonprofit is a very complicated, complex job."

A high level of confidence in the nonprofit sector is important because most tax-exempt organizations rely on donors and volunteers to support their causes.

In San Diego County, approximately 11,000 charities employ 80,000 people and hold assets of more than \$12 billion. They provide services that benefit millions of clients.

The university's Caster Family Center for Nonprofit Research conducted a random telephone survey of 1,002 people between November and January to measure the reputation of local charities.

At the time, charity work was in the public eye because of the devastation wrought by October's wildfires. According to the report, 86 percent had an overwhelmingly positive impression of support provided by local nonprofits during the firestorm.

Researchers sought to measure awareness of the nonprofit sector and find out what people think about the way charity executives perform their jobs and how effectively they spend their resources.

While results indicated a high degree of confidence, only 49 percent of respondents could name three San Diego-area charities.

The confidence level dipped to 75 percent when researchers asked whether charities spend money wisely. More than two-in-five respondents — 42 percent — said nonprofit executives are overpaid.

The study "suggests that nonprofits at the very least may need to do a better job of educating the public about what is required to run an efficient organization in the nonprofit sector," the report states.

Researchers also looked at the rate at which county residents volunteer, and respondents said they donate more time than their counterparts nationwide. The USD report said 40 percent of people volun-

REPORT ON LOCAL NONPROFITS BY THE NUMBERS

Of more than 1,000 county residents surveyed:

86% Have a "great deal" or a "fair amount" of confidence in the ability of nonprofits to effectively deliver quality services.

75% Have a "great deal" or a "fair amount" of confidence in the ability of nonprofits to spend money wisely.

42% Think nonprofit executives receive "too much" pay.

29% Have low or no awareness of the nonprofit sector.

SOURCE: USD Caster Family Center for Nonprofit Research

teered for local nonprofits in 2007. The national rate was 26.7 percent in 2006, the study said.

Eugene Tempel, who runs the Center on Philanthropy at Indiana University, said nonprofit executives have to be honest in communicating with donors. Even though contributors shudder at the prospect of paying administrative expenses, hiring a professional staff costs money, he said.

"What you want to do is pay salaries to attract good talent, but you don't want to pay excessively," Tempel said. "You have to be willing to explain why it's necessary to pay the salaries we do."

Many nonprofits resist spending money on marketing or public relations because it steers resources away from an organization's primary mission.

One local agency that has not shied away from investing in publicity is the San Diego Blood Bank, which launched a campaign in 2006 to encourage people to give blood.

"If the public isn't aware of the need to donate blood, then I can't fulfill my mission of providing a safe and steady supply," chief executive Ramona Walker said. "We heard other blood centers were having a decline and we didn't want that to happen in San Diego."

Donations jumped almost 20 percent as a result of the advertising, Walker said. More importantly, the San Diego Blood Bank was singled out by survey respondents when asked to name three local charities.

Robert Donmoyer, a USD professor of leadership studies and co-director of the Caster Family Center, said the new study provides a benchmark for charity executives who would otherwise have no idea what people think about how nonprofits are managed.

"Rather than making decisions on information that hasn't been checked out, it's helpful to have systematic data," Donmoyer said. "Information can inform decision-making."

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Amanda Hansen, 10, who requires frequent blood transfusions, got a hug from Wendy Brick at the San Diego Blood Bank. The blood bank was singled out by survey respondents when asked to name three local charities. Peggy Peattie / Union-Tribune

10News.com

Local Charities Get Good Marks On Survey

Nonprofit Groups Receive Not-So-Good Marks

POSTED: 4:31 am PDT June 12, 2008

UPDATED: 4:55 am PDT June 12, 2008

SAN DIEGO – Most San Diego County residents think local charities deliver quality services, but nonprofit groups should do a better job explaining their work, a report released said.

The University of San Diego Caster Family Center for Nonprofit Research found that 86 percent of respondents have at least a "fair amount" of confidence the region's charities effectively provide quality services, The San Diego Union-Tribune reported.

The 86 percent confidence level far exceeds the 64 percent reported in a similar national survey released in April.

"Confidence in the nonprofit sector nationally has been declining, but that doesn't appear to have affected San Diego," Lindsey McDougale, the lead researcher at USD, told the Union-Tribune. "It's great news."

Not all findings were so positive. More than two in five respondents, or 42 percent, said nonprofit executives are overpaid. Only 49 percent could name three San Diego-area charities, the newspaper reported.

The report "suggests that nonprofits at the very least may need to do a better job of educating the public about what is required to run an efficient organization in the nonprofit sector," according to the Union-Tribune.

"The Appreciated Sector: Public Confidence in San Diego County Nonprofit Organizations" was underwritten by the San Diego Foundation and based on responses from 1,002 people. It was done by telephone after the October's wildfires.

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The San Diego Foundation Releases Report on "The Appreciated Sector: Public Confidence in San Diego County Nonprofit Organizations"

THURSDAY, JUNE 12, 2008

The Caster Family Center for Nonprofit Research, at University of San Diego, today presented the results of a comprehensive analysis of San Diego County residents' confidence in the ability of local nonprofit organizations to provide quality, cost-effective services on behalf of the public. Data for the report comes from a survey of 1,002 adult San Diego County residents conducted between November 2007 and January 2008. The study, funded by a grant from The San Diego Foundation as part of its understanding the San Diego region, highlights other key findings concerning the public's perception of local nonprofits, including:

- Eighty-six percent of respondents expressed either a "great deal" or a "fair amount" of confidence in the ability of San Diego County nonprofit organizations to provide quality services.
- Seventy-five percent of respondents expressed either a "great deal" or a "fair amount" of confidence in the ability of San Diego County nonprofits to spend money wisely.
- Media coverage, opinions of friends and colleagues, and an organization's website were the leading sources of information consulted prior to making a financial donation.
- San Diegans expressed more confidence in the ability of local nonprofit organizations to spend money wisely than the American public has expressed in national surveys of public confidence.
- More than 86 percent of respondents had an overwhelmingly positive impression of the support provided by local nonprofits during the 2007 firestorm.

"Within the nonprofit sector, public trust and confidence have traditionally been viewed as crucial elements in assessing the overall health of the sector," said Robert Donmoyer, Ph.D., co-director, Case Family Center for Nonprofit Research, University of San Diego. "Trust and confidence are assumed to be among the key determinants in volunteering and giving. This study will be a valuable tool for our local nonprofits to assess the levels of trust toward their individual organization."

The report was funded as part of The Foundation's Organizational Success Program (OSP), which is focused on building stronger, more effective nonprofit organizations throughout our region.

"The San Diego Foundation's OSP Working Group is charged with strengthening nonprofits' performance by increasing their skills and knowledge and by providing grants for additional capacity development," said Raymond W. Smilor, OSP Working Group chair and executive director, Beyster Institute, Rady School of Management, UC San Diego. "This is the most comprehensive study on the topic of public confidence in nonprofit organizations, making it a valuable business and learning tool."

"As the research highlights, there is a need from the public for better information on nonprofits. The Foundation will be using this research to start the dialogue about funding a

project that will provide online, accessible, accurate information on local nonprofits including financials, governance practices, etc.," said Bob Kelly, president and CEO, The San Diego Foundation. "Our goal is to show individuals what to look for in a strong, successful nonprofit."

The University of San Diego Caster Family Center for Nonprofit Research presented the study results on June 12, 2008, to more than 130 representatives of the area's 9,000 nonprofit organizations. Donmoyer and Pat Libby, M.S., are co-directors of the center. Graduate student Lindsey M. McDougle, M.E.M, was the main contributor to the report with assistance from Laura Deitrick, M.A. An executive summary and the full report are available at www.sdfoundation.org.

About The San Diego Foundation

Founded in 1975, The San Diego Foundation is a broad-purpose community foundation helping individuals, families and organizations carry out their charitable plans, with the common goal of improving the quality of life in the greater San Diego region, now and for generations to come. For more information, please visit www.sdfoundation.org or call 619.235.2300.

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EDUCATION

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A Rare Turnaround for a Struggling Middle School

By EMILY ALPERT

Tuesday, June 10, 2008 | A southeast San Diego charter school has quietly done the improbable, becoming one of only two California middle schools to pull itself out of No Child Left Behind's purgatory.

More than 300 middle schools statewide have fallen short of the federal law's escalating test standards and will be forced to restructure. Restructuring means just about anything from replacing staff to undergoing state takeover, and it rarely works. The vast majority of schools don't boost achievement after restructuring. Their test scores keep stagnating.

Keiller Leadership Academy, however, found a way out that worked. Once one of San Diego Unified's lowest-scoring public schools, Keiller shed the law's dreaded "Program Improvement" label after remaking itself as a charter school in 2005.

Hiring, once limited by school district seniority, has been thrown open to any interested teacher. Uniforms blot out gang colors on the campus. Cutting spending on custodians helped beautify the once-barren campus. And a new schedule features fewer, longer classes and a school-wide focus on vocabulary, scrutinized by university professors who help teachers tailor their lessons and improve.

"It's so easy to blame the parents, or the community" for low achievement, Executive Director Patricia Ladd said. "All those things we can't control. We have to take things as they are and stop the blame game."

Charter status, which allows schools to run independently while being publicly funded, is no silver bullet. It has not translated into success for every struggling public school in San Diego, such as Memorial Academy of Learning and Technology. But for Keiller, autonomy empowered Ladd to dramatically alter the school's culture through a smattering of reforms.

Quelling Gang Issues Via Uniforms

Keiller's turnaround is now being studied by the California Department of Education, whose consultant Jenny Singh calls it "a big deal" and a case study for other schools. For two years Keiller's test scores ranked in the top 10 percent among demographically similar schools, outscoring the public middle school that many Keiller students would otherwise attend.

It is a stunning achievement for a first-time principal like Ladd, who spent most of her career teaching gifted children in wealthier areas of San Diego and had never before worked south of Interstate 8. When the self-described "white lady from Point Loma" was tapped to work at Keiller after finishing a leadership program at the University of San Diego, Assistant Director Joel Christman was uneasy.

"I thought, 'Oh my God, she's a greenhorn. She doesn't have any idea of the challenges we've got,'" Christman said. "But it was an asset. She demanded that our kids have the same things as the kids there. She never accepted what she saw here."

Before Keiller could begin to reshape what happened in classrooms, staff had to quash the outside distractions that hindered learning. Fights dwindled when Keiller instituted uniforms, preventing students from wearing gang colors to school. As each student passes through the front gate, now dubbed the Gates of Wisdom, Ladd greets them and waits for their reply -- with eye contact -- before they pass. Teachers scrutinize uniforms, even checking for white socks under the hems of khakis.

Similar efforts at district-run schools have been hobbled by parental waivers that allow

A (Nearly) Singular Success

- **The Issue:** Keiller Leadership Academy is one of only two middle schools in California that have dramatically improved achievement and shed a negative federal label after repeatedly falling short of No Child Left Behind testing goals.
- **What It Means:** State education officials are studying the school for clues on how to replicate its success elsewhere. Three hundred and sixty seven middle schools are currently in the same straits as Keiller once was, and few reverse their fortunes.
- **The Bigger Picture:** Keiller's director attributes many of its reforms, including its changed culture and new focus on vocabulary, to the freedom it enjoys after converting into a charter school. Charters are independently run but publicly funded schools that are not bound by school district rules.

students to flout the uniform rules, said Christman, who previously worked at Mann Middle School. He said Keiller's new rules also have a diversionary effect. Kids who insist on wearing gang colors don't come to Keiller in the first place, he said.

Yet gang and behavior issues still erupt: In December a boy threatened a classmate with a hunting knife during gym class. Another boy, expelled from a different school for stealing cell phones, has stolen a dozen phones since coming to Keiller. Last week, a girl toted a knife to school, pointed it at the teacher who confronted her and was shipped to juvenile hall. In the aftermath of that incident Ladd lauded the two students who reported the knife, calling them "heroes" and sparked a class discussion about leadership and "snitching."

One student recounted being beat up at another school, telling a teacher, and getting a worse beating from other kids the next day. Another questioned whether the two "heroes" might face retribution if the knife-wielding girl ended up at the same high school. A third explained that "snitching" was telling on someone who broke a window, but "if a weapon's involved, that's different."

"But breaking a window is wrong, too, isn't it?" Ladd asked.

Peer Pressure for Students and Teachers Alike

Despite such incidents, the overall feel of the school has changed, teachers said. And that, in turn, paves the way for learning.

"If people are comfortable where they're at, they'll take risks," said Robert Heredia, a math and science teacher who joined the school this year. "It translates into raising that hand and asking questions."

Students now clamor to see their grade point averages posted publicly near the Gates of Wisdom, said Tertia Miyashiro, a 7th grade teacher who has taught nine years at the school. Peer pressure has shifted. Seventh grader Kadajah Betts said her friends helped her ace a recent vocabulary test, posted prominently in Ladd's office. She readily cites her GPA -- a 2.2 -- and quickly adds, "But I'm trying to go higher."

"Now, the peer pressure is always positive," said Eva Contreras, director of recruitment and parent involvement. "Are you on the GPA board? Are you going to join the club?"

Pressures have changed for teachers as well. When San Diego Unified operated the school, hiring was heavily influenced by the district's human resources division, which usually limits principals' choices to a short list of the most senior applicants for teaching jobs. Widening the pool was critical, Ladd said.

"We've become a massive employment agency meeting the needs of adults before we meet the needs of the children," Ladd complained of the district system. "We have to be able to hire staff according to performance -- not time in the chair."

Ladd can now interview anyone who applies for a teaching job, and can more easily dismiss teachers who don't mesh with Keiller's mission and challenges. Teachers compare their classes' scores, measured and publicized periodically over the year, to gauge which methods work. Singh knew of no other schools using that method. And every teacher sets personal performance goals that Ladd uses to evaluate their work.

Outsiders also help critique teacher work -- a process Ladd compares to a surgeon being monitored by her peers. Professors from the University of San Diego train teachers and review videotapes of classes to dissect lessons. Teacher planning time used to be consumed by teaching classes for substitutes who failed to show up, repelled by Keiller's reputation, Miyashiro said. Now, teachers devote more time to planning and data, and review university-run studies that track their students' progress over time.

"In my elementary school, the teachers didn't really talk to you," said Eric Alvarado, an 8th grader at the school. "Here, they really support you. If you don't do your homework good, they help you through it."

Keiller also confronted what students lacked -- the experiences and exposure that many kids in wealthier areas enjoyed, such as visiting museums, traveling, even seeing the beach. Without those experiences, Ladd said, students lacked a rich vocabulary. And without that vocabulary, they were unable to understand their textbooks. Reading underscored the dismal test scores in every subject, she said, and reading would help change them.

Her solution was an aggressive focus on vocabulary, drilled during a daily class. Even science teachers stress vocabulary, teaching the prefixes and suffixes that spangle science terminology. And Keiller decided to stretch classes longer by adopting a block schedule with fewer, longer classes each day, devoting more time to basic literacy and less to transitioning from class to class.

Rewriting the Budget to Meet Needs

Like many reforms at Keiller, block scheduling had a price. Block scheduling requires more teachers because each one teaches fewer, longer classes, Ladd said. Keiller also sought a larger crew of counselors to address student needs, and heavier supervision during

lunchtime to maintain order. To keep an intimate feel, Keiller enrolls roughly 200 fewer students than in years past, which reduces its state funding. And it typically pays its teachers 2 percent higher salaries than the San Diego Unified salary scale, said finance manager Rosa Hunt.

Seceding from the school district allowed Keiller to cut the services it didn't want and redirect funds to cover block scheduling and other desired changes, Hunt said. Keiller replaced district custodians with a less expensive contractor, and spent the estimated \$18,000 savings on landscaping to transform the barren, weedy campus, now splashed with flowers and patches of grass, Ladd said.

Keiller also scaled back spending on professional security, once an essential for the rowdy campus, as the new school culture changed behavior. And by reminding employees that saving electricity meant more money for classrooms, Ladd said she scraped together more savings. Ladd estimates that Keiller has cut its monthly electricity bill from \$7,000 to \$4,000.

Outside help is also crucial. An external group, ExED, helps manage Keiller's budget for \$110,000 annually. And board members have courted grants from groups such as the Girard Foundation, which has given Keiller roughly \$207,000 over the past three years. (The foundation's president, Buzz Woolley, is also the founder of *voiceofsandiego.org*.) ExED lists \$225,000 in grants and \$4,000 in fundraising as part of its \$3.8 million budget.

Hunt, an ExED employee, was so impressed by the school's management and mission that she pulled her kids from charter and public schools in Chula Vista to attend Keiller.

"I was doing my kids a disservice by not taking them there," Hunt said.

Paula Cordeiro, a Keiller board member and dean of USD's School of Leadership and Education Sciences, said the next few years will test Keiller's success. The turnaround has already happened. Sustaining it and improving on that success will be more difficult, she said.

"It's a lot of common sense" that drove Keiller's turnaround, Cordeiro said. "But there's a lot of things we do [in education] that aren't common sense."

Please contact Emily Alpert directly at emily.alpert@voiceofsandiego.org with your thoughts, ideas, personal stories or tips. Or set the tone of the debate with a letter to the editor.




Keiller students in media production class work on an upcoming broadcast of KLA News. Photo: Sam Hodgson

Close Window



San Bernardino Community College District names its first Latina, female chancellor

 Download story podcast

10:00 PM PDT on Monday, June 9, 2008

By JULIE FARREN
The Press-Enterprise

Noelia Vela, president/superintendent of Cerritos College, will replace Donald F. Averill as chancellor of the San Bernardino Community College District on July 21.

Vela is the first Latina and first female chancellor for the community college district.

Vela was chosen because she has many of the same attributes as her predecessor, said Community College board President Charles S. Terrell Jr.

Story continues below



"She's very active in the community, very student oriented and a good manager," Terrell said.

Vela could not be reached for comment Monday.

A Texas native, Vela grew up in Chicago. She earned a bachelor's degree in business and a master's in counseling from Illinois State University and a doctoral degree in leadership behavior from the University of San Diego, according to a community college news release.

She began her education career in 1974 as a counselor and served as vice president of student services at Irvine Valley College in Irvine.

In 1993, she was appointed president of Evergreen Valley College in San Jose. Four years later, she moved to Tucson, Ariz., where she was president of Pima Community College's Downtown Campus.

Vela led a physical and program transformation of the downtown campus and was instrumental in increasing enrollment, the release said.

She returned to California in 2004 as president/superintendent of Cerritos College in Norwalk. She helped that college develop new strategic and facilities master plans and expand a Partnership for Quality Education with kindergarten through 12th grade school districts.

Under her leadership, the college established the Southland/Cerritos Center for Transportation Technologies.

Vela is on the boards of the American Association of Community Colleges, the National Institute of Leadership Development and the National Community College Hispanic Council. Averill was chancellor of the San Bernardino Community College District for eight years. He retires June 30 after 40 years in higher education.

SD Unified To Integrate More Autistic Kids in Regular Classes

Jun 23, 2008
 Ana Tintocalis

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Researchers at an autism conference at the University of San Diego say integrating autistic kids into regular school classes is key to helping them move forward in life. The San Diego Unified School District plans to do just that. KPBS Reporter Ana Tintocalis has more.

For decades San Diego Unified sent autistic kids to certain campuses or isolated them in certain classes. But over the next few years the district will integrate them into regular classes instead of keeping them away.

Jodi Robledo is a special education teacher in San Diego Unified and organizer of the autism conference. She says the success of the district's plan relies on its teachers.

Robledo: I think the biggest challenge is attitude, not presuming the competence of these individuals and not being willing to provide the minor accommodations that they need to participate in an inclusive environment.

Robledo says all too often adults try to control or change the behavior of those with autism instead of trying to work with it. The district's reform plan comes a year after an independent audit found serious inequalities in its special education department.

Ana Tintocalis, KPBS News.



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MISSION VALLEY NEWS & VIEWS

The Positive View of the Community

June 2008

ON AUTISM

The University of San Diego's Autism Institute will hold its summer conference from June 23-25, 2008, at Joan B. Kroc Institute for Peace and Justice. The theme is "Autism: Work With Me, Not on Me." National and international autism experts, educators and fam-

ilies will gather to learn how to better understand and support individuals with autism. The registration fee is \$320.

For more information, go to sandiego.edu/autisminstitute or call (619) 260-4585

June 12, 2008

The Caster Family Center for Nonprofit Research will hold a community presentation on its latest research funded by The San Diego Foundation, "The Appreciated Sector," from 8:30 to 10:30 a.m. today at Mother Rosalie Hill Hall, Warren Auditorium (Room 116), USD campus, San Diego. Among questions to be addressed: Do San Diegans have confidence in the nonprofit sector? Information: sandiego.edu/nonprofit or (619) 260-8839.

School of Nursing



Holy Innocents officials Scott Schafer (from left), Anita Hunter and Monsignor Dennis Mikulanis spoke with the group's founder, Lane Freestone, about a Ugandan children's hospital the group is building. *Charlie Neuman / Union-Tribune*

Group goes above, beyond African cleric's call to act

By Emily Vizzo

The initial challenge was hefty enough: Build the first children's hospital in Uganda, to serve a community where thousands of children die each year from malaria and other treatable diseases.

But the San Diego volunteers who took up the task, suggested by a religious leader from the East African country, didn't stop there.

Through their nonprofit organization, Holy Innocents, the volunteers established a network of health, business and science experts all focused on problems in the Mbarara district of

Uganda. The mainly rural area has a population of about 2.4 million.

Hospital construction began April 5, said Holy Innocents founder and Poway resident Lane Freestone. The first phase, including a 60-bed hospital wing, is slated for completion in January.

Holy Innocents began in 2006, when a Catholic archbishop from Mbarara visited the San Rafael Parish in San Diego, Freestone said. Archbishop Paul Bakyenga told listeners that if they wanted to help, they could build a children's hospital.



A mother held her newborn baby in Uganda's Ibanda Hospital in the Mbarara district. *Anita Hunter photo*

SEE **Uganda**, Page 2

► UGANDA

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

USD students want to partner with hospital

"I thought, this is something I can really do," Freestone said. "This seems pretty straightforward in order to save lives. It's almost serendipitous, a manageable project to do some good and save some lives."

The Mbarara archdiocese had already established two hospitals and 18 clinics, a reassuring track record that persuaded San Diego volunteers to move forward, he said.

But volunteers also wondered whether there would be a location with a suitable water supply, whether the Mbarara community could sustain a hospital and whether families would use it.

Holy Innocents turned to its organization director, Anita Hunter, an associate professor and nursing program director at the University of San Diego who had once completed medical work in Ghana. Hunter and a group of USD nursing, business and chemistry students visited Mbarara twice looking for answers.

The team went to Mbarara's two existing hospitals, met with government officials and local doctors and nurses, studied surrounding water quality levels and selected a location.

They also faced the limits of their proposed hospital in a country where people have an average life span of 47 years and average per-capita annual income of \$240, Hunter said.

"We know we can't save every life because the community can't sustain that support," she said. "There is a limited adult population because of past dictatorships and AIDS. Philosophically, we need to ensure that we have what we need to have to save the children the best we can."

Volunteers will emphasize malaria prevention; they plan to distribute 150,000 insecticide-treated mosquito nets. Malaria can have a dramatic financial effect on families when parents forgo working to care for sick children, said Scott Schafer, an Escondido attorney and Holy Innocents board member.

The group arranged for donated freight services and medical equipment, and it organized a 16-member Ugandan team of doctors, nurses and other planners to run the hospital.

The hospital's design reflects Ugandan cultural traditions, Hunter said. The one-story building will have a central outdoor area where families can gather and set up mats and cooking areas. In Uganda, families are responsible for a patient's basic feeding and cleaning requirements.

Volunteers want to bolster Mbarara medical expertise with ideas from USD researchers and students, Hunter said. Students in the School of Peace Studies would like to partner with the hospital to teach life skills and conflict resolution. Science students are interested in helping stop animal-borne diseases.

If successful, volunteers plan to bring similar projects elsewhere, Freestone said.

Their model may work for other organizations, Schafer said.

"One thing I would like for us is to demonstrate the efficacy of this project — proving how much we can reduce the mortality in our one little province. And hopefully we can do



Anita Hunter sat with a local boy at Poor Claire's Church in the Mbarara district of Uganda. Hunter is part of a nonprofit group building a children's hospital in the area. Joanne Gribble photo

that — basically shame the governments and the U.N. and World Health Organization to come on and get behind the net program and medical services to these people who so desperately need it," Schafer said.

The team continues to raise money for the project, which it figures will cost \$2 million overall. To complete phase one, \$300,000 is needed, Freestone said.

Archbishop Bakyenga visit-

ed San Diego this month to thank organizers for their efforts.

"We have a responsibility to help those less fortunate than we," Hunter said. "So that they know, 'There are people who really do care. We are not a forgotten entity.'"

For more information, go to holynnocentsuganda.org/.

Emily Vizzo is a freelance writer who lives in La Jolla.

School of Peace

Now, save the world

Jane Goodall is known for her studies on chimpanzees, but she's broadened her mission. And she wants us to think before dumping that glass of water.

By TAMI ABDOLAH
Times Staff Writer

SAN DIEGO — The small room was dark and windowless, the lights dimmed. "Jane prefers low light," said one of her staff members.

Jane Goodall, 74, walked into the room, her hands still moist after a quick stop at the restroom (she doesn't use paper towels). The renowned primatologist who began her work with chimpanzees in Tanzania nearly 50 years ago is, these days, on a broader assignment. Over the last 22 years, Goodall has traveled tirelessly, staying no more than three weeks in one place as she tries to educate Earth's top primates about environmentalism, inspire hope and get them to save their planet.

Her newest book, tentatively titled "Hope for Animals and Our World," is about animals that have been rescued from the brink of extinction. It will be out in fall 2009.

Recently, I sat down with Goodall in this dark room on the University of San Diego campus to ask her about her landmark work with chimpanzees, which began nearly 50 years ago, and also some personal questions about herself.

Goodall positioned herself on a couch, wearing a reserved outfit of beige pants, a soft turquoise turtleneck and a multi-colored shawl draped over her shoulders. Her clipped-back hair is now almost all white with small slivers of gray. She is a gracefully aged replica of herself in photos decades old, wandering the Tanzanian forests, blond hair tied back.

Is your work still centered around or focused on chimpanzees?

Not really. It's very, very important to me that we continue to study, that we do it in the right way, that there's enough

money for it, that we try to protect those chimpanzees into the future by working with all the people living in poverty around the park and then hoping more and more of them will enable part of the land to regenerate so the chimps are no longer trapped as they are now; they're surrounded by cultivated fields. In five years, you get a 30-foot tree. So they're coming back, but you know, the villagers if they wanted could cut them down, there's nothing to stop them, except goodwill.

You talked a bit about poverty as one of the reasons for habitat destruction and the disappearing chimps. How do you deal with poverty as an issue?

How you deal with poverty is to improve the lives of the people. We did not go into these villages like so much well-meaning foreign aid. We didn't go and say: 'We're really sorry for you and we brought this grant (we had a grant from the European Union), and we want to do this, this and this to make your lives better.' Rather, we sent... Tanzanians into the villages who sat down and listened about, 'What would you really feel would make your lives better?' And of course, it was nothing to do with conservation or the environment, at the start. It was health, which obviously ties into the environment, but that came later, and education for their children.

You're celebrated as a primatologist, for discovering all these things about chimps, and now you're known for environmental outreach. How does this all relate back to the chimpanzees?

Because it all started when I went to a conference, where for the first time [there] were all the people doing field studies of chimps across Africa. And the pictures of their various study sites were so shocking. And I just felt I couldn't any longer sit in my little paradise, I had to try and do something.

Is it hard being away from Gombe, from the chimpanzees?

No, it's not really hard. I mean, I think about it a lot, I see quite a lot of video... I try and fill up with that atmos-



AUTHOR: Goodall's newest book will be out in fall 2009.

phere. But of course Gombe isn't the same as it was. It's not, it's no longer. You know, the Gombe I'm really nostalgic for isn't there anymore. It was those early days. I was there with my mother and one cook. And everything was new, and everything was so exciting. Now there's all these students, there's the new health regulations, there's more people, there's tourists coming in and out and the park staff have made the little trails I used to follow into sort of wide trails. I even went up onto this wonderful peak where I sat for hours and hours to find they'd, they'd put up, they'd nailed up a sort of bench across the two little trees where I used to hang my kettle when I came. And it seemed like a real violation, you know? Because I used to sit up there, and I could actually feel how I felt. But now, this simple, very simple — it's nothing bad really — it's just a simple piece of wood, but it's a looming presence for me.

How can you be so optimistic?

Because... the human brain is already beginning to come up with ways that we can do things better. I don't mean just technology, although that's amazing. But also I mean when it comes to thinking about our ecological footprint, how we can make them lighter, and how we can try and become more carbon neutral, waste less, not use bottled water. Just all the little things that we can do each day. Choose wisely what to buy, refuse to buy some products. And basically never give up, sometimes write letters, whatever, all those kinds of things.

What little things do you do in your own life?

I switched all these lights off and I had the previous interview outside. Turn the lights off. When you go into a hotel and all the lights are on, put them off. Some hotels have little notices that say if you're prepared to use your towels again hang them on the rack, but the maids seldom, I don't know, I think they're just schooled to change sheets and towels every day. So I don't let the maids in. Then you get these little notes that say because we respected your privacy... [she laughs] when do you want your room cleaned? I don't!...

Water. [She points to a glass pitcher of water seated on the coffee table in front of us.] You know, you tell me, you come from here. What would happen to that water if we don't drink it? It'd be tipped away, wouldn't it? We're going to water a plant, because I think they'll tip it away, it's not 'hygienic' anymore.

And yet there are people in some countries, they would kill for that, to get water that pure, that clean; they've never seen it in their lives. That would be like gold for them. And we waste it.

What do you think about some of the criticisms about your methods, in retrospect, now?

Some of it's true. And if I hadn't gone at all, there'd be no chimps because the people were moving back in, so that's one thing on the positive side. And the banana feeding, it actually turned out to be an amazing field experiment. And the good thing about it was when we realized that this intensive feeding wasn't a good idea... within a couple of weeks the chimps were completely back to their old behaviors...

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You spoke a lot about your mother, about how close a relationship you had, and how much of a support she was. I believe your mother passed away five years ago. How has that been for you?

Well, you know when your parents get to be that age, you know it's going to, they can't live forever. So you kind of prepare for that I think. She was 95, and her life wasn't really very good. I mean, mentally she was sharp as a knife, but she got Parkinson's and she got arthritis. And so although you can't say you're pleased when your mother dies, I really think she's in a better place. I didn't want her to go on and linger, nor did she, so... But you do feel — I mean, I still think: 'Oh, gosh I wish I could tell Mom that,' or, you know: 'I wonder what she would say?' You just go on feeling that way.

Too soon, the 30-minute interview was up, and Goodall's staff members gestured toward the door. Goodall picked up the water pitcher, still full, and handed it to me. "Could you do something with this?"

Outside, university officials pointed to a garden snake curled up against the building window. Goodall stopped to take out a small digital camera, then walked outside to take photos, oblivious to nervous officials and staff members.

Three university gardeners approached, wielding a long pole and trash cans.

But Goodall stood between them and the snake, warding them off, for just a few minutes longer.

tami.abdolah@latimes.com



Photograph by DON BARTLETT/LOS ANGELES TIMES

ENVIRONMENTALIST: Jane Goodall, world-renowned primatologist, helps students plant a tree at the University of San Diego's Joan B. Kroc Institute for Peace & Justice. "I've planted hundreds of trees around the world using just my hands," she said.

SAVANNAH *now*

Published on SavannahNow.com (<http://savannahnow.com>)

Jane Goodall is leaving her animal cage to save the planet

By Savannah Morning News

Created 2008-06-23 23:30

SAN DIEGO - The small room was dark and windowless, the lights dimmed. "Jane prefers low light," said one of her staff members.

Jane Goodall, 74, walked into the room, her hands still moist after a quick stop at the restroom (she doesn't use paper towels). The renowned primatologist who began her work with chimpanzees in Tanzania nearly 50 years ago is, these days, on a broader assignment. During the past 22 years, Goodall has stayed no more than three weeks in one place as she tries to educate Earth's top primates about environmentalism, inspire hope and get them to save their planet.

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Recently, Goodall sat down in this dark room on the University of San Diego campus to talk about her landmark work with chimpanzees, which began nearly 50 years ago, and also answer some questions about herself.

Question: Is your work still centered around or focused on chimpanzees?

Answer: Not really. It's very, very important to me that we continue to study, that we do it in the right way, that there's enough money for it, that we try to protect those chimpanzees into the future by working with all the people living in poverty around the park and then hoping more and more of them will enable part of the land to regenerate so the chimps are no longer trapped as they are now; they're surrounded by cultivated fields. In five years, you get a 30-foot tree. So they're coming back, but you know, the villagers if they wanted could cut them down, there's nothing to stop them, except goodwill.

Q: You talked a bit about poverty as one of the reasons for habitat destruction and the disappearing chimps. How do you deal with poverty as an issue?

A: How you deal with poverty is to improve the lives of the people. We did not go into these villages like so much well-meaning foreign aid. We didn't go and say: 'We're really sorry for you and we brought this grant (we had a grant from the European Union), and we want to do this, this and this to make your lives better.' Rather, we sent ... Tanzanians into the villages who sat down and listened about, 'What would you really feel would make your lives better?' And of course, it was nothing to do with conservation or the environment, at the start. It was health, which obviously ties into the environment, but that came later, and education for their children.

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A: No, it's not really hard. I mean, I think about it a lot, I see quite a lot of video. ... I try and fill up with that atmosphere. But of course Gombe isn't the same as it was. It's not; it's no longer. ... Now there's all these students, there's the new health regulations, there's more people, there's tourists coming in and out and the park staff have made the little trails I used to follow into sort of wide trails.

Q: How can you be so optimistic?

A: Because ... the human brain is already beginning to come up with ways that we can do things better. I don't mean just technology, although that's amazing. But also I mean when it comes to thinking about our ecological footprint, how we can make them lighter and how we can try and become more carbon neutral, waste less, not use bottled water. Just all the little things that we can do each day: Choose wisely what to buy, refuse to buy some products. And basically never give up, sometimes write letters, whatever, all those kinds of things.

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<http://savannahnow.com/node/521773>

Otago Daily Times

Published on Otago Daily Times Online (<http://www.odt.co.nz>)

Still saving the planet at 74

Created 28/06/2008 - 05:00

San Diego: The small room was dark and windowless, the lights dimmed. "Jane prefers low light," one of her staff members said.

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Q: You spoke a lot about your mother, about how close a relationship you had, and how much of a support she was. I believe your mother passed away five years ago. How has that been for you?

A: Well, you know when your parents get to be that age, you know it's going to, they can't live forever. So you kind of prepare for that I think.

She was 96, and her life wasn't really very good. I mean, mentally she was sharp as a knife, but she got Parkinson's and she got arthritis. And so although you can't say you're pleased when your mother dies, I really think she's in a better place. I didn't want her to go on and linger, nor did she . . . But you do feel, I mean, I still think: 'Oh, gosh I wish I could tell Mum that,' or, you know: 'I wonder what she would say?' You just go on feeling that way.

Outside, university officials pointed to a garden snake curled up against the building window. Goodall stopped to take out a small digital camera, then walked outside to take photos, oblivious to nervous officials and staff members.

Three university gardeners approached, wielding a long pole and trash cans.

But Goodall stood between them and the snake, warding them off, for just a few minutes longer. - Tami Abdollah.

Source URL (retrieved on 28/06/2008 - 08:10): <http://www.odt.co.nz/lifestyle/magazine/11301/still-saving-planet-74>

Links:



Primatologist Jane Goodall speaks to the media. Photo by Don Bartletti, Los Angeles Times



Thursday, June 26, 2008

editor@sddt.com

<http://www.sddt.com>

Source Code: 20080626czd

USD's Kroc Institute honored for work in Nepal

Thursday, June 26, 2008

The Joan B. Kroc Institute for Peace & Justice (IPJ) at the University of San Diego was recently awarded the Everest Summit Award to recognize eight years of peace building efforts in Nepal.

The award will be presented Thursday during "Peace Works: IPJ Nepal Project and Partnerships," from noon-2:30 p.m. in the IPJ Theatre, located at the west entrance of the campus.

Santosh Shah, youth activist and journalist, will be on hand to make the presentation and take part in a discussion on the future of the country. Shah is the founder and director of Today's Youth, an organization preparing Nepalese youth with positive ideas and skills, and providing capacity building to promote active contribution to the nation in crisis.

The recent elections in Nepal were seen as a historic step toward democracy for the country. It is one step in a long-term peace process that started two years ago. With a new leadership, many question what role will Nepali people will play in determining the future of the democratic transition of the nation. That topic, along with other key challenges facing Nepal, will be addressed in the forum.



Sports

- [Spain bury demons at glorious Euro 2008](#)
- [Watson maiden ton helps Aussies win](#)
- [Depot, Niten, Wilson, Daffodil in semis](#)
- [Thai Tamarine stuns Jankovic](#)
- [Sangakkara century sinks Pakistan](#)
- [Slick Nadal powers into 4th round](#)
- [Muralitharan targets one-day record](#)
- [Raina's hundred sparks India win](#)
- [India tour bails out Lankan board](#)
- [Spain look to seal deal against Germany](#)

Main News

- [Key parties agree to include Madhes issues in statute](#)

Editorial

- [Heroism Par Excellence](#)
- [India To Have 400 M Farm Refugees](#)
- [50 Years And Forward](#)
- [Breaking The Logjam](#)
- [Where Nepal Leads South Asia](#)
- [Fat Of The Matter](#)
- [Behind The Shapes Of Fruits, Vegetables](#)
- [Do Not Disrupt](#)

National

- [HIV women marks Asar Pandra](#)
- ['Maoists deserve to be recognised as largest democratic party'](#)
- [Respect people's rights to information: FNJ](#)
- ['Demand for one Madhes province groundless'](#)
- [Ex-mayor Pandey shot dead, MuAN denounces murder](#)
- [Khanal stresses broader democratic alliance](#)
- [Monsoon wreaks havoc in Baglung](#)
- [Stress on consensus](#)
- [Grandeur of Korean Changdeokgung Palace](#)
- [UML chief calls for educational revolution](#)

National

'Maoists deserve to be recognised as largest democratic party'

KATHMANDU, June 30: The San Diego (USA) Chapter of the United Nations invited Nepalese journalist Santosh Shah as a special guest on the occasion of the 63rd anniversary of the signing of the UN Charter on June 26, 1945.

According to a press release, Shah also spoke at Joan B. Kroc Institute of Peace and Justice at the University of San Diego, USA. The recipient of the Second Everest Summit Award-2008, Shah for the first time showed Maoist chairman Prachanda's speech delivered at the award ceremony amidst the US audience.

In his presentation, Shah said the Maoists deserved to be recognised as the largest democratic party of Nepal at the moment as they had come up with majority through the Constituent Assembly elections. He added that the Maoists were committed to multi-party democracy and keen to cooperate with the international community and improve human rights records.

Shah highlighted this was an opportunity for both Nepal and the US to cooperate in areas of diplomacy, economy, and overall development of Nepal. He also urged the UN and US universities to invite and interact with Maoist leaders to help in Nepal's development.

Shah praised Prime Minister Girija Prasad Koirala for the leadership in conducting the CA elections peacefully and for abolishing the monarchy. At the same time, he thanked US ambassador to Nepal Nancy Powell and the US government for their continued support to Nepal and its democracy.

Shah touched upon increasing number of scholarships to Nepalese students in US colleges and universities.

Shah said Nepal and United States could cooperate in many areas of economic development and human resource advancement.

He maintained that the international community should cooperate and help out Nepal during the during the transition.

Other Headlines

- ▶ HIV women marks Asar Pandra
- ▶ 'Maoists deserve to be recognised as largest democratic party'
- ▶ Respect people's rights to information: FNJ
- ▶ 'Demand for one Madhes province groundless'
- ▶ Ex-mayor Pandey shot dead, MuAN denounces murder
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- ▶ Monsoon wreaks havoc in Baglung
- ▶ Stress on consensus
- ▶ Grandeur of Korean Changdeokgung Palace *By Arun Ranjit*
- ▶ UML chief calls for educational revolution
- ▶ Maoist cadres nab 2 with fake IC notes
- ▶ KIST, KEC organise science exhibition
- ▶ NC committed to pass amendment bill
- ▶ One killed as locals retaliate against dacoits
- ▶ Four die in separate incidents
- ▶ Inmates face excessive torture
- ▶ Landslide disrupts traffic in Myagdi
- ▶ Sita Care awaits publicity
- ▶ Nepal-India cultural promotion hailed
- ▶ Street drama performed to make people aware of AIDS
- ▶ Landslide kills four persons in Dhading
- ▶ Three arrested with weapons
- ▶ Cooperatives seek approval to run depots
- ▶ One killed, 3 hurt in Dhangadhi clash
- ▶ India provides Rs. 18.77m to build school in Darchula

2 of 12 DOCUMENTS

National Public Radio (NPR)

May 28, 2008 Wednesday

SHOW: All Things Considered 9:00 PM EST

Tijuana Kidnappers Targeting Doctors

ANCHORS: NOAH ADAMS**LENGTH:** 744 words

NOAH ADAMS, host:

Doctors have become targets in drug violence in the Mexican border city of Tijuana. In the last few months, 20 have been kidnapped. Mexico's president, Felipe Calderon, has sent hundreds of federal police and soldiers to Tijuana.

But as Amy Isackson reports now from member station KPPS in San Diego, doctors say more must be done to end the violence.

AMY ISACKSON: Dozens of doctors in Tijuana recently cancelled their morning rounds. Instead, they gathered on the steps at the city's General Hospital. Dressed in their starch white coats, they demanded government officials to stop the violence.

Unidentified Woman #1: They are incompetent.

ISACKSON: Like all the doctors at this protest, this physician was afraid to give her name. But she didn't hold back in expressing her contempt for officials' attempts to crack down.

Unidentified Woman #2: The governor just laughs and says, hey, take a course: karate course or something, because the kidnappers will keep on being. We are tired of being afraid to go out in the streets, tired of being afraid to go to the restaurants because we get mugged. We are tired of having family members and friends and everybody get kidnapped and murdered sometimes, even if you pay the money. So I think this has to stop.

ISACKSON: Doctors aren't just afraid to go out on the streets, they're also afraid to go to work. Last spring, drug cartel gunmen shot their way into the emergency room at Tijuana's General Hospital to rescue a wounded comrade.

(Soundbite of shooting, commotion)

ISACKSON: Patients and doctors, like this gynecologist, ran for their lives.

Unidentified Woman #3: (Through translator) When we saw how they shot up the emergency room without caring that women, children and sick people were in there, that's when we realized the magnitude of the danger we were in, that we could die.

ISACKSON: Drug cartels have increasingly turned to kidnapping to make more money. It appears doctors have become one of their favorite targets. People think doctors are wealthy; they're well known in the community. Their pictures and addresses are in the yellow pages. But it wasn't until a prominent Tijuana surgeon was kidnapped last month that doctors were galvanized to exhort the government to crack down, despite doctors' pleas and government official's vows to redouble their efforts to fight crime. David Shirk, who directs the University of San Diego's TransBorder Institute, says violence is still out of control.

Mr. DAVID SHIRK (University of San Diego): It may take a much larger deployment of force in Tijuana to actually be effective. In Metrocon they sent more than double the number of troops they sent to Baja California. They don't have, really,

any other choice but to use the big guns.

ISACKSON: Tijuana physiologist David Sotelo says the guns and the troops already in Tijuana, combined with the daily violence, are taking a toll on people. He says his patients are exhibiting the same traumatic symptoms people exhibit during war.

Dr. DAVID SOTELO (Physiologist): People are in the middle of bullets and uncertainty. If you go to Iraq right now, what do they do? They will do work and they run back home. That's what they're doing in Tijuana.

ISACKSON: Sotelo says he's recently had to go back and study up on post-traumatic stress and anxiety disorders to care for his clients. It's not just adults who are feeling the effects of the violence. Back on the General Hospital steps, this gynecologist, who escaped the shootout here last year, says now her 7-year-old daughter is feeling it too.

Unidentified Woman #4: (Through translator): I was astonished the other day when my daughter told me that she and her little friends are practicing escape drills at recess in case gunmen come to the elementary school. Instead of thinking about playing their thinking about where they'll hide.

ISACKSON: She says she and her colleagues are on tender-hooks as well.

Unidentified Woman #4: (Through translator) We know at any moment they can bring us injured drug traffickers. And they can just come in impunity like they've done before. We're living in constant anguish.

ISACKSON: The government has promised to come up with new strategies to combat the rising violence. In the meantime, Baja California's secretary of health announced this week the state will go to special operating room at the penitentiary to treat suspected drug cartel members injured in shootouts.

For NPR News, I'm Amy Isackson in San Diego.

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elpasotimes.com

Taking back Juárez

Military not likely to leave border soon, officials say

By Daniel Borunda / El Paso Times

Article Launched: 06/15/2008 12:00:00 AM MDT



Juarez can be seen over the El Paso skyline Wednesday, (Mark Lambie / El Paso Times)

Related: Read past stories on Juárez, and share your own.

Juárez city officials last week said that the military effort in Juárez and the surrounding region, dubbed Joint Operation Chihuahua, is expected to continue through the rest of the year and has no scheduled completion date.

Their warning echoed a prediction made by Mexico President Felipe Calderón, who said it would take at least two years to take back control of Mexico from the drug cartels, which grew in power over decades, according to a report compiled last year for members of the U.S. Congress.

One of the front lines in the drug war shifted to Juárez in March, when Mexico special forces soldiers carrying .50-caliber rifles and shouting cadence marched out of green C-130 Hercules transport planes when the army arrived in the besieged city.

While the military and federal police are expected to remain on the scene indefinitely, at least one expert said Mexico will have to ultimately change its tactics if it wants to regain and maintain control of regions apparently overrun by organized crime.

"If the question is the use of the military a long-term sustainable strategy -- my answer is no," said Robert Donnelly, coordinator of the Justice in Mexico Project of the Trans-Border Institute at the University of San Diego.

"The military can't be relied on forever to maintain public order and prosecute and pursue criminal gangs," Donnelly said.

The outbreak of violence in Juárez has claimed more than 450 lives this year, due in large part to what is believed to be a war between the Sinaloa and Juárez drug cartels for control of the region's lucrative smuggling corridor into the United States.

With the arrival of more than 2,000 soldiers and 500 federal police officers in Juárez, the deployment of federal forces has expanded to ranches, towns and cities across the state of Chihuahua.

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"Our data show us that so far this year, Chihuahua has the highest per-capita rate of drug killings," said Donnelly of the Justice in Mexico Project, which studies criminal-justice issues in Mexico.

The Justice in Mexico Project, using information from the Mexican newspaper Reforma, tracks drug-related homicides across Mexico. Through June 6, there had been 1,552 drug killings in Mexico, including 448 in Chihuahua, followed by Sinaloa with 162 homicides.

The term "drug killing" is subjective, Donnelly said. "It's imperfect, but it is the best indicator for the magnitude of these killings."

Juárez is experiencing the extraordinary violence that flared up and then declined during the past three years in various parts of Mexico, such as the southern Pacific coastal states of Guerrero and Michoacan.

"The violence can skip around from region to region," Donnelly said.

Mexico scholars and government officials say municipal and state police either don't have the resources or have been corrupted to the point that they are incapable of fighting drug traffickers.

"There are parts of Mexico where the rule of law is absent and the drug-trafficking gangs virtually control (or) are the controlling force. It is definitely a threat to natural sovereignty," Donnelly said.

The military has the firepower and equipment and is believed to be less susceptible to the corruption that has infected law enforcement.

"The reason for the violence is clearly to intimidate the forces of law and order," said John P. Walters, director of the Office of National Drug Control Policy. "There's three ways they do this: buy you, scare you or kill you. That's why they don't just kill people; they mutilate the bodies. They want to scare people.

"There is a period unfortunately of violence against each other when these hyperviolent criminal groups attack against the forces of law," Walters said during a recent visit to El Paso.

Even as deadly shootings continue daily in the state of Chihuahua, the army has had some success, including multi-ton marijuana seizures, the capture of alleged hit men and the arrest of reputed Juárez cartel lieutenant Pedro "El Tigre" Sanchez Arras.

Federal authorities also are attempting to weed out corruption. They are conducting polygraph, drug and psychological tests on Juárez police, as well as ballistics tests on firearms in an attempt to remove corrupt officers.

At one point during the U.S. women's soccer team visit in April for a tourney in Juárez, traffic officers escorting the team had empty pistol holsters because federal forces had taken their guns for ballistic tests, a U.S. diplomatic security official said at a forum about violence in Juárez.

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WHY FORMER MEXICAN MIGRANTS ARE STAYING HOME

Tougher border enforcement, jail time, and a slow US economy are causing some Mexicans to reconsider going north for work.

By Sara Miller Llanza | Staff writer of The Christian Science Monitor
from the June 20, 2008 edition

EL GUSANO, MEXICO - José Balderama spent half a decade in the United States working roofing jobs in Texas. The money he sent home each month went to his wife and four children – a source of income the family expected to count on for many years to come.

But after serving six months at the Eden Detention Center in Texas for getting caught without the proper paperwork, he says he is never going back. "This was six months, next time it could be six years," he says on a recent day in this tiny town tucked in the foothills of the Sierra de Guajuato mountains.

Towns like El Gusano have emptied out over the past decade as Mexicans have headed north for jobs. But tighter restrictions on immigration and a weakening US economy are sending some of these same men and women back home – some willingly, others not.

There are no figures to track the exact numbers of Mexicans returning, but statistics on apprehensions, unemployment, and anecdotal evidence in Mexico and the US paint a picture of change. Immigration prosecutions are at a historic high. State authorities are enforcing their own immigration rules. Even for those Mexicans in the US with proper documentation, jobs are scarce. The most immediate effect has been a drop in remittances. But many migrants are now wondering whether working in El Norte is worth it anymore.

"It's kind of a perfect combination of factors for undocumented immigrants right now to say, 'It's getting too costly. It's a good time to go home,'" says David Shirk, the director of the Transborder Institute at the University of San Diego.

El Gusano is an archetypal rural Mexican town. It is eerily quiet during all hours of the day, with the exception of the children's voices drifting from a tiny school playground. Over the past decade, almost all the adult men have gone to the US, followed increasingly by women and children, too.

But that is changing now, if only on a small scale. In the past two months, seven young men have shown up on doorsteps here, all of them deported for being in the US illegally.

In fact, the conversations in neat brick homes that line the one main road here has turned from the mundane – bread deliveries, local elections, school news – to worried talk about whose relative is in US jails. US agents "used to catch them, and leave them alone. Now they are spending 15 days in jail, or a month, or three months," says Maria de los Angeles Garcia, a lifelong resident here.

The US government maintains that stricter enforcement is helping to slow migrant flows. Homeland Security Secretary Michael Chertoff said this month at a State of Immigration address that apprehensions are down 15 percent across the border. Some officials credit the rise in border patrol officers from 9,800 in 2002 to 16,471 this year. Workplace raids are up too: In May, 400 employees at a meatpacking plant in Iowa were arrested on immigration charges – touted as the largest single-site raid in US history.

And new zero-tolerance programs on the border, such as Operation Streamline in which immigrants caught crossing the border illegally are criminally prosecuted, have raised the stakes. According to the Transactional Records Access Clearinghouse, a research center at Syracuse University that analyzes Justice Department records, the number of immigration prosecutions in March was 9,350, two and a half times the number from a year ago.

States have also gotten tougher. Gyla Gonzalez, the executive director of Latinos United of Carroll County, a nonprofit group, says that new state laws in Georgia, using driver's licenses and documentation for employment, has scared many migrants away. Attendance at the health clinic their organization runs, she says, is down by more than two-thirds in the past few months; "These types of laws in Georgia are making undocumented immigrants start to leave," she says.

Enforcement is one factor, the slowing US economy is another. In fact, many analysts say that enforcement would be ineffective if the "American Dream" weren't so elusive today. Hardest hit has been the construction industry, which employs more than 20 percent of

Mexican migrants.

"Immigrants are having problems finding jobs, and now that it's more difficult to move around [because of stricter enforcement], employment is even harder," says Guillermo Meneses, an immigration specialist at the Colegio de la Frontera Norte in Tijuana. "Both are working against them."

The Pew Hispanic Center recently reported that unemployment is rising among Latino immigrants but it doesn't have any hard data that this is prompting them to exit the US labor force.

In El Gusano, the "data" can be found sitting on the front porches. Normally, at this time of year, Miguel Perez Garcia is in Texas mowing lawns and manicuring shrubs for homes. He spends the spring and summer months in the US before returning to Mexico.

But this year, the permit he has received for the past six seasons never came in the mail.

"I don't know why it didn't come," he says, sitting on his front patio on a recent day with his wife and two teenage children in El Gusano. He says it is too tough to cross the border illegally, so he'll do what he can to remedy the economic shortfall this year and hope for the best next year.

The current situation is unsettling, but some here are appreciating having their men home, even if it means less income. "We forgot about the money," says Teresa Garcia Alvarez, José Balderama's wife, smiling, on a recent day when asked about how they'll make ends meet now.

Residents say that they are seeing a renewed sense of life in communities that can often feel like ghost towns. There is more repartee in the tiny stores where residents meet over a soda. "It's not as quiet here anymore," says Ms. Garcia. "We feel safer."

The men of El Gusano didn't start migrating until about a decade ago, when the bricklayer jobs in nearby Leon disappeared. The exodus – and the cash inflows from the US – have visibly altered the town. Homes of cardboard and metal sheeting were replaced with bricks. Patios were constructed. But, as in the rest of rural Mexico, the migration shattered families.

Will the men coming back stay, and rebuild relationships? Will children have a father around the house? These are questions being asked now by the women of El Gusano.

Garcia says that many of her male relatives have, in the past year, tried to stay home. But in the end, the forces of economic opportunity draw most of them back. She suspects that when the US economy recovers and enforcement wanes, they'll go north again.

Maria de la Luz Uribe's husband was deported in January and vowed to stay put in El Gusano. But a month later, he was back in the US. He couldn't make ends meet working as a bricklayer here.

"I didn't want him to go," she says. And now he wishes he hadn't gone either. After a stint in jail for his undocumented status, and few jobs available, his situation is precarious. He's barely sending any more money home than he was making in Mexico. Now, he tells her that he just has to pay off his smuggling debt. "Then he's coming home," she says.

Find this article at:

<http://www.csmonitor.com/2008/0620/p05s01-woam.html>

13:01, June 23, 2008

Recognized experts on call in UN efforts to make peace around world

Jeffrey Mapendere had never thought of becoming an international peacemaker when he fought for Zimbabwe's independence as a guerilla fighter in the 1970s. But, more than three decades later, he is now a founding member of an elite UN team of mediation experts, ready and willing to be dispatched to global hotspots.

The six-member Standby Team of Mediation Experts, an initiative launched in March by the Department of Political Affairs (DPA), consists of recognized experts with specific expertise in areas such as security arrangements, justice and human rights, power-sharing and constitution-making.

Working behind the scenes, they provide technical support on particular issues for senior officials on the mediation front, where there has been a growing call for specific expertise to deal with increasingly broad and complicated tasks like brokering comprehensive peace agreements and building sustainable peace.

FIRST DEPLOYMENT

In fact, the demand was so obvious and urgent that Mapendere, a security expert, and his colleague Andrew Ladley, a constitution-writing expert, received their first assignment on Feb. 29, days before the team's official launch on March 3.

Both Mapendere and Ladley missed their orientation at the UN Headquarters and were sent to Kenya to assist the mediation effort led by former UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan who had just brokered an agreement between the government and the opposition.

"I was in Canada and Ladley was in New Zealand," said Mapenderem of his first deployment in an interview with Xinhua. "We had to link up from both corners of the world ... and within 72 hours we are there on the ground."

"I think it was a good way of starting the whole engagement," he said.

Mapendere spent 10 days in Kenya, offering help by facilitating police reform and other matters, while Ladley focused on constitutional issues. In April, Mapendere moved on to Uganda, where he advised DPA officials on security issues.

Most recently, Mapendere worked as executive director of the Canadian International Institute of Applied Negotiation (CIAN) in Ottawa

When asked how he felt about his new job, he said, "It was quite interesting ... but I am a field person, and once I get into the field, I want to do more."

SWAT TEAM

Team leader Joyce Neu, an American with extensive experience on conflict resolution, liked the idea of comparing her squad to a "SWAT team," a notion that highlights its speedy response to requests from the field.

"We react quickly, and we react with some expertise like a SWAT team. We are professionals," she told Xinhua. "But do we react only to terrible fires? Maybe not."

The team is less like a fire brigade, Neu said, adding that it may also react to an early warning, or "quiet things where assessment is needed and then further recommendation."

"We can go out quite quickly and do a pretty overall social-economic and political assessment of the situation," she said.

Neu assisted the DPA in preparing papers on the Darfur peace talks before taking up her first field trip to Kenya, where she and her team assessed the DPA's role in helping with Annan's mediation efforts. She then went to Djibouti in May where Somali parties were involved in peace talks.

CONSTANTLY ON THE MOVE

The UN expects the team to spend about 80 percent of its time in the field so as to cater to the needs of UN missions, regional groups like the African Union and member states.

In order to fully meet new job requirements, Neu resigned from her last post as founding executive director of the Joan B. Kroc Institute for Peace and Justice at the University of San Diego, while other team members took leaves of absence.

Without a fixed office location, the team members stay at home when it has no field trips, making in-depth studies, offering advice and guidance on specific issues from remote, or exchanging ideas among members through teleconferencing.

"We've got these people extremely busy," said the DPA spokesperson Jared Kotler. "Even when they are not in the field ... we are trying to build up our knowledge of expertise in the UN about mediation."

"We have been working all the time, absolutely," said Neu. "Not too much grass grows under our feet."

Due to the job's mobility and unpredictability, Neu said it is difficult to plan for personal and family matters.

"Do we buy tickets to go to the symphony? Eh, I don't know, she said. But this is something we want to do ... hoping we can make a small contribution."

PREMATURE TO TALK ABOUT FUTURE

The idea of the standby team was inspired by a similar set-up created by the UN's humanitarian agency, or OCHAR, when it was led by Norwegian Jan Egeland, to get humanitarian workers out into the field quickly.

Under DPA supervision, the team was chosen from over 400 applicants worldwide. The Norwegian government has provided 1.8 million U.S. dollars for the first-year operation while the Norwegian Refugee Council (NRC) is handling its administrative affairs.

SAN DIEGO Reader

Calendar

June 26, 2008

"Peace Works: IPJ Nepal Project and Partnerships" Institute for Peace and Justice (IPJ) members have continued to analyze Nepal's fragile transition to peace; impact of peace-building initiatives in Himalayan nation discussed during event. Youth activist and journalist Santosh Shah presents IPJ with Everest Summit Award. 619-260-7509. Thursday, June 26, 12:30 p.m.; Joan B. Kroc Institute for Peace and Justice, University of San Diego, 5998 Alcalá Park. (LINDA VISTA)

June 26, 2008

Friday, June 27

Telling the truth: Prospects for a just peace in Palestine and Israel

Friday, June 27, 2008 from 5 p.m. to 9 p.m. and Saturday, June 28, 2008 from 8:45 a.m. to 6 p.m. at The Joan B. Kroc Institute for Peace and Justice, University of San Diego.

The purpose of the conference is to promote justice and peace in Israel-Palestine and to respond to the needs of the people in the Holy Land, including the indigenous Christians. The importance of this conference is "to clarify the reality of the danger of continued hostilities in this most volatile region," according to co-chairman of the conference, Dr. Tony Wolfe.

"This is a unique opportunity to hear first hand accounts from Christian, Muslim and Jewish peace leaders on the front lines. By learn-

ing about their daily struggles and understanding more completely their life under occupation, we are challenged to work more closely and responsibly with our Palestinian brothers and sisters, through non-violent means, for a peace with all the peoples of the region."

For a full list of speakers and topics to be addressed, or to register online, visit www.fosna.org or contact Mary Harb Sheets at 858-484-4186.

Other

June 25, 2008

Universities use innovation, education to combat water shortage

By DANIELLE PEBBLES

The Daily Transcript

SAN DIEGO — For San Diego universities, innovation, education and creative solutions are necessary components of problem solving, whether the problem concerns biotechnology, diplomacy, medicine or reacting to the current drought.

San Diego's universities have a daunting task before them. Each campus must maintain its aesthetic

beauty to attract prospective students wanting the "Southern California" feel, while also cutting back on water.

According to San Diego State University's Energy Manager of Utilities, Bill Lekas, the SDSU campus consumes approximately 455,000 gallons of water per day.

"We've done so much to actually cut down on energy," that when (the water districts) say we need to con-

serve water, we're already doing it," Lekas said.

To help offset wasting water, SDSU, the University of California at San Diego, Cal State San Marcos and Point Loma Nazarene University have planted xeriscape, or drought-tolerant plants, re-landscaped some areas on campus and installed new central irrigation systems, which

See **Shortage** on 5A

Shortage

Continued from Page 1A

control water by evapo-transpiration. The new systems eliminate over-watering by monitoring the moisture in soil with weather stations that control sprinkler activity. Weather stations also can sense broken sprinkler heads, shutting off water when necessary.

The University of San Diego has re-evaluated its irrigation plans, increasing the use of sprinkling timers and more efficient watering heads. The installation of synthetic turf on some play and sports areas of the campus has also helped cope with the drought.

USD has cut water use by about 7 percent, said Roger Manion, assistant vice president for Facilities Management at USD. This summer the university will conduct a water audit that should lead to more savings. USD is also considering using a drip irrigation system.

PLNU Director of the Physical Plant, Richard Schult, estimates that using California native plants saves the university about two-thirds of its landscaping water consumption. He speculates that PLNU has one of the largest native-plant landscapes in Southern California.

CSUSM has planted areas of native wild seed, which bloom in winter and spring and are dormant in the summer, letting students enjoy California's natural beauty while school is in session.

According to Ed Johnson, director of facility services at CSUSM, it is the university's goal to "create as nice a landscape as possible with the minimal amount of water and also create an area where students can study the natural California habitat."

At UCSD almost 1.5 million gallons of water are consumed per day. Representatives for PLNU and USD did not comment on their schools' average water

usage.

"Our main conservation is expanding the use of reclaimed water for irrigation and cooling towers," said John Dilliot, manager of energy and utilities at UCSD.

The university currently uses reclaimed water for 5 percent of its daily irrigation needs.

To make the cooling towers more effective, UCSD's physical plant is testing various levels of chemical concentrations in them. By increasing the cycles, which tightens chemical controls and uses less makeup water — the water that is replaced into the system to account for evaporation — UCSD hopes to save about 20 million gallons per year, Dilliot explained.

PLNU is evaluating similar chemical adjustments.

UCSD's sustainability efforts have resulted in innovative solutions for reducing the campus' water consumption, such as a seawater air conditioning concept that would pump cold seawater from La Jolla Canyon through a shore-based cooling station where the water could then be used for campus air conditioning. According to UCSD's sustainability Web site, if implemented, this system could save the university more than \$4 million in annual energy costs and reduce campus cooling tower fresh water use by more than 100 million gallons annually.

"We're taking it slow because there is some risk," said Dilliot, "as you have tighter controls, any upset in controls can cause scaling — tubes in the machine can become blocked."

Most universities also are converting bathroom and residential facilities to ultra low flow flush and shower technology.

All new buildings on UCSD's campus also will have a dual pipe system that uses reclaimed water for flushing, but freshwater for sinks.

PLNU has installed low

flush toilets and waterless urinals. Taking advantage of a voucher program with the San Diego County Water Authority, the university acquired the urinals free of charge from Falcon Waterfree Technologies.

"Urinals have the quickest return," said Schult, saving PLNU about 1.8 million gallons of water per year. "The toilets costs quite a bit more money." Each new low flush toilet costs about \$300.

At PLNU, the residence halls require the most amount of water.

"If [drought conditions] got really critical, we could mandate hours of operation to monitor shower use," Schult said.

But it hasn't taken drastic measures like cutting shower times to catch students' attention: many university conservation groups, in conjunction with school-wide programs, are bringing the message to fellow students.

Sustainability efforts on the UCSD campus and the student-led Green Campus Program have become influential in teaching energy education in course curricula and general campus awareness, as well as implementing conservation projects.

USD also has made water a top priority of a proposed two-year action plan by the school's

new Sustainability/Climate Change Task Force that is currently being assembled. Also, SDSU's Associated Students Green Love Web site has several tips on how students can contribute to reducing their campus' water consumption.

"The biggest thing that we try to do is be aware of what we use and how we use it," said Johnson. "When the drought really kicks in, we are going to have to make some serious decisions on where we can conserve, but we'll work with the water district to find the best way."

danielle.pebbles@sddt.com
Source Code: 20080624czc



MEDIA AVAILABLE: Burmese-American Citizen returns from Homeland Merch Mission, reports ShelterboxUSA

For Immediate Release

BRADENTON, Fla./EWorldWire/June 3, 2008 --- When Cyclone Nagris hit Myanmar with devastating results on May 3, 2008, Leilei Nwe Thein - a U.S. citizen who has lived in the U.S. for 24 years and has worked as an environmental health and safety manager working at the University of San Diego for the past 15 years - immediately offered her help to the U.S. arm of the U.K.-based ShelterBox organization. Leilei is the wife of Aung San U, who is the oldest son of National Hero General Aung San; with her family background, she could exercise considerable influence, and her experience in Myanmar was instrumental in the early stages of the disaster relief program.

On May 8, the university gave her emergency time-off to travel to Myanmar to arrange and coordinate humanitarian aid work; in particular, with the U.K./U.S. ShelterBox organization. After two days spent traveling from the U.S., on May 11 Leilei arrived in Yangon - the capital of her homeland - and immediately began working non-stop, 24/7 for both her and everyone involved.

Leilei's considerable influence and experience in Myanmar was instrumental in the early stages of the disaster relief program. Before leaving the U.S., she arranged for Visas and the required permissions for U.K./U.S. personnel and for aid deliveries from the Myanmar embassy in Washington, D.C. She then arranged for initial shipment of ShelterBoxes and ShelterBox response teams (SRTs) to be allowed access to Yangon in anticipation of future shipments. Train-the-Trainer sessions were arranged and SRT volunteers trained over 200 Myanmar fire and rescue personnel in the use of ShelterBox tents and equipment, which were immediately dispatched to the disaster-affected areas on arrival.

Leilei also arranged for all ShelterBox aid to be allowed into Myanmar free of customs duty and control, including the arrival authorization of a chartered DC-10 from the U.K. carrying 1000 ShelterBoxes to land in Yangon.

Working tirelessly she used local contacts to provide warehousing and distribution of over 1600 ShelterBoxes, by way of private construction companies, by truck and boat to the disaster areas. During this time, Leilei traveled to the town of Bogale and nearby islands in the area to assess the cyclone damage and to see the ShelterBox tents in place and in use. All this activity occurred while other NGOs and foreign government aid was not being accepted.

Leilei's work and that of ShelterBox was and is being well-covered in the Myanmar national press/TV and by the world's media. She returned to the U.S. on May 24 and plans to assist further in ShelterBox work and the ongoing Humanitarian Aid work in Myanmar. With her help and coordination, a humanitarian aid delivery route into Myanmar remains open.

To learn more about ShelterBox and to support its activities, visit '<http://www.shelterboxusa.org>'.

HTML: <http://www.eworldwire.com/pressreleases/18586>

Onity Kiosk helps universities cut to front-of-the-line efficiency

Monday, June 16 2008

Waiting in line is like a rite of passage for college students. Long lines, rather for housing registration, changing classes or obtaining food are many times unavoidable. One company is seeking to change that, at least when it involves housing.

"Check-in historically has involved a lot of time-consuming, one-on-one interaction, with almost every new and returning resident," says Anthony Zamora, head of IT support for the University of San Diego (USD).

"This can be a long and arduous process with the potential for mistakes and a stressful process for our students and staff."

Students checking in at USD have stood in line for up to three hours, according to Zamora, but the problem isn't unique to San Diego. Institutions nationwide have sought to evolve check-in procedures with customizable solutions that can effectively support students and staff throughout the year.

Enter Onity, a global provider of electronic locking solutions, which developed a self-serve kiosk that can be placed on college campuses to allow students and workers to independently change the PINs for their residence hall access key cards. The Onity Integra Kiosk also allows students and faculty to encode and activate their ID cards without the supervision of a personnel member at any time of the day or night.

The University of San Diego found that the Integra Kiosk decreased the University's check-in wait times by more than 50 percent.

"Students appreciate that ID cards are created and pre-encoded when they arrive, so it cuts waiting in line to as little as 30 minutes," Zamora says. "They also have the freedom and option to customize their cards using the Kiosks throughout the year – greatly improving our check-in process."

According to Stan Duci, director of customer service for Northeastern's Facilities Division, Boston, Mass., their students no longer need to meet with housing staff for their room assignments. "The Onity Kiosks have decreased check-in time significantly. And while the Kiosks are great for students, our staff love them too because they can be utilized at any time of the day."

"The Kiosks save the students a lot of time and hassle," adds Dan Yanna, director of facilities for Shepherd University, Shepherd, W. Va.. It started using Kiosks in 2004 and plans to add more to the five already located on campus.

In addition to convenience, Onity Kiosks also feature customization options, such as Internet access that provide users with campus and community information, university resources, weather, news, restaurants and maps.

Onity, headquartered in Duluth, Ga., also has R&D and manufacturing operations in Spain, Mexico, China, and the U.S., as well as an extensive sales and service network that span more than 115 countries around the globe. For further information about Onity's electronic solutions visit www.onity.com.

June 14, 2008

The message was clear at USD: We all have a 'right to live free of fear'

By Jane Clifford
FAMILY EDITOR

It was difficult to listen to Iesha Freeman's story, but the 10-year-old recalled the incident with a clear voice and quiet strength.

"They said, 'What are they doing here?' — my feelings were hurt," she said of the day people at a pool made comments directed at her and other African-Americans.

"I thought the color of my skin didn't matter anymore."

The audience of some 200 adults was quiet, then applauded the young vice president of the Broadway Heights Youth Council.

She was one of several victims of bias, prejudice and hate crimes who made the issue personal. And that's what organizers of the first Hate Crimes Summit, held Thursday at the University of San Diego's Joan B. Kroc Institute for Peace and Justice, wanted those attending to hear.

"Everyone in this community has a right to live free of fear," Assemblywoman Lori Saldaña said. "These crimes destroy lives, they destroy communities, they destroy spirits."

She is one of the forces behind creation of United for a Hate Free San Diego, a coalition of 52 faith



Hate crimes, such as this swastika on a memorial plaque at an Israeli synagogue, are an international problem. Getty Images

and community leaders and organizations who have been meeting since November in response to what they say is "a growing trend of hate-motivated behavior in San Diego communities."

Their goal is to reduce that or, better yet, prevent it. The numbers, prepared annually by the FBI, show that reported incidents in all of San

SEE **Hate, E5**

► HATE

CONTINUED FROM E1

'It's an issue we have to keep fighting'

Diego, numbers dropped, from 47 to 42, but in the city they shot up increased from 41 to 55. The crimes were motivated by victims' race, religion, sexual orientation, ethnicity or disability.

"It's an issue we have to keep fighting," said Heidi Beirich, a Vista High School grad with a Ph.D. in political science, who is director of research for the Intelligence Project at the Southern Poverty Law Center. The organization was created in 1971 in Montgomery, Ala., to fight for civil rights. The SPLC sees other numbers climbing, especially in what it identifies as hate groups — up from 602 in 2000 to 888 in 2007.

"For most hate groups today, the target is immigrants," she said during her keynote address.

Person after person came to the podium or to the microphone on stage to relay a personal and painful experience, an examination of how the problem has been around for generations. One young man talked about helping migrant workers in North County, following assaults on their make-shift camps. Ricardo Griswold del Castillo, professor emeritus of Chicana and Chicano Studies

HATE CRIMES BY THE NUMBERS

The FBI defines a hate crime, also known as a bias crime, as a criminal offense committed against a person, property or society that is motivated, in whole or in part, by the offender's bias against a race, religion, disability, sexual orientation or ethnicity/national origin."

The latest statistics available:

- A November 2007 report from the FBI showed hate crimes are on the rise nationally, increasing nearly 8 percent in 2006.
- The Southern Poverty Law Center reported that "the number of hate groups in the United States is surging, up 48 percent since 2000," with a reported total of 888.
- According to the SPLC, California leads the nation with 80 hate groups, a majority in Southern California.
- The California Attorney General's office reports that, in 2006, race/ethnicity/national origin was the No. 1 reason for bias-motivated hate behavior in California, at 64.6 percent, followed by sexual orientation (18.8 percent) and religion (15.7 percent).

- JANE CLIFFORD

told the crowd.

"We have to begin with the slurs," said Ashley Walker, executive director of San Diego's Human Relations Commission, who was master of ceremonies at the event. "It's really, really hard to say something to your nana, your neighbor, your partner. But if we can stop prejudice, bias and bigotry, we don't have to worry about hate crimes."

black and brown politicians and law enforcement sat with us and concerned them of the community's

who is a community... the FBI defines a hate crime... also known as a bias crime... criminal offense committed against a person, property or society that is motivated, in whole or in part, by the offender's bias against a race, religion, disability, sexual orientation or ethnicity/national origin."

change the way you think... in the way you think...

California Catholic Daily

[Return to Article] This printable article is taken from www.calcatholic.com

Published: June 17, 2008

"No connection between their religious beliefs and their sexual behavior"

Catholic campuses no exception to sexual "hook-up culture," professor reports

The sexual "hook-up culture" is widespread on college and university campuses, regardless of whether the institutions are Catholic or secular, a Catholic academic says.

[[Freitas061708.jpg]] Boston University religion professor Donna Freitas reports her findings in a new book, *Sex & the Soul: Juggling Sexuality, Spirituality, Romance, and Religion on America's College Campuses*.

Only some evangelical colleges that embrace a culture of purity diverge from the general norm, according to Freitas.

Freitas based her book on research that involved students at seven colleges. She and five research assistants surveyed 2,500 students online, investigated 500 journals, and interviewed 111 students. According to Freitas, the prevalence of the "hookup culture," where students seek sexual experiences with a variety of partners, was a disturbing enough trend. But, "the theme party culture is probably the most shocking shift," she told the May 30 *National Catholic Reporter*.

In theme parties, men and women dress up, the women acting as sex objects. Themes include "CEOs and Office Hos," "Millionaires and Maids," and "Golf Pros and Tennis Hos," she told the *Reporter*. According to Freitas, young people often regret their participation in such parties, but they "feel they have to go along with it to make friends, or to find a guy if they want a boyfriend."

[[SexStudy061708.jpg]] According to Freitas, 41% of students, both men and women, who engage in the "hook-up culture" are "profoundly upset" about their own behavior. Of the students at Catholic colleges and universities, 45% said their peers were too casual about sex – an opinion expressed by 36% of students at nonreligious private and public schools. But, Freitas told the *Wall Street Journal* in April, "with the exception of evangelicals, American college students see almost no connection between their religious beliefs and their sexual behavior. This radical separation of religion and sex tells us important things not only about the power of the college hookup culture but also about the weakness of religious traditions in the face of it."

Erin Lovette-Colyer, director of the University of San Diego's women's center, acknowledged Freitas' conclusions, telling the *Reporter* that USD, a Catholic school, was taking steps to address student sexual behavior – by a campus-wide discussion on values-based behavior using various campus organizations, such as residence life, campus ministry, and the women's center.

But the problem comes ultimately from the larger culture, Jesuit Fr. Julio Giulietti, president of Wheeling Jesuit University in Wheeling, West Virginia, told the *Reporter*. "They go to a college or university and bring all that baggage," he said. "You can instruct, discuss, try to dialogue, but you don't run a prison. You don't run a seminary."

Freitas said Catholic colleges and universities have deftly ignored the sexual hook-up culture because they fear alienating prospective students. She suggests that parents of prospective students be given a list of questions. Ten of the questions would be "about sex and hookup culture," she told the *Reporter*. "Parents have to buck up and look beyond the ivy. My theory is the parents and applicants hold all the power. When students are in the middle of it, they don't know how to get out of it."

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ALLAN BURCH ILLUSTRATION

SUNDAY, JUNE 22, 2008

Sudan Scholarship Foundation



This is an illustration completed for *USD Magazine* at the University of San Diego. I do quite a bit of work for Universities, and USD is one of the best.

Depicted here is a USD graduate by the name of Daniel Akech James, as well as 2 of the beneficiaries of the Sudan Scholarship Foundation, formed by Mr. James.

From its website --

The Sudan Scholarship Foundation (SSF) seeks to help those gifted Sudanese refugee students who have been expelled to drop out from high schools in light of the evacuation of Kakuma refugee camp and other refugee camps by the United Nations Higher Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR).

Mr. James works to give educational opportunities to the young people of Sudan in spite of many challenges to his own well-being, which are recounted at his blog. It's very interesting reading, to say the least. If you have a moment, please give it a look, here. *USD*

ABOUT ME

ALLAN BURCH

I am an illustrator and this is where I journal about the process and inspiration behind my work. Be sure to check back often as I update projects weekly. Also, be sure to say "hi" at the 2008 Illustration Conference in NYC. All images are copyright Allan Burch.

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BLOG ARCHIVE

▼ 2008 (19)

▼ June (3)

[Sudan Scholarship Foundation](#)

[Barack Obama, Democratic Nominee](#)

[DNA Capturing Bead](#)

► May (2)

► April (4)

► March (4)

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► January (3)

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Magazine did a profile of him and his work by shining a spotlight on his blog. The illustration above accompanies this profile

The artwork painted itself very nicely. I say painted itself, because some illustrations do, while others, equally rewarding, don't come equally as easily. I don't know if it was the right combination of paint and my secret medium, or if the planets were aligned just so, but I remember the brushstrokes and the paint doing just as I wished -- the textures were perfect and the paint lifted out nicely (not easily done with acrylics).

The warmth in the palette lends itself to the positivity of the Foundation, as do the radiant strokes, particularly noticeable behind Daniel.

My next blog entry will be from the Big Apple, as I arrive for the Illustration Conference. I'll have my laptop in-hand, my digital camera in-tow, and my thesaurus packed so as to sufficiently relay the most brilliant adjective for the hopefully non-brick-wall-view from my hotel room.

POSTED BY ALLAN BURCH AT 12:15 AM

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JOE HAKE HONORED AS "CITIZEN OF COURAGE" IN SAN DIEGO

By Liz Emmett-Mattox

LIZEM@LHVC.COM

Joe Hake (Niwot High class of 2004) certainly didn't expect trouble as he walked to a market near his home in Mission Beach, Calif. A sophomore at the University of San Diego, he was approached by a woman about his age who was crying hysterically, asking to use his cell phone.

Hake didn't know what was going on, but he could tell the girl needed help. He handed over his cell phone, and she called a friend and said that her boyfriend had gotten angry and thrown her down, spit on her and threw her cell phone where she couldn't get it.

After the girl hung up with her friend, Hake encouraged her to call the police, or at least her parents. She agreed to call her parents and repeated her story to them.

About that time, her boyfriend showed up and pushed Hake up against the brick wall of the market and punched him in the face. Hake blacked out; when he came to, everyone was gone.

In the emergency room, Hake discovered that his eye socket had been broken. As required by law, the ER personnel reported the assault to police.

Because the phone numbers the girl had called were stored in Hake's cell phone, the attacker was quickly identified and later charged with three counts of felony assault.

The attacker was convicted, despite a lack of cooperation from other witnesses, including his girlfriend.

Of his experience in court, Hake said, "It was a real learning experience. I'm glad I went through it, but it's not something I would want to do again."

Hake has similar views on his fateful decision to hand over his cell phone. "At first I was a little reluctant. She looked like she was in pretty rough shape. But there's no way I could have walked away. I thought it was pretty harmless to let her use my phone."

Although it turned out to be anything but harmless, Hake remains upbeat. "It could have been so much worse," he said. "He broke my eye socket, but a few inches up or down and I could be blind or have a mouth full of false teeth."

In the end, Hake said, "I'm glad I helped her. That guy wasn't going to stop there."

Hake recently received a BA in International Finance from the University of San Diego and is planning to move to Chicago after graduation.

THE WATER WE DRINK

By Karen Copperberg

KARENC@LHVC.COM

Have you been wondering lately how clean your water is? Well, you aren't alone. As you might have

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Community college smart way to save

June 30, 2008

[Recommend \(5\)](#)

Lisa Sago of Aurora has studied many ways to save money, but the smartest decision her family made, she said, is sending her son to community college.

Lisa, her husband, Readus, a software developer, and her son, Timothy, decided the best plan was for Timothy to attend the College of DuPage for the first two years.

"He is able to take the same university-required 'general education classes' for a fraction of the cost," she said. "By him being a commuter student, we are saving tremendously."

Timothy takes a full load of classes and works part time at a local bank to earn money and to gain work experience. He finished one year already, is taking summer classes and will return in the fall. His plan is to attend the University of San Diego to complete his degree.

The savings are immense. For a full load of classes, he pays \$4,000 to \$5,000 a year, vs. tuition, room and board of \$25,000 to \$40,000 or more for a four-year college.

"By the end of the two years [at DuPage], my son will know the exact direction he wants to focus his major in, and will probably be able to attend the school of his choice," Lisa said.

What are you doing to make ends meet? Write to psmith@suntimes.com

Sun Times Staff Reports

Top 10 Ways to Save Money in University/College

From Million Dollar Journey

Alternative to 529 plans (or how to save for college without tying up your money for 18 years)

From AllFinancialMatters

The views expressed in these blog posts are those of the author and not of the Chicago

Sun-Times

myway wrote:

Attending a community / junior college certainly can be an excellent strategy for leveraging towards furthering your education. It can also be a good bridge-period for many young people who are uncertain what they want to pursue. But be sure that your sights are set beyond that community college if you're interested in pursuing a profession. An "associates" degree has about the same weight as a trade school

Collins promoted to chief of staff for Dianne Jacob

A familiar face to constituents of San Diego County's Second District is taking the helm as chief of staff to Supervisor Dianne Jacob. Jeff Collins, deputy chief of staff and longtime policy adviser, will formally assume the post on June 6.

After serving as an intern to former California Governor Pete Wilson, Collins joined Jacob's staff in 1996. He ascended the ranks from administrative assistant to field representative to policy adviser. In 2003, he became a senior policy advisor and in 2007 he was named deputy chief.

Along the way, Collins distinguished himself by crafting landmark legislation to improve fire protection and emergency medical services in the region.

"Jeff has always been a tremendous asset to my office. He knows and understands East County and he's extremely committed to making government work for people," said Jacob. "I have every confidence that Jeff will hit the ground running."


Collins was instrumental in helping Jacob expose corruption within the San Diego/Imperial Counties Chapter of the Red Cross after the 2001 Viejas fire in Alpine, Jacob said. Hundreds of thousands of dollars raised for the purpose of helping fire victims were inappropriately allocated to other chapter expenses, an audit by the organization's national headquarters determined.

Collins, 34, is a graduate of the University of San Diego and an avid hockey player. He and his wife, Ana, are proud first-time parents of a 2-month old, Sean.

Copyright Ramona Sentinel



Riverside woman selected for Chargers Girls team

 Download story podcast

01:54 PM PDT on Sunday, June 22, 2008

By MARLENE TOSCANO
The Press-Enterprise

At age 18, Riverside resident Lindsay Peña is on the way to fulfilling her dreams.

During tryouts in April, Peña, a 2007 Arlington High School graduate, was picked out of 550 women to be a Charger Girl cheerleader for the San Diego Chargers.

"It's always been a dream of mine to be a professional dancer and perform in front of thousands of people," Peña said during a phone interview.

Story continues below



Lindsay Peña

Peña said she wasn't nervous about doing well at the tryout, but felt more of an "adrenaline rush."

Peña has been dancing since she was 3 years old and has trained at Freddie Finn Dance Studio in Riverside, said her mother Sandy.

The night before the tryouts on April 13, Peña wasn't sure whether she would compete, she said.

The next day, she told her parents that she wanted to compete. Her family dropped everything they were doing to accompany her, she said.

"It was just a spur of the moment thing," said Peña, who had been told by a friend and fellow dancer about the tryouts.

"I had a feeling," Peña said. "It was just time to go try something new."

The tryouts were a three-day process at the Jenny Craig Pavilion at the University of San Diego.

On the first cut, the number of women was whittled to 80. The next round was an interview with a panel of judges, Peña said.

They asked what was her biggest weakness, her career plans and why she wanted to be a Chargers Girl, Peña said.

Peña said her biggest weaknesses is her sensitivity to criticism from "mean girls."

"But that's not a weakness I think I can't surpass and get over," Peña said.



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U.S. women win rematch against Brazil

Wednesday, Jun 18, 2008 7:00 AM ET

[OLYMPIC COUNTDOWN] In a rematch of their 2007 Women's World Cup semifinal, the USA got revenge with a 1-0 win over Brazil on Tuesday at the 2008 Peace Queen Cup in Suwon, South Korea.

The win left the Americans in first place with two wins in two games in Group B. They'll move into Saturday's final with a win or tie over Italy on Thursday.

USC's Amy Rodriguez scored the game's only goal in the 41st minute off Aly Wagner's free kick for her fourth international goal.

"I thought the first half was just a battle, so we changed the style and formation [in the second half]," said U.S. head coach Pia Sundhage. "We didn't play well attacking [in the first half], although the defending was good. I am very proud with the way we turned it around. We changed so many players and that is difficult for a team coming into the second half, but I think we played better."

The USA lost two players in the game with injuries Midfielder Carli Lloyd suffered a broken nose about 10 minutes into the game while jumping for a head ball and had to be replaced by Angela Hucles. Captain Christie Rampone came off at halftime after she injured an ankle just after the USA's goal.

Sundhage made three changes at halftime, sending on Heather O'Reilly to replace Wagner (who had started her first match in about eight months), Rachel Buehler to replace Rampone and Stephanie Cox to replace Lori Chalupny. The USA moved to a 4-5-1 for most of the second half, dropping Abby Wambach in behind Rodriguez on the forward line.

Brazil fielded only four starters -- Aline, Tania, Maycon and Ester -- from last year's Women's World Cup semifinal in which it trounced the Americans, 4-0.

The match was the first of three games the USA will play against Brazil before the 2008 Olympics. The two teams will also meet on July 13 at Dick's Sporting Goods Park in Commerce City, Colo. (2 p.m. MT live on ESPN) and then again on July 16 at the University of San Diego's Torero Stadium (7 p.m. PT live Fox Soccer Channel).

GAME SUMMARY:

TOMORROW'S STARS TODAY!




Boys Event:
July 3-8, 2008
Denver, Colorado

Today's Most Read

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June 13, 2008

Input on improving schools sought at meeting

By Chris Moran
STAFF WRITER

The experts have had their committee meetings and issued their report on how to improve California's public schools. Now they want to hear from you.

California Secretary of Education David Long is hosting a town-hall-style meeting Monday at the University of San Diego to get feedback from parents, educators, business leaders, students and community members on a report issued by a state committee late last year, "Students First: Renewing Hope for California's Future."

The 44-page report's recom-

DETAILS


Community dialogue on education reform

When: 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. Monday

Where: University of San Diego
Joan B. Kroc Institute For Peace & Justice, 5998 Alcalá Park in Linda Vista.

.....
mendations include:

- Paying teachers based on how much their students learn;
- Spending more on students, especially those who score low on achievement tests;
- Getting rid of the strings attached to state funding and give local educators more control over how to spend money;

 **Online:** To read "Students First: Renewing Hope for California's Future" report, go to www.everychildprepared.org

.....
• Creating a data system that links school data to information from colleges, workplaces and social services agencies;

• Making kindergarten full-day;

• Providing preschool to all 3- and 4-year-olds in poverty.

Randy Ward, superintendent of county public schools, is one of 18 members of the Governor's Committee on Education Excellence, which spent two years studying the state's public schools before

coming up with recommendations on how to improve them.

Former state Sen. Dede Alpert is also on the committee and will be at Monday's meeting with Ward.

"To create the political will to build a public school system today to get us ready for tomorrow, so to speak, is something that each and every one of us have the responsibility for," Ward said. "I would encourage anyone that cares about improving our public schools to attend."

Ward hopes to get some answers from attendees to questions of his own: "Did the report get it right? Did we get anything really wrong? Did we miss anything?"

The county has 494,000 students at 710 public schools in 42 local school districts, according to the County Office of Education's most recent annual report.

Chris Moran: (619) 498-6637;
chris.moran@uniontrib.com

 Holistic and Spiritual

Is there a Secret to Intuition?

Edited by Carly Zander

Mon, 02 Jun 2008, 15:29:15 EDT

SAN DIEGO, Calif., June 2 (SEND2PRESS NEWSWIRE) -- Weston Jolly, prominent spiritual channel and mentor, returns to San Diego in June to share two remarkable presentations to integrate intuition into everyday life. "Free Your Intuition" is a speech to be presented Friday, June 20th at 7 p.m., with a full-day workshop entitled "Magic, Metaphysics or Just Plain Real?" offered on June 21st starting at 9 a.m.



"Everyone experiences intuition, so why is it so often dismissed?" Jolly asks. In these programs, he guides guests to call upon intuition into their daily lives. He offers direct examples regarding the integration of intuition and energy for empowered living. He says the pay off is obvious, in quoting Albert Einstein "The only real valuable thing is intuition"

He illuminates that intuition isn't only for geniuses or gurus but for everybody. "Every time you're given intuitive guidance, there's an opportunity for real insight," says Jolly. "Then, there's the critical point of acting upon this information that is often transformational. In the decision to act, we break away from the confines of our minds into a Higher Power."

Weston Jolly is chairman and co-founder of Age of Awareness and celebrated author of the book "Is God With Us" (ISBN: 0-9674982-0-1) Nationally, for the past 10 years he has been acknowledged for his inspirational speaking and channeling. His mission of "sharing unconditional love and clear insight through the self-realization that we are complete, whole and spiritually powerful," is the backbone to his self-help messages. In addition to numerous events he creates, Weston Jolly hosts or is a featured talent on TV and radio. Weston also conducts his own teleconferences and teleworkshops.

Both upcoming events will be held at the University of San Diego Manchester Conference Center with pre-registration encouraged. "Free Your Intuition" starts Friday June 20th at 7 p.m. and tickets are \$79 pre-registered "Magic, Metaphysics or Just Plain Real?" is offered on Saturday June 21st from 9 a.m. - 4 p.m. and tickets are \$179 pre-registered.

For more information on both events, please call toll free (888) AWARENESS or visit www.WestonJolly.com.

Age of Awareness, Inc., 8485 E. McDonald Dr. #234, Scottsdale, AZ 85250-6335.

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www.Send2Press.com 1 times (1 this year)

USD hosts summit on hate crimes

United for a Hate Free San Diego will hold a summit on hate crimes at the University of San Diego, Joan B. Kroc Institute for Peace and Justice at 6 p.m. on Thursday, June 12. Heidi Beirich, deputy director of the Southern Poverty Law Center, will be the keynote speaker.

Local elected officials and faith leaders organized the summit to increase awareness of the proliferation of hate groups in San Diego and the increase in hate crimes. For more information or to register for the summit, contact Connie Hernandez at the City of San Diego Human Relations Commission at 619-236-6420.

The Joan B. Kroc Institute for Peace and Justice is located on the campus of the University of San Diego at 5998 Alcalá Park.

Daily Business Report

June 8, 2008

EVENTS

United for a Hate Free San Diego, a coalition of 52 faith and community leaders and organizations, is sponsoring a Hate Crimes Summit Thursday (June 12) at USD's **Joan B. Kroc Institute for Peace and Justice**. The event lasts from 5 to 8 p.m. **Heidi Beirich**, a representative of **the Southern Poverty Law Center**, is the keynote speaker. The coalition has been meeting since last November in response to increased incidence of hate-motivated behavior in San Diego communities. For more information, call **Connie Hernandez** at (619) 236-6420.

Web Version



News Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
Jun 4, 2008

Contact:
Marie Watteau
(202) 785-1670

NCLR PRESIDENT AND CEO JANET MURGUÍA TO KEYNOTE THE BRAVO FOUNDATION'S SPEAKER SERIES

San Diego, CA— Janet Murguía, President and CEO of the National Council of La Raza (NCLR), the largest national Latino civil rights and advocacy organization in the U.S., will be the featured speaker at the Bravo Foundation Speaker Series Luncheon on Thursday, June 5 at noon. The mission of the Speaker Series is to foster increased civic engagement by providing educational and networking opportunities, informing participants about critical issues affecting the Latino community, and honoring outstanding American Latino leaders.

Murguía will discuss topics of importance to the Latino community such as immigration reform and its impact on the presidential election. The Latino vote will help to decide who our nation's next president will be, and NCLR is working to engage the Latino community to take an active role in this historic election. Murguía will also highlight NCLR's upcoming Annual Conference which will take place in San Diego July 12-15.

For more information about the 2008 NCLR Annual Conference visit www.nclr.org.

MEDIA ADVISORY

WHEN: Thursday, June 5, 2008, 12:00 Noon
WHERE: University of San Diego
Joan B. Kroc Institute for Peace & Justice
5998 Alcalá Park
San Diego, CA 92110
WHAT: NCLR President to speak at the Bravo Foundation Speaker Series Luncheon
WHO: Janet Murguía, NCLR President and CEO

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June 18, 2008

Voices Of Women Event Is June 17

A multi-national panel of women will discuss the current state of affairs with human rights in five countries within Africa, Asia, Latin America and North America at an event sponsored by Voices of Women on June 17.

Among the five panel members is Le Ly Hayslip, the inspirational author of *When Heaven and Earth Changed Places*, which Oliver Stone made into a film starring Tommy Lee Jones. Hayslip will address human rights in Vietnam today.

Also joining the panel is human rights activist Gloria Oloya, who works with the Campaign to End Genocide in Uganda. Oloya will discuss current conditions in Uganda, conveying stories the mass media

won't report.

Fabiola Navarro, a Chilean attorney who was involved in the struggle to defeat the Pinochet Regime, and a student leader who actively worked in the educational reform movement with the new democratic government, will focus her discussion on women's rights in Chile today.

The program will also feature professional actors performing short acts and readings about war and peace, and the effects on human rights.

The free event is Tuesday June 17 at 7 p.m. at the Joan B. Kroc Institute for Peace and Justice on the University of San Diego campus. For more information please visit www.voicesofwomen.org or call (858) 642-6770.

FINANCE CALENDAR

EVENTS

MONDAY, JUL 7 - SEMINAR

TAX SEMINAR FOR NONPROFIT AND EXEMPT ORGANIZATIONS

This FREE seminar will cover topics such as: property tax exemptions, employment taxes, recent legal developments in charity law, income tax laws for exempt organizations, sales and use taxes and the non-profit organization. RSVP by June 30, 2008. **Organization:** Office of the State Controller **Information:** (866)305-9991 kchang@sco.ca.gov **Cost:** No Cost **When:** Hours: 9:30 AM - 5:00 PM **Where:** Joan B. Kroc Institute, Peace and Justice, 5998 Alcalá park, San Diego, 92110

WEDNESDAY, JUL 9 - AUDIO CONFERENCE

NEW 401(k) RISKS

In this program 401(k) management expert David Gensler will tell you how to put a systematic process in place to keep your plan in compliance, control your costs and reduce your chances of lawsuits. **Organization:** Business 21 Audio Conferences **Information:** 1-888-479-2777 www.b21pubs.com **Cost:** No Details Available **When:** Hours: 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM **Where:** Audio Conference, Business 21 Audio Conferences, San Diego

TUESDAY, JUL 22 - CLASS

BENEFITS FUNDAMENTALS

This course introduces participants to the history and philosophy of benefits and services. Class discussions will focus on various welfare and pension plans, pricing strategies, and employee services. **Organization:** Cal State San Marcos Extended Studies **Information:** (760) 750-4020 www.therightcourse.net **Cost:** \$425.00 **When:** Hours: 6:00 PM - 9:00 PM **Where:** Cal State San Marcos Extended Learning, 333 S. Twin Oaks Valley Rd., San Marcos

Athletics



Gyno Pomare (left) and the Bill Grier-coached Toreros won their first-ever NCAA Tournament game in March. *K.C. Alfred / Union-Tribune*



Last year, USD had to ask SDSU to use its baseball facility for the NCAA Regionals. *2007 file photo / Union-Tribune*



Morgan Henderson dribbles past Portland's Jessica Clemens in the Toreros' first-round WCC Tournament win. *Charlie Newman / U-T*

After years of enduring poorly performing teams, USD began to turn it around when Ky Snyder took over as athletic director in 2003. After the successes of 2007-08, he has the school looking forward to more than ...

A storybook season

By Brent Schrottenboer
STAFF WRITER

Ky Snyder can see the future. It's all right there in his office at USD — pictured in a set of architectural drawings by the international design firm Cannon Design.

They show potential plans for an expanded baseball facility, new team locker rooms for the softball and golf programs, and even a swanky new athletics complex to replace the old one, built in 1961.

"The building's getting a little old," said Snyder, USD's executive athletic director since December 2003. "We have to take a look at where we're going to be down the road."

After decades of keeping a low profile in sports, it's all part of an up grade in vision these days at the little private school on the hill.

Some might call it a culture change. As recently as 2004, the Toreros' men's basketball team had finished with a 4-26 record. USD's women's basketball team wasn't much better at 7-22. Later that year, the school's board of trustees felt compelled to call for change, approving a strategic plan to elevate USD's sports performance to the level of its top-flight academic programs.

Steadily, the swell kept rising until this year, when USD sports suddenly surged like never before. The Toreros were one of just 10 Division I schools this past year to earn NCAA championship berths in baseball and men's and women's basketball. USD also ranked as high as ninth and 12th nationally in women's soccer and women's volleyball, respectively.

"The university is hot right now,"



Joe Sprague, 6, the brother of USD women's basketball player Amber Sprague, encourages the Toreros during the first round of the NCAA Tournament in Berkeley. *Charlie Newman / Union-Tribune*

said Amanda Rego, a women's basketball player who graduated last month. "They're doing the right stuff. Ky has done an excellent job bringing in coaches, and he has a vision of where he wants the athletic department to be."

USD's sports success is even more remarkable considering its fi-

ancial position. The Toreros' athletics expenses were only about \$15 million last year, according to federal filings — about half of the expenses of the bigger school across town, San Diego State.

Likewise, luxury is scarce. Unlike the fancier exclusive complexes at bigger schools, USD's

BANNER YEAR

This year, USD won its first West Coast Conference Commissioner's Cup, an all-sports award given to the top-performing school. USD also was one of just 10 Division I schools to earn NCAA championship berths in baseball and men's and women's basketball. Those 10 and their total athletics expenses last year:

SCHOOL	EXPENSES
Texas	\$89.3 million
Texas A&M	\$69.4 million
Oklahoma	\$69.2 million
Stanford	\$63.8 million
Georgia	\$61.6 million
North Carolina	\$58.2 million
Louisville	\$51.5 million
Vanderbilt	\$39 million
USD	\$15.1 million
Oral Roberts	\$9 million

SOURCE: U.S. Dept. of Education

U-T Multimedia: To see videos of the Toreros basketball teams when they were selected for the 2008 NCAA Tournaments, go to uniontrib.com/sports/USD

main sports building is a converted living quarters for priests. Not too long ago, athletics staffers working in their offices could hear Father Donovan playing the piano near his residence down the hall.

Key changes

In Division I sports, if you don't have a major college football team, your school's three biggest revenue producers generally are men's

SEE **Toreros, D3**

► TOREROS

CONTINUED FROM PAGE D1

'Ky has made it . . . clear that we're here to win'

basketball, women's basketball and baseball.

But it's hard to be good in all three at once. And it's even harder to be good in all three at once and be good in the classroom, too.

"We really had a banner year," Snyder said.

USD was one of only two schools to achieve such a triple crown without belonging to one of the lucrative Bowl Championship Series conferences. The other eight teams that did it each have athletic expense budgets of at least \$39 million. USD and Oral Roberts did it despite having expense budgets under \$16 million and undergraduate enrollments under 6,000.

How to explain it all?

"Two words: Ky Snyder," said John Manson, a USD alumnus and booster.

He and others point to the key hires and accountability Snyder has installed since taking over.

Longtime USD women's basketball coach Kathy Marpe noted it shortly before she resigned in 2005.

"Ky has made it really clear that we're here to win," she said then. "It wasn't that way before. It has to be done."

Before Snyder hired Cindy Fisher to replace Marpe, the program had only two winning seasons since 1993. Since Fisher's hiring, the program improved from 9-19 in 2005-06 to 21-9 in 2006-07 and 19-13 this past season.

In men's basketball, Snyder last year fired coach Brad Holland, whose 13-year record was 200-176. He replaced him with Gonzaga assistant Bill Grier, who led the Toreros to their first-ever NCAA Tournament win in March, 70-69 over Connecticut.

In football, coach Jim Harbaugh joined USD in late 2003, shortly after Snyder was hired as athletic director. The previous season, the team had gone 8-2, but its coach clashed with the USD administration and was fired at midseason. The previous five seasons, the team's record was 22-27. In four seasons since Snyder was hired, USD's football record is 38-8, including 9-2 last year under Harbaugh's replacement, Ron Caragher.

But Snyder refuses credit. "It all comes back to our student-athletes," Snyder said. "I've never made a shot. I've never made a pass, never hit a ball."

Snyder's predecessor, Tom Iannaccone, hired baseball coach Rich Hill in 1998. Hill's team ranked as high as No. 6 nationally this year and made its fifth appearance ever in the NCAA Division I Regionals, all in the past seven seasons. Last week, the Baltimore Orioles selected USD pitcher Brian Matusz with the fourth overall pick in the major league draft.

"If you look at (USD's) resources versus what the larger schools have, you can't compare," said Gus Magee, a former USD basketball player and assistant coach. "It's a combination of great recruitment, great coaching and getting the right fit for the players."

That fit usually has worked on the academic side at USD, where serious study is ingrained in the environment. The faculty-student ratio is intimate at about one per 15. Additionally, there are only about 117 full-time athletic scholarship equivalents to pass around to 400-plus student-athletes. Its entire football team of about 95 is nonscholarship and plays at the I-AA level. In other words,

many USD student-athletes are paying their own way, giving them an economic incentive to hit the books.

The trick has been to excel academically and develop a bigger hunger for winning games on a big-time level — something that hasn't always been there previously on a consistent basis.

It's not easy to do, even at schools with much bigger budgets and sports emphasis. Witness SDSU, whose athletics budget is about \$30 million. SDSU's football, women's basketball and baseball teams have struggled to get over the hump the past several years. SDSU's football team had the fifth-worst Academic Progress Rate in Division I-A for last year. None of SDSU's other programs' academic rates ranked above the 60th percentile within their own sports.

At USD, five teams rank above the 69th percentile for academic progress within their sports. Meanwhile, 10 of USD's 12 teams sponsored by the West Coast Conference ranked third or better in the league this year on the field.

"Everyone is congratulating one another," Rego said. "Everybody is enjoying the winning and being part of a winning program. It's kind of a contagious feeling. You see other athletes doing well and you want to stand out yourself."

Bigger dreams

Now the goal is to push it further.

The women's basketball team has never won an NCAA Tournament game. The men's team has won only one. The baseball team has never advanced to the Super Regionals.

The men's basketball team had a season-ticket base last year of about 1,000. Since its win over UConn, there have been about 250 new buyers, Snyder said — before the Toreros even started their ticket marketing campaign. To help boost those revenue streams even more, Snyder recently hired marketing guru Steve Becvar away from SDSU, where he once held the No. 2 spot in the SDSU athletic hierarchy.

"We need to get that season-ticket base up to 3,000 or 3,500," said Snyder, an SDSU grad. "That's a goal down the line."

If the plan holds, winning programs will bring more ticket sales, more sponsorships and more donations. USD's athletics expenses have more than doubled from \$6.56 million in 2001-02 to about \$15.1 million last year, including scholarship costs, according to federal filings.

Listed revenues, including institutional support, have risen accordingly to cover those costs. But Snyder will need more to build a better empire on the hill. Those drawings in his office are only concepts right now and have yet to be approved and funded. The price tag depends on what is built and when.

Among other projects, Snyder wants to expand the baseball facility to about 3,000 permanent seats so the Toreros can host the NCAA Regionals. Last year, USD had to ask SDSU to use its baseball facility for the NCAA Regionals.

If it happens, funding would have to come from alumni and donors, much like it did with basketball's 5,100-seat Jenny Craig Pavilion. That \$17.5 million facility opened in 2000, after a \$7 million lead gift from Sid and Jenny Craig.

"You cannot be on that campus now and not be aware of both academics and athletics," Manson said.

Brent Schrottenboer: (619) 293-1366;
brent.schrottenboer@uniontrib.com

"Everyone is congratulating one another. Everybody is enjoying the winning and being part of a winning program. It's kind of a contagious feeling."

AMANDA REGO, USD women's basketball player

sophomore-dominated team in 2008 anyway. Two-time All-American first baseman Dustin Ackley and standout second baseman Kyle Seager will be back to lead the offense, and Tim Fedroff (a seventh-round pick as a draft-eligible sophomore this June) will be back also unless the Indians pony up well-above-slot money to sign him. All-American right-hander Alex White was the best pitcher in Omaha last year and will be one of the top candidates for national Player of the Year honors in 2009, along with Ackley. Rising sophomore righty Matt Harvey has just as good an arm as White, and righty Adam Warren should be back for his senior year as well. The Tar Heels could be embarrassingly deep on the mound if recruits such as Tim Melville, Jimmy Messer and Quinton Miller arrive to bolster the pitching staff further.



Oregon State

The Beavers missed the NCAA tournament with a very young team in 2008, but they should leap back to national title contention as the members of their highly touted 2007 recruiting bonanza mature. Oregon State has young, power arms from the right side (Greg Peavey, James Nygren and Kevin Rhoderick) and from the left side (Tanner Robles and Josh Osich), and all should be improved with a year of experience under their belts. Expect second baseman Garrett Nash and first baseman Stephen Hagan to take major steps forward next year, and Ryan Ortiz to continue to blossom into one of the nation's best catchers. It will be crucial for right-hander Jorge Reyes, the 2007 CWS Most Outstanding Player, to put his horrid sophomore season behind him and re-emerge as the veteran ace of the pitching staff.



San Diego

The Toreros couldn't win a regional -- let alone get to Omaha -- in three years with left-handers Brian Matusz and Josh Romanski leading the way, but they're still positioned to break through without that outstanding duo in 2009. USD should still feature one of the best pitching staffs on the West Coast, led by freshman All-America right-hander Kyle Blair and standout closer A.J. Griffin. Lefty Sammy Solis should parlay his solid freshman year into a big sophomore season, righty Matt Thomson has a power arm and could be primed for a huge junior season, and senior righty Matt Couch will be back from Tommy John surgery. The lineup won't scare anyone, but it has some excellent pieces to build around with freshman All-America third baseman Victor Sanchez; outfielders James Meador and Kevin Muno; and infielders Sean Nicol, Zach Walters and Stephen Kaupang. Kaupang is a key--the hulking first baseman was a disappointment as a freshman but has big-time power potential.



Texas

The Longhorns haven't been to Omaha since winning the 2005 national title, but they've got enough young talent in place to end that drought in 2009. The lineup could get a boost if seventh-round pick Jordan Danks returns for his senior year, but even if he does not, Texas shouldn't be hurting for offensive firepower. Outfielder/DH Russell Moldenhauer should emerge as one of the best hitters in the Big 12 as a junior next year, and he'll be surrounded by an exciting group of sophomores in Cameron Rupp, Runey Davis, Bobby Buckner, Tant Shepherd, Kevin Keyes and Kawika Emsley-Pai. That group should take a big step forward in 2009. The lineup also has good veteran leadership with catcher/third baseman Preston Clark and infielders Michael Torres, David Hernandez and Brandon Belt. The pitching staff will be anchored by All-American Chance Ruffin, left-hander Riley Boening and righty Brandon Workman, who has a big-time power arm and must take a major step forward.



Texas A&M

The Aggies have fallen to Rice in super-regionals each of the last two years, but they should have enough pitching in 2009 to break through to Omaha. Freshman All-Americans Barret Loux and Brooks Raley could be joined in a star-studded weekend rotation by right-hander Alex Wilson, who sat out last season with Tommy John surgery but showed big-time power stuff before



June 5, 2008

Toreros gave it a good ride

by **Chuck Karazsia**

USD coach Rich Hill and the Toreros men's baseball team have a lot to be proud of.

"They brought us to a national level", commented the proud coach.

Although the Bulldogs of Fresno State got the last bite, a

5-1 victory in the Long Beach Regional final and will be headed to the Super Regional at Arizona State, the Toreros completed their most successful season in school history.

Setting a record for victories, the (44-16) Toreros also reached a regional final for the first time in school history.

With three seniors graduat-

ing, USD probably will also lose juniors Brian Matusz , Ricardo Pecina, and Josh Romanski to the upcoming major league draft.

Congratulations to the University of San Diego Toreros and to the success of their sports programs in 2008, especially to the men's baseball team.

June 3, 2008

Bulldogs take last bite, end USD's run

Regional title goes to tough Fresno St.

By Kirk Kenney
 STAFF WRITER

LONG BEACH — Fresno State and Brandon Burke.

USD has seen more than enough of both the Bulldogs and their closer.

Fresno St.
5
USD
1

Fresno State had beaten the Toreros four straight times in the post-season play before USD's victory Sunday over the Bulldogs forced a rematch in last night's Long Beach Regional final.

Could the Toreros do it again? Not with Burke on the mound.

The senior from Rancho Bernardo High broke USD's hearts two years ago in the postseason. He did it again last night with the stakes even greater, closing out USD in Fresno State's 5-1 win at Blair Field.

While the Bulldogs (40-28) began planning for this weekend's Super Regional at Arizona State, the Toreros (44-16) were left to reflect on a bittersweet ending to the most successful season in school history.

"You don't want any of that to get lost," said USD coach Rich Hill, who team set a school record for victories and reached a regional final for the first time. "The group of guys is spectacu-

SCOREBOARD

Fresno State 5, USD 1

USD				Fresno State					
AB	R	H	BI	AB	R	H	BI		
Muno, K lf	5	0	1	0	Muno, D ss	4	1	1	0
Romanski cf	3	0	0	0	Hedstrom cf	3	0	3	2
Nicol ss	3	0	1	1	Wetzel 2b	4	1	2	1
Meador rf	3	0	0	0	Susdorf lf	3	1	0	0
Hansen 2b	4	0	1	0	Ahmady 1b	4	0	1	0
Valerio 1b	4	0	0	0	Delwiler rf	4	0	0	0
Gelbrich c	3	1	1	0	Mendonca 3b	3	1	0	0
Sanchez 3b	4	0	0	0	Johnson dh	1	0	0	0
Solis p	0	0	0	0	Ribera ph	1	0	0	0
Griffin p	0	0	0	0	Grubb c	2	1	0	0
					Sprague p	0	0	0	0
					Burke p	0	0	0	0
Totals	33	1	6	1	Totals	29	5	7	3

USD	000	010	000	-	1	6	1
Fresno State	000	020	00x	-	5	7	3

E-Hansen; Muno, D. 2; Ahmady. LOB-USD 9, Fresno State 5. 2B-Hansen; Gelbrich; Wetzel. HB-Mendonca. SH-Hedstrom; Johnson. CS-Romanski; Davis.

USD	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO
Solis	5 1/3	4	2	2	1	3
Griffin	2 1/3	3	3	1	1	6
Fresno State	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO
Sprague	5 1/3	5	1	1	4	2
Burke	3 1/3	1	0	0	0	2

SEE USD, D3

► USD

CONTINUED FROM PAGE D1

RB alum Burke does it again against Toreros

lar. Our senior class going out, along with (juniors) Brian Matusz and Josh Romanski, really should be the stamp of USD baseball.

"They turned this thing around. They brought us to the national level. They got us to heights that were unimaginable 10 years ago. I think that's the

real story of this year's team."

Early on last night it appeared there were chapters still to be written.

Cheers and chants were exchanged for pins and needles as the innings unfolded and the tension mounted. Scoreless through four innings, a one-run game into the eighth, the contest could have turned on any pitch.

If finally did when Fresno State scored three times in the eighth inning to give some breathing room to a 2-1 lead.

The only people who could relax in their seats before that were Kevin and Anne Muno. They are the parents of USD

sophomore left fielder Kevin Muno and Fresno State freshman shortstop Danny Muno, the teams' respective leadoff hitters.

The Munos knew they were going to this weekend's Super Regional at Arizona State regardless of the outcome of last night's game.

The only question was what they would be wearing — Fresno State's red or USD's blue?

It will be red.

"We had a good plan today and they executed it very well," said Fresno State coach Mike Batesole.

Fresno State took a 2-1 lead in the bottom of the fifth when

Gavin Hedstrom delivered a two-out, two-strike, two-run RBI single to right field off USD starter Sammy Solis.

With their seasons hanging in the balance, both teams went to their closers and career saves leaders in the sixth inning — A.J. Griffin for the Toreros and Burke for Fresno State.

Griffin struck out the first five hitters he faced, but ran into trouble in the eighth.

The Toreros never could get anything going against Burke, who allowed just one hit over the final 3 $\frac{2}{3}$ innings.

"We were pretty confident when we gave (Burke) the ball that was going to be it. He brought it home once again."

It brings to a close the careers of USD senior starters Logan Gelbrich and Kevin Hansen as well as reliever Luke Roniger.

"When I came here the Toreros were winners, and we're winners now," said Gelbrich. "The scale has gotten bigger. We weren't in the postseason our freshman year. . . . Now it's tradition."

Along with the seniors, Matusz, Romanski and Ricardo Pecina, all junior left-handers, are expected to be lost to this week's major league draft. But the foundation for success is in place.

June 3, 2008

Toreros careless in the clutch

■ USD misses
many opportunities,
drops regional final

MARWAN RAZOUK
STAFF WRITER

LONG BEACH — Talk about an excruciating defeat.

The University of San Diego came close to advancing from the regional round of the NCAA baseball tournament for the first time in school history, but an inability to hit with runners in scoring position Monday night left the Toreros with a 5-1 loss to Fresno State in the Long Beach regional final and something to sit in their minds all offseason.

"This loss is gonna be an open wound," USD coach Rich Hill said. "It will turn into a scar. The scar will eventually disappear, and we'll move on."



Fresno St. 5,
USD 1

USD (44-17) won two elimination games at Blair Field to reach the winner-take-all final, but the third time was not a charm for the Toreros.

Instead, the Bulldogs (40-28) will face Arizona State in Tempe, Ariz., in a super regional this weekend.

The Toreros will be left to ponder a 1-for-11 performance with runners in scoring position that saw them leave nine runners on base in the first six innings. Twice they left the bases loaded.

"It still hasn't really hit me that we lost yet," said senior Logan Gelbrich, who was 1-for-3 and scored USD's lone run. "Cashing in on two-out hits is golden."

After losing consecutive tournament games as the top seed in the San Diego regional last season, the Toreros bounced back from a 6-0 loss to the Bulldogs on Saturday by eliminating Long Beach State 5-1 and pounding Fresno State 15-1, both on Sunday, to set up Monday's game against the Bulldogs, the fourth seed in the four-team regional.

Both starting pitchers were up to the task.

Fresno State junior Holden Sprague (4-2), a career relief pitcher who stepped into a starting role after Bulldog ace Tanner Scheppers (8-2,

► TOREROS, C-8

► USD

Continued from C-1

2.93) injured his throwing shoulder earlier in the season, was at his best when in trouble, stranding seven runners in his 5½ innings while allowing one run.

Sprague lasted long enough to hand the game to Fresno State closer Brandon Burke, a Rancho Bernardo High graduate who is the Bulldogs' career saves leader.

Burke was nearly unhittable, pitching the final 3½ innings for his 11th save of the year, allowing only a one-out single in the eighth inning to Ryan Davis.

Davis, however, was quickly erased when he tried to advance to second on a pitch in the dirt that initially appeared headed for the backstop. USD trailed just 2-1 at the time.

"Our job was to get the ball in Burke's hands, and we did that," Sprague said.

USD starter Sammy Solis (3-2) was the better of the two at the outset, breezing through the first four innings with minimal trouble.

But the freshman from Litchfield Park, Ariz., hit Bulldogs third baseman Tommy Mendonca with the first pitch of the fifth inning. After a sacrifice bunt, Solis committed perhaps his worst mistake of the night, walking No. 9 batter and .159 hitter Danny Grubb.

Danny Munro — brother of Toreros leftfielder Kevin Munro — grounded to first to advance the runners, and

Gavin Hedstrom (3-for-3, two RBI) followed with a two-run single to give Fresno State a lead it did not relinquish.

The Bulldogs added three runs in the eighth inning off USD reliever A.J. Griffin to secure their first super regional berth in 17 years.

Other regional results

Stanford 9, Pepperdine 7

At Stanford: Sean Ratliff hit a pair of home runs, including a go-ahead grand slam, and Stanford overcame an early four-run deficit to beat Pepperdine to win its regional. Jason Castro hit a key two-run double for the Cardinal (37-22), who won four consecutive elimination games to advance to a Super Regional against the winner of the Fullerton regional. Chase d'Arnaud had three hits, including two home runs, and drove in four runs for the Waves (38-21), who lost their third straight regional championship game.

Texas A&M 13, Houston 5

At College Station, Texas: Kyle Colligan hit two home runs to lead Texas A&M to the regional title and a game against Rice in the weekend's super regional. Colligan put the Aggies (46-17), up in the first inning with a solo shot, and had a two-run drive during a seven-run second that put Texas A&M up 8-2. Rice (45-13) beat A&M in last year's super regional, taking two games from the Aggies.

Georgia 18, Georgia Tech 6

At Athens, Ga.: Matt Olson went 5-for-6 with three RBIs and Rich Poythress hit a two-run homer to help Georgia advance to an NCAA Super Regional. The Bulldogs (39-22-1) will host North Carolina State, a 2-1 winner Sunday over South Carolina, in an NCAA Super Regional this weekend.

Florida State 16, Tulane 7

At Tallahassee, Fla.: Tyler Holt went 5-for-6 and Dennis Guinn capped a six-run fourth inning with a three-run double to help the Seminoles (52-11) eliminate the Green Wave (39-22-1) and advance to a super regional for the first time since 2005.

The Associated Press contributed to this report. Contact staff writer Marwan Razouk at mrzouk@nctimes.com.

 **ESPN.com:** NCAA

[Print without images]

ESPN

Tuesday, June 3, 2008

Favorites get through regional round (mostly) unscathed

By Will Kimmey
Special to ESPN.com

After the first weekend of the NCAA baseball tournament, many questions were answered -- and many more were raised. Will Kimmey answers the five biggest questions heading into the super regional round.

Where are the underdogs?

At home, for the most part, as 13 No. 1 seeds -- including all eight national seeds -- and two No. 2s advanced to the super regionals. Nine No. 1 seeds were eliminated in the regionals in 2007, including five of the eight national seeds. Four No. 1 seeds fell on Friday this year, but Florida State, Georgia and Stanford all came back through the losers' bracket to claim regional crowns while thanking the NCAA for the double-elimination format. Even some of the "upsets" shouldn't qualify as such.

Wichita State stood a great chance of winning at Oklahoma State as a No. 2 seed when the brackets came out, but that opportunity improved when Cowboys ace left-hander Andrew Oliver (7-2, 2.20) was ruled ineligible before play began for undisclosed reasons. That forced OSU, the best team in the Big 12 this season, to start full-time catcher Luis Flores on the mound against Wichita State in an elimination game. While Flores worked as both a pitcher and hitter before transferring from Houston prior to his junior year, he had thrown just four innings all season before making that start.

North Carolina State, though a No. 1 seed, looked like a trendy upset pick given its pitching-and-defense style in a regional featuring three homer-happy opponents. But the Wolfpack prevailed to prove that great pitching beats good hitting thanks to great starts by Jake Buchanan, Clayton Shunick and Eric Surkamp, and a bullpen that allowed only one hit over 11 scoreless innings while working without suspended closer Jimmy Gilheeny.



Don't call it an upset: Wichita State was no underdog.

No. 1 Long Beach State failed to rally back from its opening-game upset against No. 4 Fresno State, and the Dirtbags now have failed to win the past three regionals they've played host to at Blair Field.

But there was one notable upset, right?

Fresno State joined the 2006 Missouri club as the second No. 4 seed to win a regional since the field expanded to 64 teams in 1999. As if that feat weren't impressive enough, consider that Fresno State emerged with the regional victory despite entering the tournament without ace Tanner Scheppers (8-2, 2.93), a junior right-hander who was likely to become one of the first 10 picks in this week's draft before a stress fracture in his shoulder ended the WAC Pitcher of the Year's season in mid-May. The Bulldogs still got great pitching efforts from starters Justin Wilson and Clayton Allison, who allowed two earned runs in 16 combined innings. Reliever Holden Sprague, filling Scheppers' rotation spot, started the regional final and held San Diego to one run over 5 1/3 innings.

San Diego must be wondering what it can do to avoid Fresno State in the postseason. The Bulldogs have proven to be the Toreros' kryptonite recently, dealing them five NCAA regional losses over the past three years. Fresno State beat San Diego twice in three games at the Long Beach regional this year, shocked No. 8 national seed USD in a 4 vs. 1 matchup a year ago, and beat them twice in a 2006 regional at Cal State Fullerton.

After advancing out of a pitching-heavy regional, the Bulldogs now travel to face Arizona State, which has reached double figures in scoring 32 times in 59 games, going 2-for-3 in that pursuit in sweeping through the Tempe Regional. Junior third baseman Brett Wallace (.414-20-81) won the Pac-10 triple crown for the second straight year to lead an offense that ranked among the nation's top 10 in average, runs, slugging and walks. It topped the Pac-10 in each of those categories and led it in homers and steals as well. Pitching depth and up-the-middle defense could be concerns for the Sun Devils, but they've bashed away those problems with more runs thus far.

Wasn't Miami's road to Omaha supposed to be tough?

June 3, 2008

COLLEGE BASEBALL

USD falls in Long Beach regional final

ASSOCIATED PRESS

LONG BEACH — Gavin Hedstrom had three hits to help Fresno State win the Long Beach regional.

Fresno State (40-28), the Western Athletic Conference champions and No. 4 seed, will play Arizona State in the first super regional in school history next weekend.

San Diego (44-17) was ranked sixth in the nation.

Holden Sprague (4-2) gave up one run and five hits over five and 1-3 innings for Fresno State. Brandon Burke came on in relief and earned his 11th save of the year.

Hedstrom hit a tiebreaking, two-run single in the bottom of the fifth off Sammy Solis (3-2) to give the Bulldogs a 2-1 lead.

In other action,

Stanford 9, Pepperdine 7

At Stanford: Sean Ratliff hit a pair of home runs, including a go-ahead grand slam, and Stanford overcame an early four-run deficit to beat Pepperdine on Monday to win its regional. Jason Castro hit a key two-run double for the Cardinal (37-22), who won four consecutive elimination games to advance to a Super Regional against the winner of the Fullerton regional. Chase d'Arnaud had three hits, including two home runs, and drove in four runs for the Waves (38-21), who lost their third straight regional championship game. Drew Storen (4-3) pitched four innings in relief to earn his second win of the regional.

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Toreros Season Ends with 5-1 Loss to Fresno State

USD finishes the season with a 44-17 overall record.

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Ryan Davis went 2-for-4 to lead the offense

June 2, 2008

LONG BEACH, Calif. - The University of San Diego baseball team saw their season come to an end with a 5-1 loss to Fresno State University Monday evening in the championship game of the Long Beach Regional.

With the loss, the Toreros conclude the season with a program-best 44-17 overall record. With the win, the Bulldogs improve to 40-28 and have advanced to the Super Regional in Tempe, Ariz. to face Arizona State University.

San Diego broke into the scoring column first as they pushed across one run on two hits in the top of the fifth inning. Logan Gelbrich led off the inning with a double to centerfield and moved to third on a Kevin Muno fly out to right field. After a Josh Romanowski walk, Sean Nicol hit the ball right back to the pitcher, it hit off the pitcher's leg, which allowed Gelbrich to come across for the 1-0 USD lead.

Fresno State then responded in their half of the fifth inning as they took the lead on a two-run run single by Gavin Hedstrom, moving the score to 2-1.

The Bulldogs then put the game out of reach in the bottom of the eighth inning as they scored three runs on three hits to put the game at its final of 5-1.

Freshman left-hander Sammy Solis was saddled with the loss for the Toreros as he allowed two runs on four hits in 5.1 innings of work. Holten Sprague was credited with the win for the Bulldogs as he allowed one run on five hits in 5.1 innings of work.

Offensively for the Toreros, Ryan Davis led the way as he went 2-for-4 as the only Torero to record multiple hits.



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Sports

College baseball players have Omaha in their sights

Agoura grad Stoffel named MVP of Ann Arbor Regional
By Stephen Dorman sdorman@theacorn.com

The dream of making the College World Series lives on for a handful of former area baseball standouts.

Before they can make plans to be in Omaha, Neb., on June 14 for the start of the CWS, however, there's still some work to be done in the NCAA Super Regionals this weekend.

UC Irvine (41-16), the darlings of last year's CWS, will take on Louisiana State (46-16-1) in Baton Rouge, La., on Saturday afternoon in the start of a best-of-three series.

The Anteaters from Irvine feature junior shortstop Ben Orloff (Simi Valley High) and senior catcher Aaron Lowenstein (Calabasas). Shortstop Nick Farinacci (Agoura) is also on the roster but hasn't played this year because of a hand injury.

Orloff, who's started all 57 of the Anteaters' games, is second on the team with a .344 batting average and 19 stolen bases. Lowenstein has struggled at the plate with a .194 average and 18 RBI, but he continues to play solid defense while handling the team's pitching staff.

Louisiana State enters the Super Regionals ranked No. 5 in the nation by Baseball America.

The Anteaters must draw on their postseason experience, Orloff said.

"So many of us were there last year, playing in Texas, playing in Wichita, playing in the College World Series, that we know what to expect and what the environment is going to be like," Orloff said.

Based on its prior success, UC Irvine isn't sneaking up on anyone this time around.

"We're the guys with a bull's-eye on our chests," Orloff said. "Everyone knows about us. It's definitely a different feeling this year, but it's fun."

Another familiar local name is University of Arizona sophomore right-handed fireballer Jason Stoffel, an Agoura grad.

As the team's closer- he already has a single-season school record 13 saves and a 3.25 ERA in 32 appearances- Stoffel could play a vital role in Arizona's bid to upset the nation's top-ranked team, the Miami Hurricanes (50-8).

Stoffel already has three postseason saves for the Wildcats and was named MVP of the Ann Arbor Regional.

"I don't know a whole lot about Miami, but I do know they've got a really good offense," Stoffel said. "It'll be a good test for us."

In recent weeks, Stoffel's been pitching with a mountain manesque beard. He promises the unflamed facial hair has been scaled back for the Super Regionals.

"It's under control now," Stoffel said. "For a while there it got pretty gnarly, filthy."

Arizona (41-17) opens its best-of-three series Friday at 4 p.m. in Coral Gables, Fla.

Sixthranked Cal State Fullerton (4120) features a trio of locals on its roster- Camarillo graduates Corey Jones and Erik Komatsu, as well as Agoura's Greg Gelber.

CSU Fullerton will host Stanford (37222) in a bestofthree series beginning Friday at 7:30 p.m.

Komatsu, a junior outfielder who attended Oxnard College before transferring to Fullerton, leads the Titans with a .348 batting average, six triples and a .576 slugging percentage. He's second on the team with eight home runs, 18 stolen bases and 51 RBI.

Jones, a sophomore infielder, is hitting .306 with 33 RBI and 25 runs scored. Gelber transferred from Ventura College this season, but the left-handed pitcher has only one appearance for the Titans.

Fresno State (40-28) could be the surprise of the tournament.

The Bulldogs, featuring Moorpark grad Jason Breckley and Camarillo's Todd Sandell, pulled off a big upset in the Long Beach Regional by beating the University of San Diego- a top 10 team in the nation at the time- twice to advance to the Super Regionals.

Fresno State travels to fourthranked Arizona State (48-11) for its best-of-three series beginning Friday night at 6.

Sandell, a senior infielder, has started 19 games for Fresno State and is hitting .221. Breckley, also a senior, is 2-2 with a 7.65 ERA in 17 appearances.

Freshman Danny Muno is batting at a .329 clip and is one of the Bulldogs' top hitters. Muno's hometown is Thousand Oaks, but he attended Loyola High.

Many of the Super Regional games will be broadcast on ESPN and ESPN2.

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signed about 250-dozen baseballs during this year. Everybody wants to say they met him or got a ball signed by him."

Posey's popularity, not only in Tallahassee but throughout the state of Florida, might be due in large part to how he carried himself in the aspect of doing whatever was necessary to win a game or make the Seminoles better. That includes switching positions.

Posey was recruited to Florida State as a shortstop. But after his freshman year, Martin said the coaching staff had planned to move Posey to third base until the emergence of Jason Stidham. That allowed Martin to use his versatile sophomore to fill another gaping hole behind the plate.

Posey, however, is quick to deflect the credit for his emergence.

"It all starts with coach Martin and the job he's done in this program," said Posey, taken fifth by the San Francisco Giants in June. "He is FSU baseball. He's such a good role model for me and I look up to him and so much of the stuff I do is modeled after him. He's one of the best leaders I've ever been around."

Pronounced MAT-uz

Beckham and Posey helped lead their teams back to the College World Series and back to national prominence. If and when the San Diego baseball program reaches that level, Torero fans will most certainly look at left-hander Brian Matusz as one who blazed that trail.

"He really put his signature on this program, along with a couple other guys who helped turn this program into a national presence," Toreros coach Rich Hill said. "Every time his pitched, national scouting directors and general managers and a couple times even owners of teams were there. But he has the incredible ability to detach himself from anything that might be happening outside and go about his business."

For the most part, the Toreros went about their business thanks to their ace. But once the postseason started, San Diego ran into a familiar foe in Fresno State, which USD has faced in the playoffs in each of the last three years. Unfortunately for Matusz and the Toreros, this year's Fresno State team was destined for greatness, eliminating the Toreros in the Long Beach Regional before eventually winning the College World Series.

"It was great to see a school and a team that we play all the time be able to reach that point in the College World Series, but it was hard for our team (losing to them)," said Matusz, who was chosen fourth overall by the Baltimore Orioles in the June draft. "We know we could play at their level and had the opportunity to be where they are."

Thanks to Matusz, the Toreros might not be that far off.

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June 2, 2008

NCAA BASEBALL REGIONALS

Sun Devils await USD-FSU winner

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Kiel Roling went 3-for-4 with a home run and three RBI and Josh Satow threw seven-plus scoreless innings as fourth-ranked Arizona State defeated Oklahoma 12-0 to claim the Tempe Regional championship in NCAA Division I baseball.

Ike Davis went 3-for-4 and threw a scoreless inning of relief en route to being named the regional's most outstanding player.

Jason Kipnis also homered for the Sun Devils (48-11), who will play host to the winner of tonight's game between USD and Fresno State for the Long Beach Regional championship next weekend. Arizona State won its three games by a combined score of 36-9.

Roling's RBI double gave Arizona State a 1-0 lead in the second. The Sun Devils added six more in the third against Oklahoma (36-26-1), capped by Greg Bordes' bases-loaded three-run double to center.

In the earlier game, Aaron Baker homered with one out in the bottom of the ninth inning and Oklahoma eliminated 21st-ranked Vanderbilt (41-22) 11-10.

The Commodores had scored twice to take a 10-9 lead in the top of the ninth. But in the bottom of the inning, Russell Brewer walked Casey Johnson with one out. Baker then drove a 2-2 pitch deep over the right-center-field wall for the victory.

Highlights of other regionals: Ryan Jackson and Dennis Raben each homered and Miami advanced to the Super Regionals with an 11-2 win against Mississippi in the Coral Gables (Fla.) Regional championship.

Eric Erickson (8-1) pitched seven strong innings for Miami. He allowed two runs and six hits and struck out five against the Rebels (39-26). Next up for Miami (50-8) is Arizona (41-17), which won the Ann Arbor (Mich.) Regional as Eric Berger matched his career-best 11 strikeouts and Bobby Coyle added a pinch-hit homer to help the Wildcats defeat Kentucky (44-19) 5-3.

Bryce Stowell struck out a career-high 13 in 7²/₃ shutout innings and Sean Madigan drove in five runs to key UC Irvine's (41-16) title-clinching 8-0 win over Oral Roberts in the Lincoln (Neb.) Regional.

The Anteaters won three straight to reach the Super Regionals, where they will play LSU, an 11-4 winner over Southern Mississippi for the title of the Baton Rouge (La.) Regional. Michael Hollander had four hits and drove in four runs, helping LSU (46-16-1) win its 23rd straight game.

Leon Landry smacked a two-run homer in the second inning and Blake Dean broke the game open with a bases loaded triple in the bottom of the sixth, capping a six-run rally that also included Hollander's two-run single.

The Tigers (46-16-1) looking increasingly like a team of destiny, scored a combined 36 runs in their three-game sweep of regional opponents.

Toby Gerhart had a career-high four hits, including a home run, and Stanford defeated Pepperdine 13-1 to force a championship game between the same teams today at the Stanford Regional.

The top-seeded Cardinal (36-22) beat UC Davis 8-4 earlier in the day.

SCOREBOARD

USD 5, Long Beach State 1

USD				Long Beach State					
AB	R	H	BI	AB	R	H	BI		
Muno lf	5	2	2	0	Casas cf	4	0	1	0
Romanski cf	4	1	2	0	Jones lf	4	0	2	1
Nicol ss	4	1	1	2	Godfrey 3b	4	0	0	0
Meador rf	5	0	2	2	Peterson 1b	4	0	0	0
Hansen 2b	5	0	2	0	Corder rf	4	0	0	0
Valerio 1b	5	0	1	0	Espinosa ss	3	0	1	0
Davis dh	4	0	1	0	Leiman dh	3	0	1	0
Gelbrich c	3	0	1	0	Tweedy 2b	3	1	1	0
Sanchez 3b	4	1	1	0	Howell c	3	0	0	0
Totals	39	5	13	4	Totals	32	1	6	1

USD (43-16) 101 000 003 - 5 13 0
Long Beach State (39-21) 001 000 000 - 1 6 2

E-Peterson (8); Espinosa (14). DP-LBS 1. LOB-USD 10, Fresno State 4. 2B-Sanchez (12); Jones (9). HRP-Gelbrich.

USD	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO
Pecina, W 6-4	7	6	1	1	0	8
Griffin, S 1-4	2	0	0	0	0	0
Long Beach State	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO
Worley, L 7-4	7 1/3	10	2	2	0	4
Shaw	1 1/2	3	3	2	1	1
Vincent	1/3	0	0	0	0	0

USD 15, Fresno State 1

Fresno State				USD					
AB	R	H	BI	AB	R	H	BI		
Muno, D ss	2	0	2	1	Muno, K cf	3	5	2	2
Hdstm cf-1b	3	0	0	0	Romanski p	5	2	4	1
Wetzel 2b	4	0	0	0	Nicol ss	1	1	0	2
Susdorf lf	3	0	0	0	Meador rf	4	0	1	4
Ahmady 1b	2	0	0	0	Hansen 2b	4	0	1	3
Soares ph-cf	1	0	0	0	Davis dh	4	1	2	0
Mendonca 3b	2	1	1	0	Sanchez 3b	3	1	0	0
Ribera dh	4	0	0	0	Valerio 1b	5	2	2	1
Overland c	4	0	1	0	Gelbrich c	3	3	1	2
Detwiler rf	3	0	0	0	Blair p	0	0	0	0
Amador ph	1	0	0	0	Campbell p	0	0	0	0
Totals	29	1	4	1	Totals	32	15	13	15

Fresno State (39-28) 000 000 100 - 1 4 1
USD (44-16) 141 030 15x - 15 13 0

E-Mendonca. DP-FS 2. LOB-USD 11, FS 8. 2B-Hansen; Davis. 3B-Meador; Davis. HR-Gelbrich. SB-Gelbrich.

Fresno State	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO
Miller	2 2/3	5	6	6	6	2
Bonesteele	2 1/3	3	3	3	3	0
Floethe	2	1	1	0	0	2
Escot	1	4	5	5	2	1
USD	IP	H	R <td>ER <td>BB <td>SO</td> </td></td>	ER <td>BB <td>SO</td> </td>	BB <td>SO</td>	SO
Blair	7	4	1	1	4	9
Campbell	2	0	0	0	0	3

NCAA DIVISION I REGIONALS (Double Elimination)

- Yesterday's Games**
At Cary, N.C.: North Carolina 7, North Carolina-Wilmington 3, North Carolina advances
At Raleigh, N.C.: N.C. State 2, South Carolina 1, N.C. State advances
At Conway, S.C.: Coastal Carolina 24, East Carolina 11, Coastal Carolina advances
At Athens, Ga.: Georgia 8, Georgia Tech 0
At Coral Gables, Fla.: Miami 11, Miss. 2, Miami advances
At Tallahassee, Fla.: Florida State 17, Tulane 8
At Ann Arbor, Mich.: Arizona 5, Kentucky 3, Arizona advances
At Baton Rouge, La.: LSU 11, S. Miss. 4, LSU advances
At Lincoln, Neb.: UC Irvine 8, Oral Roberts 0, UC Irvine advances
At Stillwater, Okla.: Wichita State 11, Oklahoma State 7, Wichita State advances
At Houston: Rice 7, Texas 4, Rice advances
At College Station, Texas: Houston 4, Texas A&M 3
At Tampa, Ariz.: Arizona State 12, Oklahoma 0, Arizona State advances
At Stanford: Stanford 13, Pepperdine 1
At Fullerton: CS-Fullerton 4, Virginia 1, Virginia eliminated; UCLA (33-25) vs. CS-Fullerton (39-20), late
At Long Beach: USD 5, Long Beach State 1, Long Beach State eliminated; USD 15, Fresno State 1
Today's Game: Fresno State (39-28) vs. USD (44-16), 6 p.m.

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San Diego forces 1 more game

BASEBALL: Toreros defeat Long Beach St. and Fresno St. to reach regional final.

By Bob Keisser
Staff Writer

Article Launched: 06/01/2008 10:26:35 PM PDT
LONG BEACH - Fresno State and the University of San Diego are unlikely rivals, a state school in California's midsection and a small, private Catholic school from a sublime climate. But at the moment they dislike each other on the scale of USC-UCLA, Long Beach State-Fullerton (baseball) and Michigan-Ohio State.

The two teams have met in the postseason three consecutive seasons and tonight will meet in the title game of the NCAA Regional at Blair Field at 6. San Diego (44-16) beat the Bulldogs (39-28) Sunday, 15-1, before 1,481 to force a final game.

The Toreros won a sweaty 5-1 decision over Long Beach State Sunday afternoon to reach the must-win nightcap. It was no contest, San Diego jumping out to a 6-0 advantage against Fresno State starter Justin Miller, who allowed five hits and walked six in 2<MD+,%30,%55,%70>2/<MD-,%0,%55,%70>3 innings. San Diego's Kyle Blair allowed just four hits and a run in seven innings.

In 2006, Fresno State and San Diego met in a regional at Fullerton and the Bulldogs beat the

Toreros twice by identical 9-8 scores.

Last year, Fresno was a No. 4 seed and upset host San Diego in the first game, 6-2, sending the Toreros reeling to an 0-2 regional. They also beat San Diego once in the regular season.

Fresno State battered San Diego in a winners-bracket game Saturday, 6-0, before the Toreros finally won a postseason game Sunday night.

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Posted on Mon, Jun. 02, 2008

San Diego forces Fresno to Game 2

BEE NEWS SERVICES

last updated: June 02, 2008 04:07:35 AM

Turlock's Tommy Mendonca continues to be a shining light for the Fresno State baseball team at the NCAA Long Beach Regional.

Unfortunately for the Bulldogs, Mendonca was just about the only light in a 15-1 loss to San Diego on Sunday.

Fresno and San Diego will meet today at 6 p.m. at Blair Field to decide who will advance to the College World Series.

Mendonca scored Fresno's only run, coming home on a Danny Munro base hit in the seventh inning.

Munro had two of the Bulldogs' four hits off Toreros' starter Kyle Blair. Mendonca and Ryan Overland had the others. Blair struck out nine.

Four Bulldogs pitchers gave up 13 walks and 11 hits, including Logan Algebraic's two-run homer in the second inning to give San Diego a 5-0 lead.

Mendonca, who dislocated four knuckles on his right hand while fielding a ball Friday, was credited with an error Sunday.

San Diego scored five runs in the bottom of the eighth, repaying Fresno for sending it to the elimination bracket with a 6-0 first-round shutout.

Josh Romanski, who pitched the Toreros to a 5-1 victory over Long Beach on Saturday, played center field Sunday and went 4 for 5 with two runs and an RBI to lead San Diego.

There is a brother in each dugout -- Fresno freshman shortstop Danny Munro and San Diego sophomore left fielder Kevin Munro. Both are lead-off hitters from Thousand Oaks.

"We both knew it'd come to this at some point when I committed to Fresno State and he was already at San Diego," Danny said told the Fresno Bee on Friday.

Fresno (39-28), the three-time defending Western Athletic Conference champion, is the No. 4 seed. No. 2 San Diego (44-16), which eliminated Long Beach with a 5-1 victory earlier Sunday, had won its second consecutive West Coast Conference title.

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Better luck next year

Dirtbags' season ends in regional loss to USD

By Bob Keisser
Staff Writer

Article Launched: 06/01/2008 11:04:29 PM PDT



LBSU S closer Brian Shaw is disconsolate after allowing two ninth-inning runs in the Dirtbags 5-1 season-ending loss to San Diego at Blair Field Sunday. (Scott Smeltzer/Staff Photographer)

LONG BEACH - The hardest part of any season is acknowledging it is over.

Long Beach State's players walked slowly around Blair Field Sunday afternoon after their 5-1 NCAA Tournament-ending loss to the University of San Diego.

Some pulled their hats down further on their foreheads and carried their bags as if they were loaded with bricks. The usual sense of engagement with their family and friends outside

the locker room was absent.

"We're hurting right now," junior Vance Worley, who left the game losing, 2-1, said in the interview room. "It's very hard to keep a straight face."

"We should still be playing," shortstop Danny Espinosa said. "That's how we all feel, because we know the kind of team we have and what we're capable of (being)."

"It's always tough to end a season and look at their faces," LBSU coach Mike Weathers said. "I just reminded them that unless you win the last game in Omaha, everyone who finishes is unhappy."

One play doesn't win or lose a game, but Sunday's pivoted on one exchange in the third inning.

With LBSU trailing, 2-0, with two runners on, Jonathan Jones laced a double down the left-field line to score Jason Tweedy and send Jordan Casas steaming around third, headed for home with the tying run.

Instead, San Diego turned in three defensive gems on one play and nailed Casas at the plate.

Left fielder Kevin Muno made a superb sliding stop of Jones' drive before the ball skipped into the left-field corner. He got to his feet quick enough to hit shortstop Sean Nicol with a relay, and Nicol quickly released a throw to home that catcher Logan Gelbrich was able to catch on a

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short hop and hold as Casas barreled into him.

The play at the plate was so quick that Gelbrich actually looked for the ball on the ground on contact before realizing it was in his glove.

"It was a great play by San Diego," Weathers said. "They had to do everything right,



LBSU's Jordan Casas is tagged out at the plate in a collision with San Diego catcher Logan Gelbrich in the Dirtbags 5-1 loss. (Scott Smeltzer/Staff Photographer)

and even then it was still a bang-bang play."

Third base coach T.J. Bruce never wavered in sending Casas home, knowing how difficult it is to make a play out of Blair's corners.

"Even if he (Muno) stops the ball, he has to get up and make a perfect throw," Bruce said.

The game stayed 2-1 until the ninth. San Diego left-hander Ricardo Pecina, who pitched effectively against Long Beach twice this season, retired eight straight after Jones' double and

didn't get into trouble until the seventh, when a pair of two-out singles by Espinosa and Devin Lohman put runners in the corners.

Tweedy had singled off Pecina in the third and was looking for something he could drive to left or drag or push for a bunt.

After a foul, Pecina got a called strike on an inside pitch and then hammered Tweedy inside again to strike him out.

Worley pitched courageously, allowing 10 hits but was able to dodge trouble after allowing two early runs. San Diego took advantage of a throwing error to score a run in the first and Nicol squeezed home a run in third.

In the ninth, closer Bryan Shaw allowed a leadoff single and double. With the bases loaded and two outs, Toreros right fielder James Meador singled up the middle to score two runs.

At that point, the Dirtbags finally fell off in their day-long dance on the edge, and into the offseason.

"I'm really proud of Vance," Weathers said. "When he fell behind, I told him that was his mound and he needed to stay there, and he pitched so well and kept us in the game."

The Dirtbags finish 38-21. They won 17 of their first 20, slogged through a 1-10 rut, and then rebounded to win 18 of 23 for the Big West title.

"We had a season in three parts, and that was a

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big piece of adversity in the middle of it," Weathers said. "A lot of teams would have fallen apart at that point. Instead, we came back and reached a lot of our goals.

"These guys will always know what they're capable of overcoming."

DIRTBAG REGIONAL NOTES: Attendance was 1,849 ... San Diego closer A.J. Griffin, who didn't pitch in the first two games, retired all six batters he faced ... Muno, Josh Romanski, Meador and Kevin Hansen each had two hits for the Toreros ... Shane Peterson led the team in hitting (.390), runs scored (52) and hits (83). Jason Corder led the team in home runs (13) and RBIs (54) ... Freshman Jones finished the season hitting .343 and had a hit in 39 of the 45 games he played after becoming a regular... Casas hit .339 down the stretch after getting a chance to start because of injuries ... Corder was 7-for-43 in his last nine games while playing with a slight fracture in a finger.

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Bob Keisser: Play Ball! Just not at 49ers' Blair Field

Article Launched: 06/01/2008 11:12:25 PM PDT



Bob Keisser

To ever-so-slightly paraphrase the old Beatles tune, "Why Don't We Do It On The Road?"

Play anywhere but Blair.

Make like Willie Nelson and smile at the freedom of the highway.

Leave behind the annual prank that is the NCAA stuffing a Long Beach regional with more good California teams than the National League West.

Long Beach State's baseball program has come to the proverbial fork in the, um, road. The concept of hosting a regional was at first a desire to be acknowledged as a big-time program and flaunt the city's charms.

Mission accomplished. Now it's time to move on.

For the third time in four years, the Dirtbags hosted an NCAA regional without the anticipated

beneficial results. They lost to a fine University of San Diego team Sunday afternoon, 5-1, to be eliminated from the postseason, just like last year when they lost at home to UCLA and in 2005 when they were sent packing by USC.

It's less a statement on how the Dirtbags match up with the competition than several other facts of college baseball life.

There isn't as much of an advantage in hosting in today's world as it was back in the last century, when there were only eight six-team regionals and the sport hadn't been infused by greater parity.

The Dirtbags are one of four hosts already eliminated this year. Michigan, Nebraska and Oklahoma State also went down, and four other No. 1 seeds play do-or-die games today. Arizona (in Michigan) and UC Irvine (in Nebraska) have advanced as road warriors.

Last season, only seven of 16 hosts advanced to a Super Regional, and two West Coast teams told to travel reached the College World Series by the alleged high road (Oregon State and UC Irvine).

Except for two seasons, at least five road teams have won a regional since the NCAA went to the 16-region, 64-team format, including the aforementioned and Stanford (2005, in Austin and Arizona (2004, in South Bend). Pepperdine hosted in 2006 and lost. This year, it is in the final of the Stanford Regional.

San Diego hosted a regional last year and went

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down in two games, and it didn't take Toreros coach Rich Hill long to realize he wanted to hit the road in 2008. He preferred somewhere



Long Beach State coach Mike Weathers no longer wants to host NCAA regionals after the 49ers were eliminated again Sunday. (Scott Smeltzer/Staff Photographer)

farther away than Long Beach, but his point was made.

You can now add Dirtbags coach Mike Weathers to this list. He has supported a bid with gusto every year, but in the back of his mind he has been debating the value. Now his mind is made up.

"I can blatantly say that if I have a say, we'll never host again," he said after the loss that ended a solid 38-21 campaign that included a Big West title. "You're just asking for trouble with the way West Coast teams are placed in the regionals.

"Every team in California is within 400 miles of each other and the NCAA thinks it's OK to make

them play each other. How can you send three teams with RPIs in the 20s (Dirtbags, San Diego, Cal) to the same regional?" And then throw in a Fresno State team with a low RPI but a good reputation as a four seed?

Does anyone out there think No. 4 seeds named Columbia, Stony Brook, Texas Southern, Mount Saint Mary's and Rider are at all similar to those named Fresno State?

"I want to travel," Weathers said. "Let somebody else worry about the laundry."

Besides Hotel California here, Stanford hosted Pepperdine and UC Davis, and Fullerton welcomed UCLA. They represented nine of the 10 California teams with a bid. Call it the California Chainsaw Massacre.

When teams so familiar with each other reach this level, home-field advantage dissipates. Fresno State and San Diego have now met in the postseason three straight seasons, and the animosity between them in Sunday night's game was palpable.

I'm sure the fine folk in Lincoln, Neb., felt little about Irvine, other than wondering why any team would name itself the Anteaters.

Blair Field levels the field, too. It's a pitchers park, and any team that gets into the postseason has better-than-average pitching. Fresno State received complete-game victories from its first two starters. It had six in its first 64 games.

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Pecina Pitcher Torero to Victory

Ricardo Pecina allowed one run on six hits, while striking out eight in the win.

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June 1, 2008



Ricardo Pecina allowed one run on six hits, while striking out eight in the win.

LONG BEACH, Calif. - Junior left-hander Ricardo Pecina dominates on the mound to help propel the University of San Diego baseball team (43-16) to a thrilling 5-1 win over Long Beach State University (38-21) on an elimination game Sunday afternoon at Blair Field.

The Toreros will now play Fresno State at 5 p.m. tonight in another Elimination game at the Long Beach Regional.

Pecina (6-4) picked up the win after having one of his best outings of the season, allowing one run on six hits, while striking out eight in 7.0 innings of work. AJ Griffin recorded his 14th save of the season, which gave him the new single-season record for saves. Vance Worley (7-4) was saddled with the loss for the Dirtbags as he allowed two runs on 10 hits in 6.0 innings of work.

The Toreros wasted no time in scoring as they pushed across one run on three hits in the first inning. Kevin Muno led off the inning with a bunt infield single, then moved to second on a throwing error by the LBSU first baseman. Two batters later, Sean Nicol rocketed a RBI single to right field to give USD their first run of the game.

San Diego then doubled its lead in the top of the third inning, scoring one run on two hits. Muno got things started with a single up the middle and moved to third on a Josh Romanski single to left field. Nicol then drove in Muno from third on a safety sacrifice bunt down the first baseline to give USD a 2-0 lead.

The Dirtbags then took back one run in the bottom of the third inning on three hits. Jason Tweedy got things started with a single and moved to third on a Jordan Casas double. Jonathan Jones then hit a double down the left field line, which scored Tweedy from third, and Casas attempted to round third and headed for home, only to be thrown out and retire the side, moving the score to 2-1.



The Toreros then broke open the game in the top of the ninth inning, scoring three runs on three hits. Logan Gettrich led off the inning with a single and moved to third on a Victor Sanchez double down the left field line. With one out, the Dirtbags elected to intentionally walk Romanski to load the bases. Then with two outs, James Meador hit a two-run single to left field to give the Toreros three-run advantage at 4-1. Kevin Hansen then hit a slow roller to the LBSU shortstop, who in turn overthrew the first baseman, allowing Romanski to score from third and moved Hansen to second and Meador to third and put the game at its final for 5-1.

Offensively for the Toreros, Meador led the way as he went 2-for-5 with two RBI. Muno, Hansen and Romanski all recorded two hits on the day as well.

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BACK TO SPORTS

June 2, 2008

Toreros win two, will play for regional title

STAFF AND WIRE REPORTS

LONG BEACH — Kyle Blair struck out nine and Logan Gelbrich homered to lead the University of San Diego baseball team to a 15-1 victory over Fresno State on Sunday at the Long Beach regional.

The Toreros (44-16) scored four runs in the second inning, highlighted by Gelbrich's two-run blast, and added three more in the fifth to blow the game open. The 44th win set a school record for the Toreros.

USD's victory forces a final game at 6 p.m. on Monday night at Blair Field against Fresno State.

The winner advances to the Super Regionals starting Friday against the winner of the Tempe, Ariz., regional. It is the first time USD has reached a regional final.

Earlier Sunday, USD eliminated Long Beach State, the region's No. 1 seed, 5-1.

Blair (7-2) pitched seven innings, allowing four hits and one run. Justin Miller (6-3), who lasted only 2½ in-

nings, gave up six runs and took the loss.

Blair threw one of the best games of the season, as he took a no-hitter into the fifth inning. With nine strikeouts, Blair set a freshman record with 99 strikeouts on the season.

Four Bulldogs pitchers gave up 13 hits and 11 walks.

For the second consecutive game, the Toreros wasted no time in scoring as they scored one run on two hits in the first inning.

Kevin Muno led off the game with a single and moved to second on a Josh Romanski single.

After Sean Nicol drew a walk to load the bases with no outs, James Meador (Ramona High) drove in Muno with a sacrifice fly to center field to give USD a 1-0 lead.

USD's first three hitters — Muno, Romanski and Nicol — combined for six hits, scored eight runs and reached base 16 times in 18 plate appearances.

In the first game, Ricardo Pecina limited Long Beach State (38-21) to one run over

seven innings and USD pounded out 13 hits.

Meador's two-run single sparked a three-run rally in the ninth inning that sealed the win for the Toreros.

AJ Griffin came on in relief and pitched the final two innings for USD to earn his 14th save of the year.

Pecina (6-4) gave up six hits and struck out eight.

Losing pitcher Vance Worley (7-4) pitched 7½ innings and gave up two runs and 10 hits.

The Toreros took a 1-0 lead in the first inning on an RBI single by Nicol.

USD made it 2-0 in the third when Nicol squeezed home Muno from third on a perfectly placed bunt.

With two outs in the third inning, Dirtbags left fielder Jonathan Jones, doubled to left, scoring Jason Tweedy. However, Jordan Casas, trying to score from first on the play, was thrown out at home to end the inning.

Romanski, Kevin Hansen, Muno and Meador each had two hits for USD.

Jones had two hits for Long Beach State.

North County Times

June 2, 2008

Baseball

■ **Keith Noe** (Rancho Buena Vista/Palomar College) of UC San Diego earned a spot on the National Collegiate Baseball Writers' Association Division II All-American team. Noe, a senior reliever, finished the year with 14 saves, both a single-season and career record at UCSD. Additionally, that total tied for the third best in the nation. The award adds to Noe's Rawlings/ABCA All-American, Daktronics All-West Region and All-California Collegiate Athletic Association honors in 2008. Noe pitched 37 innings and allowed nine runs while striking out 32. He had a team-best 2.19 ERA and a 4-1 record. Noe held opponents to a .221 batting average.

■ Several UCSD players earned American Baseball Coaches Association/Rawlings Division II All-West Region honors. The group included first-teamers **Garrett Imeson** (second base), **Vance Albitz** (first base) and Noe. The second-teamers were starting pitchers **Kirby St. John** and **Tim Shibuya**. Albitz was also named to the Gold Glove Team.

■ USD had three players named Louisville Slugger All-Americans. Junior left-hander **Brian Matusz** took first-team honors. Junior **Josh Romansk** was named third-team as a utility player and sophomore closer **AJ Griffin** was named third-team as a closer. Matusz, who was also the West Coast Conference Pitcher of the Year, takes home his second consecutive first-team All-American honor.

■ USD sophomore outfielder **James Meador** (Ramona) was among 10 players who earned All-West Coast Conference honors. Meador, Matusz, Romansk, Griffin and **Logan Gelbrich** were first-teamers with Matusz the Pitcher of the Year. **Kyle Blair** and **Sammy Solls** were named to the All-Freshman Team. **Kevin Hansen**, **Kevin Muno** and **Jose Valerio** were honorable mention picks. **Rich Hill** was named Coach of the Year.

Women's soccer

Soccerbuzz.com ranked the incoming USD recruiting class as 20th-best

in the nation. The class includes **Natalie Garcia** (San Pasqual), **Stephanie Ochs** (Patrick Henry) and **Elissa Magracia** (Bonita Vista).

Softball

Four USD players earned four all-Pacific Coast Conference honors. Junior **Lindsey Fleet** earned second-team honors at first base along with senior teammate **Kathleen Bonja** for her play at third base.

Fleet finished the season with the highest overall batting average of .329 to go with 18 doubles, five home runs and 39 RBI. Bonja had the highest conference batting average with .338 hitting eight doubles, four home runs and 23 RBIs.

Sophomores **Carey Casciola** and **Jennifer Ellenbeck** earned honorable-mention honors. Casciola hit .326 with 12 doubles, three triples and 18 RBIs. Ellenbeck finished with six doubles, six home runs and 23 RBIs.

— John Maffei

June 2, 2008

LONG BEACH REGIONAL FINAL

USD (44-16) vs.

Fresno State (39-28), 6 tonight

Winner advances to Super Regionals

Gametracker/Webcast:

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USD reaches regional title game vs. FSU

By Kirk Kenney

STAFF WRITER

LONG BEACH — The ballpark here is called Blair Field.

It's not named after USD's Kyle Blair, but the freshman right-hander pitched as if he owned the place last night in a 15-1 win over Fresno State.

Make that co-owned.

USD junior left-hander Ricardo Pecina was just as dominant as Blair earlier in the day in a 5-1 victory that eliminated host Long Beach State.

"It was an absolute dogfight with Cal State Long Beach," said USD coach Rich Hill. "To carry that momentum over and really play loose in

SEE **Toreros, D9**

► TOREROS

CONTINUED FROM PAGE D1

Rout of nemesis Bulldogs sets rematch today

the nightcap was awesome."

Blair and Pecina, combined with a rejuvenated USD offense, gave the Toreros an extended lease on life in the Long Beach Regional.

USD plays Fresno State again today at 6 p.m. in the regional final. The winner advances to the Super Regionals, where it will meet Arizona State in a best-of-three series that sends the winner to the College World Series.

"I thought we were ready to play, then you walk 11 guys and it takes a little air out," said Fresno State coach Mike Batesole. "They earned the position they're in. Now we'll be here to finish it off tomorrow."

Yesterday's wins were significant for several reasons:

- USD reached a regional final for the first time. In fact, the Toreros had just three wins to show for four previous postseason appearances before this weekend's three victories.

- USD defeated its postseason nemesis. Fresno State had beaten the Toreros in four straight tournament games — including a 6-0 win on Saturday — in the past three years.

- USD (44-16) set a school record for wins, eclipsing last season's 43 victories.

The Toreros' vaunted pitching staff, considered one of the deepest in the nation, has become the story of the regional. USD has used just six pitchers in four games.

Pecina (6-4), a junior from Madison High, showed the same sharpness he displayed six weeks ago in a win over the Dirtbags that included 11 strikeouts.

"There's confidence once you do it once," said Pecina, who allowed one run and six hits yesterday and struck out eight in seven innings. "Having the success earlier, knowing that you can get it done, is the biggest thing."

USD broke open a tense 2-1 game against the Dirtbags with three runs in the ninth, two coming on James Meador's two-out, bases-loaded single.

Toreros closer A.J. Griffin got the last six outs for his school-record 14th save.

Asked if winning and staying on the field would give USD some momentum, Hill said, "We're in a rhythm, for sure. We're ripping our hearts out and throwing it on the field."

Blair took the heart out of the Bulldogs, who could have clinched the regional with a win. Fresno State (39-28) didn't get its first hit off Blair until the fifth inning, when Danny Muno hit a two-out single to right.

Blair (8-4) walked four and hit a batter early, but the Bulldogs couldn't catch up to his fastball and flailed at many of his other offerings. He allowed one run and four hits and had strikeouts in seven innings.

"Coach really stresses not attaching things to games," said Blair. "That's what I did. I took it as a normal game against Fresno State. Nothing more, nothing less."

USD's offense came alive just 24 hours after looking lifeless against the Bulldogs.

The Toreros were shut out on five hits Saturday against Fresno State. They had four hits and five runs — two on a mammoth homer by catcher Logan Gelbrich — by the second inning last night against Bulldogs starter Justin Miller (6-3).

By the end, the Toreros had 13 hits. The first three hitters in the lineup reached base 15 times. Leadoff hitter Kevin Muno scored five runs. Teammate Josh Romanski had four hits and Meador drove in four runs.

"I don't want to say they've had our number, but it's a battle every time with these guys," said Romanski, who in the second inning made an outstanding diving catch on the warning track in center. "It's rewarding to force a second game. We're going to come out playing hard."

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 From the Los Angeles Times

COLLEGE BASEBALL

Long Beach State is knocked out of regional

49ers can't decipher San Diego left-hander Ricardo Pecina and fall, 5-1.

By Ben Bolch

Los Angeles Times Staff Writer

June 2, 2008

One week after savoring a Big West Conference title and a complete-game victory over rival Cal State Fullerton, Vance Worley struggled to contemplate the turn his season had taken.

The Long Beach State right-hander had pitched valiantly against San Diego on Sunday but came out on the wrong side of a 5-1 score in an NCAA baseball regional at Blair Field that ended the top-seeded 49ers' season.

"We're hurting right now," Worley said as he fought back tears. "I'm having a hard time myself trying to keep a straight face."

Worley held the Toreros to two runs in 7 1/3 innings, but a Long Beach offense that had splurged for nine runs the previous day during a victory over California couldn't break through against San Diego starter Ricardo Pecina.

It was the third time the 49ers (38-21) had faced Pecina this season and the left-hander limited Long Beach to one run and six hits in seven innings. He struck out eight and walked none.

"They had a left-hander we couldn't solve all year," Coach Mike Weathers said. "He did a real good job three times against us."

Long Beach cut a 2-0 deficit in half in the third inning on Jonathan Jones' two-out, run-scoring double to left field. But Jordan Casas was thrown out trying to score from first base on the play, with San Diego shortstop Sean Nicol's relay throw to catcher Logan Gelbrich barely beating Casas to the plate.

Gelbrich checked his glove to make sure he held onto the ball after a collision with Casas.

"We kind of thought the ball might be on the ground," Weathers said. "That's why I asked [the umpire] to check with the guy down at third, and he thought the catcher had the ball, which maybe he did or didn't."

The 49ers put together a two-on, two-out threat in the seventh before Pecina (6-4) struck out Jason Tweedy to end the inning.

Clinging to a 2-1 lead through eight innings, the Toreros scored three runs against closer Bryan Shaw to hand the 49ers their third consecutive defeat as a regional host; they also dropped regionals at Blair Field in 2005 and 2007.

Weathers now must ponder the loss of as many as 10 players to graduation and the major league draft.

"I felt a lot more comfortable last year with the number of guys coming back," Weathers said. "This year, we're losing a lot."

San Diego 15, Fresno State 1 -- Kyle Blair gave up one run in seven innings and James Meador drove in four runs for the Toreros (44-16), who forced a winner-take-all rematch with the Bulldogs (39-28) tonight at 6.

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Blair's Gem Helps USD Advance to Regional Final

Kyle Blair allowed one run on four hits while striking out nine in 7.0 innings of work.

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June 1, 2008



Kyle Blair allowed one run on four hits while striking out nine in 7.0 innings of work.

LONG BEACH, Calif. - Freshman right-hander Kyle Blair tossed a gem and the Toreros bats exploded for 13 hits to help the University of San Diego baseball team save off elimination and advance to the regional final with a 15-1 victory over Fresno State University Sunday evening in the Long Beach Regional at Blair Field.

With the win, the Toreros set a new program record with their 44th win of the season, moving to 44-16 overall, and have advanced to the regional final for the first time in program history. USD will now play Fresno State at 6 p.m. on Monday in the regional final at Blair field to determine who will advance to the Super Regional. With the loss, the Bulldogs fall to 39-28 overall.

Blair (7-2) pitched one of the best games of the season, as he took a no-hitter into the fifth inning, and allowed one run on four hits, while striking out nine in 7.0 innings of work. With the nine strikeouts, Blair has set a new freshman record with 99 strikeouts on the season. Fresno State's Justin Miller (7-5) was saddled with the loss as he allowed six runs on five hits in 2.2 innings of work.

For the second consecutive game, the Toreros wasted no time in scoring as they scored one run on two hits in the first inning. Kevin Muno led off the game with a single and moved to second on a Josh Romanski single to left centerfield. After Sean Nicol drew a walk to load the bases with no outs, James Meador drove in Muno with a sacrifice fly to centerfield to give USD a 1-0 lead.

San Diego then exploded to score four runs on three hits in the bottom of the second inning. Jose Valerio got things started with a single, then Logan Gelbrich launched a two-run homer over the left centerfield fence for the first two runs and no outs. Muno then drew a walk and moved to third on a Romanski single up the middle. After Nicol drew a walk to load the bases, Meador drove in Muno with a sacrifice fly to right field for the third run of the inning and the final run of the inning came on a Kevin Hansen RBI sacrifice bunt down the first baseline to give USD a 5-0 lead.

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In the bottom of the third inning the Toreros pushed the lead to three. With two outs, Gelbrich got things started with a walk and moved to second when Kevin Muno was hit by a pitch. After Romanski was walked to load the bases, Nicol drew an RBI walk to give USD a 6-0 lead.

USD then tacked on three more runs in the bottom of the fifth inning. The Torero runs came on Nicol sacrifice fly and a Kevin Hansen two-run single to right centerfield to push the Torero lead to 9-0.

The Bulldogs spoiled the shutout for the Toreros in the top of the seventh inning on a Danny Muno RBI single to left field to move the score to 9-1.

USD then scored one unearned run in the bottom of the seventh inning on a Romanski RBI single, moving the score to 10-1 in favor for the Toreros.

USD would then add on five more runs in the eighth in a Valerio RBI single, a two-run Muno single and a two-run Meador triple to right centerfield.

Offensively for the Toreros, Romanski led the way as he went 4-for-5 with an RBI and two runs scored. Ryan Davis also had a outstanding day as he went 2-for-4 with a double, a triple and one run scored and Meador went 1-for-4 with four RBI and one triple.

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June 2, 2008

San Diego 15, Fresno State 1
— Kyle Blair gave up one run in seven innings and James Meador drove in four runs for the Toreros (44-16), who forced a winner-take-all rematch with the Bulldogs (39-28) tonight at 6.

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Kyle Blair Named Freshman All-American

Blair was named a Louisville Slugger All-American.

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June 4, 2008



Kyle Blair named a Freshman All-American

SAN DIEGO, Calif. - Freshman right-hander Kyle Blair of the University of San Diego baseball team has been named a Louisville Slugger All-American.

Blair, an All-Freshmen team pick in the West Coast Conference, posted a 8-4 record, 3.86 ERA and fanned a USD freshman record 99 batters. Blair helped lead the Toreros to the 2008 WCC Championship and helped propel the Toreros into the championship game of the Long Beach Regional. In Sunday's 15-1 win over Fresno State, Blair was outstanding on the mound as he took a no-hitter into the fifth inning, and allowed one run on four hits, while striking out nine in 7.0 innings of work. Earlier this season, Blair set a new program record for single-game strikeouts with 15 against Hawaii - Hilo.

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BACK TO SPORTS



June 14, 2008

Coaching changes

Point Loma Nazarene has made several coaching/administrative changes.

Joe Schaefer has been named head baseball coach, and Jack Northam associate head coach.

Schaefer has been a PLNU coach for five seasons, the last three as associate or co-head coach with Northam.

In basketball, Ethan Hamilton has been named men's head coach. Art Wilmore, who formerly held the position, will become assistant athletic director as well as associate head coach for men's and women's tennis.

Postseason honors

- **University of San Diego** freshman right-hander Kyle Blair has been named a Louisville Slugger All-American.

Blair, an All-Freshmen Team pick in the West Coast Conference, was 8-4 with a 3.86 ERA and fanned a USD freshman record 99 batters.

- Two USD baseball players were named All-American by *Baseball America* magazine. Brian Matusz was named to the first team as a pitcher, and Josh Romanski was named to the third team as a utility player. Matusz was taken No. 4 overall by the Baltimore Orioles in the baseball draft. Romanski was also named a Louisville Slugger third-team All-America utility player. Romanski was drafted in the fifth round by the Milwaukee Brewers.


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June 2, 2008

Pecina pitches San Diego past Long Beach State

By Abbey Mastracco
CollegeBaseballInsider.com

LONG BEACH, Calif. - On the brink of elimination, the No. 2-seeded Toreros prevailed, as lefty Ricardo Pecina's stellar outing pitched San Diego to a 5-1 win over No. 1-seeded Long Beach State, Sunday afternoon at Blair Field, to advance to the semi-final game against Fresno State.

"This is the first regional final in school history, so to beat the No. 1 seed is quite a special achievement," said Torero head coach Rich Hill. "And what a great performance by Ricardo Pecina."

Pecina (5-4) dominated the Dirtbags, tossing seven strong innings, giving up just one earned run on six hits, no walks and blanking eight. This was Pecina's third win this season over Long Beach. A.J. Griffin sealed the deal, pitching a perfect eighth and ninth.

"I tip my hat to San Diego," said Dirtbag head coach Mike Weathers. "They have a tough left-hander that we haven't been able to solve all year, as he did a real good job three times against us."

James Meador came up big for San Diego, going 2 for 5 with two RBI, both of which came off a single in the top of the ninth that tacked on two insurance runs for the Toreros, putting the game out of reach for the Dirtbags. Josh Romanski went 2 for 4 with a run and Kevin Hansen finished 2 for 5.

With Long Beach State keeping the game close at 2-1, the Toreros pulled away at the last minute, plating three runs in the top of the ninth. Logan Gelbrich and Victor Sanchez took back-to-back singles off closer Bryan Shaw. The Dirtbags then intentionally loaded the bases, pitching around Josh Romanski to get to Sean Nichol.

Nichol grounded out to shortstop Danny Espinosa who made a great play throw to catcher Travis Howell to force Gelbrich out at the plate. But Meador then ripped a single to left field, scoring Sanchez and Romanski. Espinosa then made a costly throwing error, missing an easy put out at first that scored another.

"James Meador's two-out base hit - we call it a 'two-out golden'," Hill said. "We work on that and that was one of the best and the most memorable in school history."

With a 5-1 lead, the Dirtbags barely had a chance going into the bottom of the inning. Blair retired the side in order, keeping the Toreros alive for one more game.

"We're hurting right now," said Dirtbag starter Vance Worley. "We battled through a lot and held together as a team really well."

Worley (7-4) was shaky from the start, and took the loss, his fourth, for Long Beach. Worley allowed two earned runs on 10 hits in 7.2 innings.

"Vance Worley just pitched his heart out," Hill said.

"I asked him to not come out after three nothing," Weathers said. "To not come

June 1, 2008

NCAA LONG BEACH REGIONAL

USD finds nemesis in loss to Fresno St.

Toreros now must win three straight

By Kirk Kenney
STAFF WRITER

LONG BEACH — Fresno is regarded as the raisin capital of the world.

Where USD is concerned, it's been the source of grapes that if not sour are pretty bitter anyway.

Three straight years USD and Fresno State have met in the postseason, and three straight years the Bulldogs have gotten the best of the Toreros.

Fresno State handed USD both its losses in the Fullerton Regional two years ago. The Bulldogs beat USD in the first round of the San Diego Regional last year, all but ending what had been a dream season for the Toreros.

The funk against Fresno continued last night with USD's 6-0 loss to the Bulldogs in the Long Beach Regional at Blair Field.

USD coach Rich Hill wouldn't bite when asked about losing to the Bulldogs again. And again and again and again.

"Our opponents are nameless and faceless," said Hill. "They really are. We prepare for Fresno State, Long Beach State, Pepperdine pretty much the same way. We prepare well with the scouting report and go about our business."

Hill said whatever it says on the

front of a team's uniform "we're prepared to beat that team that day, and that's that."

But the buoyant mood that followed Friday's win over Cal suddenly turned somber.

Here's why: A victory last night would have put USD one win from the Super Regionals. The Toreros now must win three straight games to realize that goal.

USD (42-16) plays Long Beach State (38-20), which sent Cal home 9-2 yesterday, today at 1 p.m. in an elimination game. The winner stays on the field to play Fresno State (39-27) at 5 p.m., needing a victory to extend the

SEE USD, D4



FRESNO STATE 6, USD 0

Yesterday: Clayton Allison pitches a five-hitter for the Bulldogs.

Today: 1 p.m. vs. Long Beach State, winner to play Fresno State at 5 p.m.

► **USD**

CONTINUED FROM PAGE D1

One bad pitch, one big inning beat Romanski

regional to a winner-take-all game tomorrow.

Last night, USD starter Josh Romanski (9-1) made quick work of the Bulldogs through three innings.

Then came the fourth, where a walk, a single, an error and a hit batter put Romanski in a bases-loaded predicament with one out. He struck out Alan Ahmady for the second out but then hit Steve Detwiler with a pitch to force in the game's first run.

"I was irritated with myself for hitting him," said Romanski, who was visibly disturbed when he came off the mound to get the ball back. "If I hit that spot and he hits it into the ground or swings and misses, maybe it's a different ball-

"I thought Josh pitched well. He had one bad inning. One bad pitch, basically, all night. Sometimes that's baseball."

USD COACH RICH HILL,
on pitcher Josh Romanski

game."

"The guy that we didn't want to come the plate was Tommy (Mendonca), and he did come to the plate."

Romanski's next pitch was hammered by Mendonca off the right-field wall for a three-run double that gave the Bulldogs a 4-0 lead.

"I thought Josh pitched well," said Hill. "He had one bad inning. One bad pitch, basically, all night. Sometimes that's baseball."

And that was that, especially the way Fresno State start-

er Clayton Allison was pitching. Allison, who entered the game with a 2-5 record and 4.17 ERA, retired the first 15 hitters he faced on the way to tossing a five-hit complete game.

USD's offense had not struggled like this since back-to-back shutouts against Cal and UC Irvine in the season's second week.

Asked if he realized he had a perfect game through five innings, Allison said, "I knew Romanski was 9-0. After the fifth inning, that's all I was thinking, and I was trying to wreck it."

USD's Victor Sanchez led off the sixth with a sharp grounder that went off the glove of a diving Mendonca at third for a single. The Toreros collected four more hits off Allison, but they never really threatened to get back in the game.

"He was a bulldog in every sense of the word," said Hill.

Kirk Kenney: (619) 293-1825;
kirk.kenney@uniontrib.com

COLLEGE BASEBALL

Fresno State 6, USD 0

USD				Fresno State					
AB	R	H	BI	AB	R	H	BI		
Muno, K cf	4	0	1	0	Muno, D ss	4	0	1	0
Romanski p	4	0	0	0	Hedstrom cf	3	1	0	0
Nicol ss	4	0	1	0	Welzel 2b	4	2	2	0
Meador rf	4	0	0	0	Susdorf lf	3	2	1	1
Hansen 2b	4	0	1	0	Ahmady 1b	3	0	0	0
Valerio 1b	3	0	1	0	Detwiler rf	2	1	0	1
Sanchez 3b	3	0	1	0	Mendonca 3b	3	0	2	4
Gelbrich lf	3	0	0	0	Johnson dh	3	0	0	0
McCoy c	3	0	0	0	Grubb c	3	0	0	0
					Allison p	0	0	0	0
Totals	32	0	5	0	Totals	28	6	6	6

USD (42-19)	000	000	000	-	0	5	2
Fresno State (39-27)	000	402	00x	-	6	6	0

E-Hansen (9); Sanchez (15); DP-USD 1, LOB-USD 5, Fresno State 1. 2B-Nicol (13); Welzel (16); Mendonca (6).

HBP-Susdorf; Detwiler.

USD	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO
Romanski	8	6	6	6	1	6
Fresno State	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO
Allison	9	5	0	0	0	3

HBP-by Romanski (Susdorf); by Romanski (Detwiler). T-1:59. A-1,573.

NCAA DIVISION I REGIONALS

(Double Elimination)

Yesterday's Games

At Cary, N.C.: Elon 6, Mount St. Mary's, Md. 3, Mount St. Mary's, Md. eliminated; North Carolina 5, North Carolina-Wilmington 1

At Raleigh, N.C.: James Madison 13, Charlotte 12, Charlotte eliminated; N.C. State 5, South Carolina 4

At Conway, S.C.: East Carolina 9, Columbia 0, Columbia eliminated; Coastal Carolina 13, Alabama 10

At Athens, Ga.: Georgia 9, Louisville 8, Louisville eliminated; Georgia Tech 6, Lipscomb 3

At Coral Gables, Fla.: Mississippi 14, Bethune-Cookman 1, Bethune-Cookman eliminated; Miami 6, Missouri 5

At Tallahassee, Fla.: Florida State 17, Florida 11, Florida eliminated; Tulane 4, Bucknell 1

At Ann Arbor, Mich.: Michigan 7, Kentucky 5, comp. of susp. game; Kentucky 4, Eastern Michigan 3, Eastern Michigan eliminated; Arizona 4, Michigan 3

At Baton Rouge, La.: New Orleans 18, Texas Southern

June 1, 2008

USD blanked by Fresno State

STAFF AND WIRE REPORTS

Fresno State's Clayton Allison out-pitched the University of San Diego's Josh Romanski on Saturday night, retiring the first 15 hitters and leading the Bulldogs to a 6-0 win over the Toreros in an NCAA regional game at Blair Field in Long Beach.

Romanski came into the game with a 9-0 record this season, a 23-5 career mark and a possible spot in the first round of next week's amateur draft. But Allison, owner of two wins this season and a 4.14 ERA, shut the Toreros down with a five-hitter.

USD (42-16) will meet Long Beach State on Sunday at 1 p.m. in an elimination game. The winner will play Fresno State (39-27) at 5 p.m.

Allison didn't allow a hit until Victor Sanchez singled off the glove of third baseman Tommy Mendonca to

start the sixth. He worked out of two-on, two-out jams in the sixth and seventh. It was his first career shutout.

Mendonca was the Bulldogs' hitting star, a day after falling hard on his throwing hand and being taken to the hospital for X-rays. The sophomore hit a fourth-inning, bases-loaded double off the right-field wall to empty the bases and give Allison a 4-0 lead.

Mendonca added a run-scoring single in a two-run sixth for the Bulldogs.

Romanski retired nine straight early before a streak of wildness in the fourth. He allowed a walk, a bunt single and hit two batters to force in a run before Mendonca unloaded the bases with his double.



**Fresno St. 6
USD 0**

Up next

**Long Beach
Regional:**
USD vs. Long
Beach State,
1 p.m. Sunday

Florida State will never forget Posey, either.

Matusz puts San Diego on the map

If the University of San Diego ever reaches the College World Series, coach Rich Hill will likely point to pitcher Brian Matusz as a key factor to his program's success.

As a fourth-round pick in the MLB Draft out of high school, Matusz had the opportunity to immediately play professional baseball. However, he also had scholarship offers from Arizona, Arizona State and San Diego.

Choosing to play for a traditional power like Arizona or Arizona State would've been an easy decision. However, Matusz chose to help San Diego become one of the nation's premier programs.

It's a decision the 2008 Rivals.com Pitcher of the Year has never regretted.

"From the beginning, I wanted to go to a smaller school in California. San Diego ended up being perfect for me," Matusz said. "USD was a rising program at the time, and the location was absolutely tremendous."

As with most players, Matusz has come a long way since his freshman year. The junior left-hander compiled respectable numbers in his first season, but he improved greatly over the last two seasons.

For that and more, Hill will forever be grateful.

"Matusz was the rock that goes out there and takes care of business on Friday. But even more important than numbers, Brian - as a person - meant more to this program than anything else," Hill said. "We vaulted into the national spotlight because of him and other players. He was always at the front of the line."

Increasing his weight from 165 pounds (as a freshman) to 200 pounds as a junior this season has been a huge key for Matusz. The talented left-hander also gives a great deal of credit to Hill and pitching coach Eric Valenzuela for his development.

"Hill and Valenzuela really helped me become a better player and person," Matusz said. "I owe those two guys a lot for helping me make the jump to the next level in my baseball career."

After getting drafted by the Baltimore Orioles as the fourth overall pick in last week's MLB Draft, conventional wisdom says that Matusz's career at San Diego is all but finished.

His legacy, however, will continue.

"Just the way the coaches and people at USD work with players, it's outstanding," he said. "This program has definitely taken a huge step in the right direction. It's only going to be get better from here on out."

Kendall Rogers is the college baseball editor for Rivals.com. He can be reached at rogersk@yahoo-inc.com.

Yahoo! Buzz

MATUSZ MASTERY



San Diego junior left-hander Brian Matusz had another season to remember.

MATUSZ'S CAREER NUMBERS

Year	ERA	W-L	IP	SO	BB	OBA
2008	1.71	12-2	105	141	22	.211
2007	2.85	10-3	123	163	37	.214
2006	4.25	4-3	89	93	39	.250

Talk about it in the
Message Boards

Romanski and Matusz named All-Americans by Baseball America

Matusz was named first-team and Romanski took home third-team honors.



Brian Matusz was named first-team All-American by Baseball America.

June 12, 2008

SAN DIEGO, Calif. - Two University of San Diego baseball players took home All-American accolades from Baseball America. Brian Matusz was named first team All-American as a pitcher, while Josh Romanski was named a third-team All-American utility player.

Matusz is coming off a season in which he led the NCAA in strikeouts (141) and tied for fifth in the country in wins (12). He posted a 1.71 ERA, which is the fourth best all-time mark at USD in single-season ERA. The junior lefty was named the 2008 West Coast Conference Pitcher of the Year, named a Louisville Slugger first-team All-American and finished the season as the all-time career leader at San Diego in strikeouts (396). The junior southpaw also tied the program single-game record for strikeouts with 17 in a win against Harvard on March 22, 2008.

Matusz became USD's highest draft pick of the current draft format as he was taken No. 4 overall by the Baltimore Orioles. He was drafted in the fourth round by the Angels in 2005, but he elected to attend school instead. He became the first San Diego player to be named as a finalist for the Golden Spikes Award -- given to the best amateur baseball player -- and he helped the team achieve its highest ranking (No. 4) last season. Matusz was a member of the 2007 USA Baseball National Team and is also a finalist for the Roger Clemens award.

Romanski, who was also named a Louisville Slugger third-team All-American utility player, posted an overall record of 9-1 with a 4.00 ERA on the mound and hit .324 with 73 hits, 14 doubles, one triple, six home runs and 49 RBI at the plate. Romanski also took home first-team All-WCC honors and this past season he was a member of Team USA. Romanski tossed his first collegiate no-hitter back on March 24 against Harvard, in which he faced one batter above the minimum and recorded eight strikeouts in the game as the highlight of the season. Romanski was drafted in fifth round of this year's MLB draft by the Milwaukee Brewers.

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Brian Matusz named Rivals.com National Pitcher of the Year

Matusz is the first Torero to ever take home this honor.

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Brian Matusz was named Pitcher of the Year by Rivals.com.

June 11, 2008

Story written by Rivals.com's Kendall Rogers

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As a fourth-round pick in the MLB Draft out of high school, Matusz had the opportunity to immediately play professional baseball. However, he also had scholarship offers from Arizona, Arizona State and San Diego.

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Matusz Takes Home Another First-Team All-American Distinction.

Brian Matusz has been named a first-team All-American by Rivals.com

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June 10, 2008

SAN DIEGO, Calif. - Junior left-hander Brian Matusz of the University of San Diego baseball team takes home another first-team All-American distinction, as Rivals.com released their All-American lists Tuesday morning.

Matusz is coming off a season where he in which he led the NCAA in strikeouts (141) and tied for fifth in the country in wins (12) and he posted a 1.71 ERA, which is fourth all-time at USD in single-season ERA. The junior lefty was named 2008 West Coast Conference Pitcher of the Year, named a Louisville Slugger first-team All-American and finished the season as the all-time career leader at San Diego in strikeouts (396). The junior southpaw also tied the program single-game record for strikeouts with 17 in a win against Harvard on March 22, 2008.

Matusz was became the highest draft pick of the current draft format as he was taken No. 4 overall by the Baltimore Orioles. He was drafted in the fourth round by the Angels in 2005, but he elected to attend school instead. Matusz became the first San Diego player to be named as a finalist for the Golden Spikes Award -- given to the best amateur baseball player -- and he helped the team achieve its highest ranking (No. 4) last season. Matusz was a member of the 2007 USA Baseball National Team and is also named a finalist for the Roger Clemens award.

Brian Matusz has been named a first-team All-American by Rivals.com



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USD Pitcher Named Finalist For Major Award

Brian Matusz Is USD Career Leader In K's

POSTED: 11:38 am PDT June 3, 2008

UPDATED: 11:42 am PDT June 3, 2008

DURHAM, N.C. -- Five college players expected to go in the top of the major league baseball draft were chosen Tuesday as finalists for the Golden Spikes award, which goes to the nation's best amateur player.

The five are Gordon Beckham, a shortstop from Georgia; pitchers Aaron Crow of Missouri and Brian Matusz of San Diego; catcher Buster Posey of Florida State and third baseman Brett Wallace of Arizona State.

The winner will be announced July 16.

Beckham set the single-season home run record (24) at Georgia this year and was voted the SEC player of the year. He hit .398, second in the conference, and led it in home runs.

Crow set a Missouri record with 13 wins, most in the nation, and had 43 consecutive scoreless inning, unofficially the fourth-longest streak in Division 1.

Matusz led the NCAA in strikeouts (141) and had 12 victories. The junior lefty was selected West Coast Conference pitcher of the year and finished the season as the all-time career leader at San Diego in strikeouts with 396.

Matusz is expected to be among the top players taken in the June amateur draft.

The Toreros' season ended with a loss in the NCAA Regional to Fresno State on Monday. USD finished the season with a 44-17 overall record.

Posey hit .472 to lead the NCAA. He also was a relief pitcher who had six saves to lead Florida State.

Wallace was the Pac-10 player of the year for the second straight season. He led the conference with a .414 average; 94 hits, 83 runs; 81 RBIs, 21 home runs and 173 total bases.

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June 4, 2008

USD's Matusz is Golden Spikes finalist

DURHAM, N.C. — University of San Diego pitcher Brian Matusz is one of five players chosen as finalists for the Golden Spikes award, which goes to the nation's best amateur player.

Matusz, a junior left-hander, led the NCAA in strikeouts (141) and had 12 victories. He was selected West Coast Conference Pitcher of the Year.

The other finalists are Gordon Beckham, a shortstop from Georgia; pitcher Aaron Crow of Missouri; catcher Buster Posey of Florida State and third baseman Brett Wallace of Arizona State.

The winner will be announced July 16.

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NCAA | Matusz a finalist for Golden Spikes Award

The Associated Press reports University of San Diego P Brian Matusz has been named a finalist for the Golden Spikes Award for the nation's best amateur player. He led the NCAA in strikeouts this season with 141 and had 12 victories. He was selected West Coast Conference Pitcher of the Year. He finished the season as the career leader at San Diego in strikeouts with 396.

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June 6, 2008

As expected, USD lefty Matusz goes to Orioles

JOHN MAFFEI
STAFF WRITER

Brian Matusz went exactly where the draft analysts predicted he would.

And the left-hander from the University of San Diego said he couldn't have been more pleased when the Baltimore Orioles called his name with the fourth pick of the first round of Major League Baseball's amateur draft Thursday.

"It's an exciting moment in my life," Matusz said. "There were projections I would go to Baltimore, but I was unsure. I woke up this morning and I had a good feeling about Baltimore. I was very excited when I saw my name up there."

Major league clubs finished six rounds of the 50-round draft Thursday.

Also drafted Thursday were left-hander Josh Romanski, Matusz's USD teammate; UCLA left-hander Tim Murphy, who played at Rancho Buena Vista High; Oceanside shortstop Matt Cerda, who has committed to play for USD; Fallbrook first baseman Clark Murphy; and San Diego State third baseman Nick Romero.

Tim Murphy was taken in the third round by the Texas Rangers. Romanski was taken in the fourth round by the Milwaukee Brewers, while Cerda went three picks later to the Chicago Cubs.

Clark Murphy, who graduated from Fallbrook on Thursday night and has committed to play at UCLA, was taken on the fifth round by the Rangers. Romero was a fifth-round pick of the Minnesota Twins.

"I'm definitely ready to get up to the major leagues as soon as possible," said Matusz, who was 12-2 with a

Local players drafted Thursday

Rd.	Name	Pos.	School	Team
1.	Brian Matusz	LHP	USD	Orioles
3.	Tim Murphy	LHP	Rancho Buena Vista HS/UCLA	Rangers
4.	Josh Romanski	LHP	USD	Brewers
4.	Matt Cerda	SS	Oceanside HS	Cubs
5.	Clark Murphy	1B	Fallbrook	Rangers
5.	Nick Romero	3B	San Diego State	Twins

Rancho Bernardo High in first round over the years

Year	Name	Pos.	Team	Overall
1995	Jaime Jones	OF	Marlins	No. 5
2000	Matt Wheatland	RHP	Tigers	No. 8
2000	Scott Heard	C	Rangers	No. 25
2002	Cole Hamels	LHP	Phillies	No. 17
2004	Danny Putnam	OF	A's	Supplemental
2005	John Drennen	OF	Indians	No. 33
2008	Allan Dykstra	1B	Padres	No. 23

NOTE: Putnam was taken out of Stanford and Dykstra out of Wake Forest.

— John Maffei

1.71 ERA for the Toreros. "I obviously have some things to work on to make myself a better player, but I wouldn't mind getting up there as soon as possible.

"It's tough. I love San Diego. It's one of a great cities in the world. I had a great three years here, and I might make this my off-season home. We'll see how it goes. I learned so much from being here under Coach (Rich) Hill and (pitching coach Eric) Valenzuela. I've not only become a better ballplayer, but a better person. I owe a lot to USD."

Tim Murphy was only 5-6 this season for UCLA with a 3.34 ERA, but he struck out 111 hitters in 102 2/3 innings. What's more, he batted .260.

Murphy feels his last three games with the Bruins re-established his draft position. After seven innings of shutout ball against Washington State and a complete-game, 10-strikeout shutout of California, Murphy allowed just one earned run in 7 2/3 innings in the

NCAA regionals against Virginia.

"I think those games answered some questions," Murphy said. "I pitched like I did at the beginning of the season. I finished strong."

Murphy said he hopes to sign quickly and start his professional career.

"It's an honor to get drafted," he said. "I think I'm a good fit with the Rangers. The only problem is I love to hit and I'm with an American League club."

Romanski is much like Murphy. The USD junior was 9-1 with a 4.00 ERA, but he also hit .324 with six homers and 49 RBIs while playing center field and designated hitter. He however, was selected by a National League team.

Cerda, who finished his high school career with a 26-game hitting streak, hitting in 32 of 33 games this season for Oceanside, batted .519 with 16 homers and 46 RBIs.

Clark Murphy hit .455 with 12 homers and 25 RBIs.

June 6, 2008

Toreros' Matusz goes 4th overall, to Baltimore

By Kirk Kenney, STAFF WRITER

USD's Brian Matusz watched the major league draft yesterday in a Mission Valley restaurant, surrounded by teammates and coaches, with televisions tuned to the event.

Matusz was focused on the big screen in front of him as the others ate lunch. Why was he waiting to order? Perhaps he was looking for just the right item on the menu.

Crab cakes seemed appropriate after Matusz was selected by the Baltimore Orioles with the fourth overall pick.

"Coming up to every pick, I still had no idea and hadn't gotten any phone calls," said Matusz, a junior left-hander from Cave Creek, Ariz. "All the projections, I tried not to pay too much attention. But they (projections) had me going to the Orioles, so I knew I had a shot for it.

"It doesn't feel real yet. It definitely doesn't feel real. I'm excited. The Orioles have a great organization and I'm looking forward to getting out there as soon as possible and getting to the big leagues."

Matusz was one of five college players with local ties chosen on the draft's first day, when six of 50 rounds were completed. The remain-

SEE Local, D5

► LOCAL

CONTINUED FROM PAGE D1

Matusz may get tour from O's this week

ing rounds will be conducted today, beginning at 8:30 a.m.

Also selected:

- Wake Forest first baseman Allan Dykstra (Rancho Bernardo) went to the Padres in the first round.

- UCLA left-hander Tim Murphy (Rancho Buena Vista) was chosen by the Rangers in the third round.

- USD left-hander Josh Romanski was taken in the fourth round by the Brewers.

- San Diego State third baseman Nick Romero (Eastlake) was drafted in the fifth round by the Twins.

Romero, a switch-hitting junior who led the Aztecs in home runs (12) and RBI (61) this season, is looking forward to the next stage of his career.

"I'm ready to get started," said Rom-

ero. "It's a good time to get going."

As for Matusz, cheers erupted in the restaurant when Major League Baseball Commissioner Bud Selig read his name on television. Hugs and slaps on the back followed for the pitcher who was 12-2 this season with a 1.71 ERA and 141 strikeouts in 105 innings.

USD catcher Nick McCoy, second baseman Kevin Hansen and pitcher Matt Couch were ready with cameras to capture the moment when it came, snapping shots of Matusz's reaction while highlights of his performances this season played on TV.

Matusz heard from the Orioles shortly after he was selected, but they had to get in line to congratulate him.

"I received about 30 text messages just from friends," said Matusz. "Because of all the messages, I couldn't get any phone calls.

"The Orioles called and congratulated me. They said they're planning on building this team around pitching and they're excited to have me in their

"I've heard the ballpark is unreal. I'm excited to go there and check it out."

BRIAN MATUSZ,

about Baltimore's Camden Yards

organization."

Matusz said he has never been to Baltimore's Camden Yards. Most high draft picks are brought in by the teams that select them, so he likely will get a look by the end of the week.

"I've heard the ballpark is unreal," said Matusz. "I'm excited to go there and check it out."

The pitcher then excused himself and headed out with several teammates into the Mission Valley mall to purchase Orioles caps.

Matusz is the first USD player to be drafted in the first round. Right-hander Josh Butler, Matusz's teammate two years ago, was selected by Tampa Bay in the second round of the 2006 draft.

FROM THE CHEAP SEATS

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Matusz Picked Early as Expected

Four months ago you could wander out to the University of San Diego's Cunningham Stadium for a Toreros practice and you'd see Brian Matusz raking the infield dirt near third base.

Yesterday you could have visited the stadium and Matusz, about to become a millionaire, was standing before a bank of microphones and television cameras answering questions.

The USD left-hander, widely considered by scouts as the top pitcher in college baseball, was the fourth pick overall Thursday by the Baltimore Orioles. He was the first pitcher drafted after three infielders -- two high school and one college.

"It's an exciting moment in my life," Matusz said. "There were projections I would go to Baltimore, but I was unsure. I woke up this morning not knowing what team, but I had a good feeling about Baltimore. I was very excited when I saw my name up there."

Matusz would have preferred to have been practicing this week, preparing to face Arizona State in the NCAA Tournament Super Regionals.

But the Toreros fell short of advancing when they lost to Fresno State in the finals of the Long Beach State regional.

"Going to Omaha was a big goal of mine," said Matusz, referring to the site of the College World Series. "But this school will get there with these coaches. They do a great job. I'm excited for this program. I'm looking forward to watching them play in Omaha.

Matusz has four qualities pitches -- fastball, curveball, cutter and changeup. He could be in the Major Leagues in a year or two and could be a team's ace starter with maturity.

"He's grown all three years he's been here, and he's gotten better every year," USD pitching coach Eric Valenzuela said. "From the very beginning, there was no doubt he was going to be a top draft pick."

Matusz played with the label of being a top five pick hanging over him all year, but he didn't let it distract him from putting together a big junior season. Matusz was 12-2 as he led the NCAA in strikeouts with

114 and posted a 1.17 ERA. He was a first-team All-American and the West Coast Conference Pitcher of the Year.

"People talked about it all the time, but being a top five pick was never my focus," Matusz said. "My focus was to get better every day and help the Toreros win ball games. Coach

(Rich) Hill and Coach Valenzuela did a great job of helping me maintain my focus."

That's one of the reason the future millionaire could be found raking the infield dirt just like one of the guys on the team.

Two other draft picks to note from Thursday's first day were left-handed hitting first baseman Allan Dykstra by the Padres and USD left-handed pitcher/outfielder Josh Romanski by the Milwaukee Brewers.

Dykstra, a Rancho Bernardo High alumnus from Wake Forest, was the Padres' first-round pick, the 23rd overall.

"I'm ecstatic about it. I was sitting here waiting and wondering and then I got a phone call from the Padres saying they wanted to draft me," said Dykstra. "It's a picture perfect situation, going home to the team I grew up watching. I knew they were interested in me, but I didn't have any idea what round or what was going to happen. It's one thing to be drafted in the first round, but it's another to be taken by my favorite team. It's a good situation, and I couldn't be happier to be a part of their organization."

Dykstra, a two-time All-Atlantic Coast Conference pick, hit .323 for the season with 16 home runs and 50 RBIs. He was named a semifinalist for the Golden Spikes Award as the nation's top collegiate player.

Romanski, a third-team All-American, was taken in the fourth round. He was 9-1 on the mound and batted .324 with six home runs and 49 RBIs.

He's projected as a potential big leaguer a pitcher our outfielder.

-- TOM SHANAHAN

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Brian Matusz Taken No. 4 Overall is MLB Draft

Matusz is now the highest USD player to be drafted in the current MLB draft format.

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June 5, 2008

SAN DIEGO, Calif. - Junior left-hander Brian Matusz of the University of San Diego baseball team was drafted No. 4 overall in the first round of the Major League Baseball Draft by the Baltimore Orioles. Matusz is now the highest USD player ever drafted in the current format of the MLB draft.

Matusz is coming off a season where he in which he led the NCAA in strikeouts (141) and tied for 5th in the country in wins (12) and he posted a 1.71 ERA, which is fourth all-time at USD in single-season ERA. The junior lefty was named 2008 West Coast Conference Pitcher of the Year, named a Louisville Slugger first-team All-American and finished the season as the all-time career leader at San Diego in strikeouts (396). The junior southpaw also tied the program single-game record for strikeouts with 17 in a win against Harvard on March 22, 2008. Matusz was a member of the 2007 USA Baseball National Team and is the first ever player from San Diego selected as a Golden Spikes Award finalist. Matusz was also named a finalist for the Roger Clemens award.

Brian Matusz drafted No. 4 overall by the Baltimore Orioles in the MLB draft.

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O's new lefty Matusz has right stuff

First-round draft pick has pitches, attitude for major success

By Roch Kubatko

Sun reporter

June 22, 2008

The first pitch thrown by left-hander Brian Matusz at the University of San Diego hit the backstop on the fly. It happened against the No. 1 team in the nation and in front of his father.

The only way it could have been worse would be if he had drilled the mascot.

"I was so pumped up," said Matusz, taken by the Orioles with the fourth overall pick June 5 in the amateur draft. "That ball wasn't anywhere near where I wanted to throw it."

Most college freshmen probably would have become unnerved at the sheer embarrassment of the moment. But Matusz, whose calm demeanor surfaced early in his childhood, struck out the batter and completed the last four innings in a 2006 upset victory over Texas, the defending national champion.

"We knew he was good, but you don't really know until he's put in that situation, that environment," San Diego pitching coach Eric Valenzuela said. "That's when we knew we had something special in that kid."

Matusz was making a rare relief appearance against Texas, but he also was making a statement. The pressures of competing at a Division I school weren't going to change him. And, according to those who know him best, neither will moving up to the professional ranks.

"I threw that first pitch and said to myself: 'Well, I can't do any worse than that. Now settle down and get in a groove,' and that's what I did," said the 6-foot-5, 200-pound Matusz, who went 12-2 with a 1.71 ERA and led the nation with 141 strikeouts as a junior this year. "My adrenaline was flowing, but I was able to get through it."

He usually does.

The Orioles became enamored with Matusz's arm and his ability to throw strikes with four pitches, including a changeup and curveball. But they were just as impressed with his character. In sports parlance, it's known as having good makeup, "and he's off the charts," Valenzuela said.

"He's been through this stuff, getting all this attention, since his senior year in high school," Valenzuela said. "Nothing ever fazes him."

Matusz's father, Mike, can take you back a lot further than St. Mary's High in Arizona. He invites you into the family car for the ride to 10-year-old Brian's district championship game and lets you eavesdrop on a conversation that reveals a side of his son's personality that might explain the casual reaction to hitting the screen.

"Brian was going to pitch that day," Mike Matusz said. "I'm rushing to get there because I had to coach another game for my older boy [Chris]. I told him that I was sorry that we were running late, and he said, 'Don't worry, they won't start the game without me.' He was so calm and collected at 10 years old."

Move ahead a year and it's virtually the same story within a different tale, this time when Brian pitched in another district championship game in the 11-12 age bracket.

"This is the clincher," Mike Matusz said. "In Phoenix, we got monsoon storms in July and August, very violent. I'm driving, and I could see to the east, about six miles away, a storm coming up. The sky was black, and you could see the lightning. I told Brian, 'It





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Top Draftee Will Come with Huge Credentials

By Pete Kerzel

The Orioles selected University of San Diego left-hander Brian Matusz with the fourth overall choice in last week's first-year player draft, then proceeded to stock up on pitching prospects. They chose 11 southpaws among 25 hurlers in their 50 picks during the draft's two days.

Matusz went 12-2 with a 1.71 ERA this year for the Toreros and was a finalist for the second straight year for the Golden Spikes Award given to the best amateur baseball player in the United States. He held opposing batters to a .211 batting average, issued only 22 walks in 105 innings, and his 396 strikeouts are the all-time high for San Diego. Matusz is a finalist for the Roger Clemens Award honoring college baseball's top pitcher.

The southpaw, considered the most polished pitcher available among this year's draft crop, was the first hurler taken in 2008. He fell to the Orioles after Tampa Bay chose Griffin (Ga.) High School shortstop Tim Beckham with the first overall pick, Pittsburgh nabbed power-hitting Vanderbilt third baseman Pedro Alvarez at No. 2, and Kansas City opted for American Heritage (Fla.) High School slugging first baseman Eric Hosmer with the third pick.

The Orioles have concentrated on position players in the opening round in five of the past seven years, but having extensively scouted the 21-year-old Matusz, decided to pick a pitcher projected as a top-of-the-rotation starter.

"We've seen Brian since he was in high school and followed him. [There's] a lot of history," Orioles director of scouting Joe Jordan said. "This was a tough pick, not because I didn't like him, but because we had other players that we liked a lot as well. But Brian Matusz was a good selection for us."

Baltimore also coveted first baseman Justin Smoak, a switch hitter with power from both sides of the plate who went 11th to Texas. But they decided on Matusz, who boasts four pitches he can throw at any time.

"I was really unsure where I was going to go," Matusz said in a conference call. "It was definitely hard for me to sleep last night. But I felt really good when the first three picks went by, and I saw the Baltimore Orioles up there. Deep down inside, I really thought I had an opportunity to become an Oriole. I knew they had done a great job all year of scouting me."

Matusz throws a sinking fastball that can reach the low to mid-90s, but doesn't rely solely on heat or movement. He throws a cutting slider that moves hitters off the plate, an effective changeup and his out pitch is a nasty curve. While he mixes pitches well, Matusz needs to learn to use his fastball more effectively, particularly when it's not his best pitch.

The Orioles' next step is to sign Matusz before the Major League Baseball-imposed deadline of Aug. 15 and figure out where his professional career will begin. Last year, first-round pick Matt Wieters pushed the team to the deadline before agreeing to terms. Jordan doesn't see a similar situation developing this time around.

"We expect to get it done in a reasonable amount of time," Jordan said.

Baltimore took Cedar Grove (Ga.) High School center fielder Xavier Avery in the second round (50th overall), Washington, D.C., native and St. Johns (Md.) High School second baseman Jerome Hoes in the third round (81st), and University of Illinois Champaign center fielder Kyle Hudson in the fourth round (116th). They rounded out their top five picks by choosing University of Virginia shortstop Greg Miclat in the fifth round (146th).

In addition to Hoes, the process took on a local flavor with the selections of Towson University right fielder Brian Conley (17th round, 508th), Rockville native and William

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O's take pitcher Matusz with fourth pick

LHP went 12-2 with 1.71 ERA with University of San Diego this season



The Orioles selected left-handed pitcher Brian Matusz out of the University of San Diego with the fourth overall pick in the 2008 MLB amateur draft. (Brock Scott/University of San Diego)

By Roch Kubalko | Sun reporter
3:18 PM EDT, June 5, 2008

The Orioles used the fourth pick in today's amateur baseball draft to select left-hander Brian Matusz from the University of San Diego.

Matusz, a finalist for the Roger Clemens award, was 12-2 with a 1.71 ERA this season. The junior from Cave Creek, Ariz. was named the West Coast Conference Pitcher of the Year. He's also a finalist for the Golden Spikes Award.

"We've seen Brian since he was in high school and followed him. A lot of history," said Orioles director of scouting Joe Jordan. "This was a tough pick, not because I didn't like him, but because we had other players that we liked a lot as well. But Brian Matusz was a good selection for us."

The Orioles also were interested in high school shortstop Tim Beckham, but the Tampa Bay Rays chose him with the first overall pick. The Pittsburgh Pirates took Vanderbilt third baseman Pedro Alvarez at No. 2, and the Kansas City Royals selected high school first baseman Eric Hosmer with the third pick.

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O's first-round draft picks Photos

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Did the Orioles make the right pick?

Did the Orioles make the right pick in selecting University of San Diego left-hander Brian Matusz in the MLB draft?

Jordan took a position player in each of his first three seasons -- catcher Brandon Snyder in 2005, third baseman Billy Rowell in 2006 and catcher Matt Wieters in 2007. Snyder has moved to first base at Single-A Frederick, where his teammates include Rowell and Wieters.

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Local College Athletes Make Draft

Some local college athletes made news in the recent MLB draft.

USD All-American pitcher Brian Matusz was the fourth player taken in the first round by the Baltimore Orioles.

Matusz was 12-2 this season. He's the Toreros leader in strikeouts.

His teammate Josh Romanski was taken in the fourth round by the Brewers.

Aztec infielder Nick Romero went to the Twins in the 5th round.

In this video, Romanski and Matusz give their advice to soon-to-be college ball players.

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Roch Around the Clock

By Sun sports reporter Roch Kubatko

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« Solving one draft mystery | Main

With the fourth overall pick...

...the Orioles selected University of San Diego left-hander Brian Matusz, who was 12-2 with a 1.71 ERA in 15 games as a junior, with 22 walks and 141 strikeouts in 105 innings.

Joe Jordan, the Orioles' director of scouting, said he went to bed last night knowing that Tim Beckham was going No. 1 to Tampa Bay, Pedro Alvarez No. 2 to Pittsburgh and Eric Hosmer No. 3 to Kansas City. He was on the clock the moment his head hit the pillow.

Jordan had to choose between Matusz and South Carolina first baseman Justin Smoak. Those were the only two candidates. And he went with the pitcher.

Matusz is expected to be a much easier signing than Matt Wieters. Jordan isn't sure where Matusz will begin his pro career.

Printed by Roch Kubatko on June 5, 2008 2:45 PM | Permalink



COMMENTS

On a purely superficial level, I have to say I'm a bit disappointed that the Orioles did not choose Smoak with this pick. The nickname potential for someone named Smoak is simply too great to ignore.

But as for who actually got picked, who am I to criticize? I'm not the one who gets paid to do it. Besides, a power lefty sounds pretty good, right? Can never have too much pitching...

Hey Roch, how about a hand pronouncing Matusz?

Posted by Mark Bloom | June 5, 2008 3:00 PM

Welcome to Baltimore! It looks like his mechanics need minor tweaking to make him more of a power pitcher than "finesse" guy. O's can get his FB consistently up from 88-91 to 91-94.

Posted by Mark | June 5, 2008 3:00 PM

Roch, you been scooped dude...

The Orioles dipped into the college ranks to select southpaw starter Brian Matusz with the fourth overall pick in the First-Year Player Draft today, adding a two-time finalist for the Golden Spikes Award and the current NCAA leader in strikeouts. Matusz, the most decorated pitcher in the University of San Diego's program history, is a two-time West Coast Conference Pitcher of the Year and the all-time strikeout leader at his school.

Posted by Brian | June 5, 2008 3:04 PM

Am I the only one with a bad feeling about this pick? I really liked the idea of drafting Smoak. At least this guy should develop quickly seeing how he's a college guy vs. high school.

Printed by | June 5, 2008 3:05 PM

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Roch Kubatko covers sports for The Baltimore Sun. E-mail Roch.

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Fantasy Baseball Breaking News

Orioles select Matusz with fourth pick

Brian Matusz - S - BAL - Jun. 5 - 2:37 pm et

Orioles picked University of San Diego LHP Brian Matusz with the fourth pick in the 2008 draft. More than another Ricky Romero, Matusz has an above average fastball for a left-hander and a top-notch changeup. Both his curve and slider also project as legitimate major league pitches. He might not have quite as much upside as one would like to see from the first pitcher selected, but he could develop into a No. 2 starter and he should move quickly. Jun. 5 - 2:37 pm et

To see more **Brian Matusz** news items [click here...](#)

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Infielders dominate top of Draft

06/05/2008 2:40 PM ET
By Kevin T. Czerwinski / MLB.com

LAKE BUENA VISTA, Fla. — Bend It Like Beckham took on a whole new meaning Thursday afternoon at The Milk House.

While a jet-setting soccer star made the phrase popular, Tampa Bay is hoping its newest charge will twist the phrase into baseball terms after selecting Tim Beckham with the top selection in the 2008 First-Year Player Draft. The pro-Rays crowd at The Milk House erupted when Commissioner Bud Selig announced Beckham's name, welcoming the Georgia prep star with an ovation worthy of his soccer counterpart.

Beckham's selection marks the 23rd time that a prep player has been taken with the top selection and first since the D-backs grabbed Justin Upton with the top pick in 2005. He is also the third consecutive prep shortstop to be chosen with the top selection. San Diego picked Matt Bush, since converted to a pitcher, in 2004.



In choosing Beckham, the Rays also became the first franchise to make the top selection in the Draft in two consecutive years. Tampa took Vanderbilt pitcher David Price, who made his professional debut last month at Vero Beach.

Pittsburgh followed up Tampa's selection of Beckham by choosing Vanderbilt third baseman Pedro Alvarez. Kansas City, which has had a top-six selection in six of the past seven Drafts, chose Florida prep star Eric Hosmer with the third pick. The Orioles then chose University of San Diego southpaw Brian Matusz with the fourth pick, while the Giants rounded out the top five by selecting Florida State catcher Buster Posey.

- Draft order
- Follow every pick
- Beckham No. 1
- Notables on hand
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- Draft Reports

Beckham, who led Griffin High to the Georgia State AAAA High School finals earlier this month, is a rare five-tool blend who coaxes power, speed and defense out of his 6-foot-2 frame. While the Rays were toying with the idea of grabbing several other players with the top pick, including Posey, the consensus was to grab Beckham.

"Middle-of-the-field player, very good athlete, an advanced bat," Tampa Bay's scouting director R.J. Harrison said of Beckham. "[He] has a real good awareness on the field. He plays the game with a great deal of enthusiasm. And then when you spend time with him away from the field, he's the same guy. He's a fun guy to be around."

Alvarez, meanwhile, missed out on becoming the answer to another trivia question when the Rays passed on him. Had he gone No. 1, it would have marked the first time a school has produced back-to-back top selections. But the Rays figure to have Evan Longoria at third for quite some time, leaving Alvarez in position to have a similar impact in Pittsburgh.

The now former Commodore hit .317 this season with nine homers and 30 RBIs in 40 games. Alvarez was limited because of a broken hamate bone and a late-season slump, but his body of work in three seasons at Vanderbilt -- 49 homers, 162 RBIs -- far outweighed any concerns that may have cropped up this season.

Hosmer signed a letter of intent to play at Arizona State, but it's doubtful he'll be fulfilling that commitment after tearing up the Florida prep circuit as a first baseman and left-handed pitcher. Kansas City hasn't shied away from choosing Scott Boras-represented players, as evidenced by the fact that they have taken Mike Moustakas and Luke Hochevar in each of the past two Drafts.

The Royals have been rewarded by their efforts by the aforementioned players and figure to get more of the same from Hosmer, who hit .471 with 11 homers and 27 RBIs for American Heritage High School. He also pitched to a 3.96 ERA and struck out 32 over 17 2/3 innings, according to MaxPreps.

Matusz, a Golden Spikes Award finalist, was 12-2 with a 1.71 ERA in 15 games (14 starts) for San Diego. The junior was 26-8 over three seasons with the Toreros.

Posey, meanwhile, is still in action, leading the Seminoles into this weekend's NCAA Super Regional against Wichita State.

June 5, 2008 - 11:56AM

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Ex-St. Mary's standout goes No. 4 in baseball draft

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Matt Paulson, Tribune

University of San Diego pitcher Brian Matusz, a graduate of Phoenix St. Mary's High School, was the first player with East Valley connections to be picked Thursday in Major League Baseball's first-year player draft.

Matusz, from Cave Creek, was selected No. 4 overall by the Baltimore Orioles. The 6-foot-4, 200-pound lefty with a fastball in the low 90s led the NCAA with 141 strikeouts and went 12-2 with a 1.71 ERA this season. The junior is the Toreros' all-time leader in strikeouts (396) and was named the West Coast Conference Pitcher of the Year and a Louisville Slugger first-team All-American.

Matusz, who out of high school was picked in the fourth round of the 2005 draft by the Los Angeles Angels, has four pitches in his arsenal – fastball, slider, curve and changeup – and front-of-the-rotation potential.

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Thursday, June 5, 2008 | 1:08 pm



Roster a mystery to local clubs

By **JED LOCKETT**
Bluefield Daily Telegraph

Thu, Jun 12 2008

— BLUEFIELD — With opening day of the Appalachian League season still five days away, neither the Baltimore Orioles nor the Tampa Bay Rays are entirely sure who they will send to Mercer County. But it is fun to speculate.

The annual Major League Baseball draft was held late last week, giving both Major League clubs an opportunity to restock their farm systems with young talent. Many of those youngsters could be on their way to Bluefield or Princeton to begin their professional careers.

The P-Rays could have the No. 1 pick overall at shortstop. Timothy Beckham, a six-footer out of Griffin High School in Georgia, could make his professional debut in Princeton.

"Obviously when you've got the No. 1 overall draft pick and the fact that he's a high-schooler versus a college player really improves the chances that he'll end up in Princeton," said P-Rays general manager Jim Holland.

Beckham would not be the first No. 1 draft pick to end up in Princeton. Josh Hamilton was a P-Ray in 1999. Now he is the anchor for the Texas Rangers' offense.

"We've been through this before with Josh Hamilton...," Holland said. "So sure we're excited it's a possibility. But right now we have to wait and see how it all unfolds."

Baltimore spent the No. 4 overall pick on left-handed pitcher Brian Matusz. The 6-4 200-pound junior out of the University of San Diego would be welcomed in Nature's Air-Conditioned City.

"We'd love to have him here," said Bluefield Orioles general manager Mike Showe. "It should be a big drawing card for us just to add in. I know he put up some good numbers in college. I know he throws the ball pretty hard, which is always a plus especially being a lefty. We would welcome him in Bluefield."

By bringing their talents to Mercer County, Beckham and Matusz would give the P-Rays and Baby Birds instantly recognizable faces people would want to see.

"When Josh Hamilton was here, there was a lot of facets of our operation that year that were more successful in that year than others," Holland said.

"It pretty much sells itself because people that whether you follow baseball closely or you don't follow it closely, the No. 1 overall pick kind of speaks for itself. It's its own drawing card."

Matusz was the focal point in a draft that went heavy on the hurlers. Of Baltimore's first 15 picks, seven of them were pitchers.

Showe could not speak to the quality of the roster because he did not have it yet. But he did think the Baby Birds strength this season could be on the mound.

"I would think our pitching staff should be good," Showe said. "Again, until we get the roster on Friday, I really can't even speculate on what we're going to have one way or the other."

Tampa Bay placed more of a focus on the field instead of the mound. Only five of their first 15 selections in the 2008 draft were pitchers.

But Holland did not believe this meant the 2008 P-Rays would be an offensive juggernaut.

"You never know because...you have to factor in your returnees you're going to get," Holland said. "So who knows. You can't read your answer to that totally into the draft. You have to wait and see how the mixture of returnees are going to play into it."

But no matter who the Baby Birds or the P-Rays get, there will be that excitement and promise for the future.

"You're always excited about who we get once the draft shakes out, once the players get signed, once everything shakes out at spring training, who they send here," Showe said.

USD's Matusz ready for his next big day

By Kirk Kenney
STAFF WRITER

One of those desert monsoons that hits Phoenix with a fury was bearing down as Mike Matusz drove his son Brian to the 12-year-old's all-star game.

Brian was Diamondback Little League's starting pitcher for the district championship game. The wind whipped up as the truck made its way along a dusty road.

Thunder clapped. And lightning lit up the pitch-black eastern sky.

"Geez, Brian, I don't know if we're going to get the game in," Mike said. "Nope," Brian said. "It's not going to rain."

"Trust me. This is my day." Even at a young age, Brian Matusz was calm — and confident — before a storm.

Somehow, the rain stayed away. Matusz allowed one run in six innings to get the victory. He also went 3-for-3. All three hits were homers, the last coming when the opposing pitcher came too close to the plate on an intentional walk.

Some day, all right. Today is expected to be another big day for Brian Matusz, who has focused more on his pitching since Little League.

USD's junior left-hander will be near a television with his teammates and coaches, watching the first round of the major league draft (ESPN2, 11 a.m.).

Matusz (pronounced MAT-us) has made something of a name for himself as a pitcher. He is among the five finalists for the Golden Spikes Award as the nation's top amateur baseball player. He is among another top five as well, expected to be among the first five picks when the two-day draft begins.

In fact, on the eve of the draft Matusz was one of three players — along with Florida State catcher Buster Posey and Griffin High (Ga.) shortstop Tim Beckham — Tampa Bay was considering for the No. 1 overall pick.

"I still have no idea where I'm going to go," Matusz said. "It's pretty cool. It's like Christmas times a couple million."

A local player has been the first pick overall twice — when the Florida Marlins chose Eastlake's Adrian Gonzalez in 2000 and when the Padres selected Mission Bay's Matt Bush in 2004.

Matusz would be the 41st local player — and first from USD — selected in the first round in the 44-year history of the draft.

Matusz, from Cave Creek, Ariz., was a fourth-round pick out of high school. He was drafted by the Angels, but contract talks broke down before they really began.

Matusz said he told each major league team before that draft that he would sign for \$1.475 million. Not a penny less.

The comment at the time from Eddie Bane, director of scouting for the Angels: "He wanted first-round money. ... He's not that kind of talent. At least not now."

Little did anyone know that Matusz's goal wasn't just to become a first-round talent but the first pick overall.

"I don't think there's anything wrong with setting the bar high for yourself," Matusz said. "I told myself that I was going to work hard every year so that by my junior year I could put myself in position to be the No. 1 pick in the draft."

Said USD coach Rich Hill: "If I was picking, he would be."

MAJOR LEAGUE DRAFT

The two-day "first-year player" draft begins today at 11 a.m. and will include 50 rounds (teams may stop earlier if they wish) by tomorrow's conclusion. Players from the United States, U.S. territories and Canada are subject to the draft. Eligible for selection are high school seniors, junior college players, juniors and seniors at four-year colleges and players who have turned 21. Teams have until Aug. 15 to sign players before losing their draft rights.

DRAFT COVERAGE

- ESPN2 will televise the first round and supplemental first round.
- Pick-by-pick coverage is available at www.mlb.com and on XM Satellite Radio.
- A good source of draft info and analysis is at www.baseballamerica.com.

DRAFT ORDER

1. Tampa Bay	16. Milwaukee
2. Pittsburgh	17. Toronto
3. Kansas City	18. Atlanta*
4. Baltimore	19. Chi. Cubs
5. San Francisco	20. Seattle
6. Florida	21. Detroit
7. Cincinnati	22. New York Mets
8. Chi. White Sox	23. Padres
9. Washington	24. Philadelphia
10. Houston	25. Colorado
11. Texas	26. Arizona
12. Oakland	27. L.A. Angels**
13. St. Louis	28. N.Y. Yankees
14. Minnesota	29. Cleveland
15. L.A. Dodgers	30. Boston

*First-round pick goes to N.Y. Mets for Tom Glavine signing.

**First-round pick goes to Minnesota for Torii Hunter signing.

TOP LOCAL PROSPECTS

COLLEGE

- Allan Dykstra, Jr.**, 1B, Wake Forest (Rancho Bernardo)
- Logan Gelbrich, Sr.**, C, USD
- Troy Hanzawa, Sr.**, SS, SDSU
- Brian Matusz, Jr.**, LHP, USD
- Tim Murphy, Jr.**, LHP, UCLA (Rancho Buena Vista)
- Ricardo Pecina, Jr.**, LHP, USD
- Stephen Penney, Jr.**, RHP, UC Riverside (USDHS)
- Josh Romanski, Jr.**, LHP/OF, USD
- Nick Romero, Jr.**, 3B, SDSU
- Xavier Scruggs, Jr.**, 1B, UNLV (Poway)
- Ryan Wiegand, Jr.**, 1B, Gonzaga (USDHS)

HIGH SCHOOL

- Brian Busick**, RHP, Poway
- Matt Cerda**, SS, Oceanside
- Brian Haar**, OF, Grossmont
- Brian Humphries**, OF, Granite Hills
- Brandon Meredith**, 1B, Montgomery
- Clark Murphy**, 1B, Fallbrook
- Sean O'Sullivan**, RHP, Valhalla
- Miles Reagan**, RHP, El Capitan
- D.J. Shields**, C, Bonita Vista

—KIRK KENNEY

For several reasons. "He's got that prototypical big-league body," Hill said. "He's got velocity. He's got secondary pitches. ... He could get major league hitters out right now. He could be a starter in the major leagues today."

The 6-foot-5, 200-pound Matusz has four quality pitches — fastball, curve, slider, change-up — but two in particular get the most attention.

Matusz's fastball has touched 96 mph and usually is clocked between 91 and 93 mph. He locates it so well that many hitters are frozen at the plate. He thaws them with a change-up that makes hitters look so silly it seems they've swung before the ball has left his hand.

USD catcher and roommate Logan Gelbrich said despite his velocity, Matusz defies labeling.

"You can't really call him a power pitcher because you can't get in the box and know you're getting a fastball," Gelbrich said. "He can beat you with every pitch."

Matusz's maturation has been a three-year process that began with his first collegiate pitch. Make that the second pitch — his first pitch hit the backstop.

In the 2006 opener at home against Texas, Matusz made his debut by pitching the game's last four innings — retiring eight of the first nine hitters he faced — in USD's victory. It began a three-game sweep of the defending national champions.

Matusz was put in the weekend rotation soon thereafter and was the Friday starter by midseason.

He went 4-3 as a freshman with a 4.25 ERA, 93 strikeouts and 30 walks in 89 innings. But Matusz said the most important thing he learned is you don't always have to throw the ball by the hitter.

"I was trying to overpower guys," Matusz said. "That's when I learned you have to relax, try to hit spots, work down in the zone and you'll be successful."

Last year, he went 10-3 with a 2.85 ERA, 163 strikeouts (a school record) and 37 walks in 123 innings. He went 12-2 this season with a 1.58 ERA, 22 walks and a nation-leading 141 strikeouts in 105 innings.

Matusz may have saved his best for last. He pitched a three-hit shutout and struck out 10 in his final collegiate start, beating Cal 5-0 in last week's NCAA Tournament opener in Long Beach.

There were more than two dozen scouts in the stands at Blair Field to get a final glimpse of Matusz before the draft.

"In this type of environment and this type of stage, to do what he did was amazing," Hill said after the game. "He pitches in front of general managers and owners of major league baseball teams. And he's locked in."

"He does not attach anything to an outing ever. He has the huge ability to detach from any kind of consequence and what's going on around him and deal."

And approach each day as if it's his day.

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Crystal ball: Projecting first 30 picks

06/03/2008 10:00 AM ET

By Jonathan Mayo / MLB.com

We're just two days from the Draft and things are getting interesting.

There's still no clear-cut choice at the top of the first round, which makes figuring out the rest of it all the more challenging. But there are plenty of updates to be had in this version of the top 30 picks, with more promised for Wednesday and then, of course, the grand finale on Thursday morning. That's the one, if all goes well, that will be the closest to what actually transpires on Thursday afternoon. For now, here's the latest on the first round of the 2008 Draft.

1. Tampa Bay Rays: Tim Beckham, SS, Griffin HS, Griffin, Ga.

Officially, it's the same five who have been in the conversation all along: Beckham, FSU catcher Buster Posey, Southern California catcher Kyle Skipworth, Vanderbilt third baseman Pedro Alvarez and San Diego lefty Brian Matusz. Sticking with Beckham here, at least for the time being.

Last week's projection: Tim Beckham

2. Pittsburgh Pirates: Pedro Alvarez, 3B, Vanderbilt

No change here, with the Pirates still in line to make some waves by taking Alvarez. They'll still consider Posey and perhaps even Matusz if they feel they need to go with the top college pitcher.

Last week's projection: Alvarez

3. Kansas City Royals: Eric Hosmer, 1B, American Heritage HS, Plantation, Fla.

Hosmer remains the top choice here, but if the Pirates pass on Alvarez, he would be a consideration. If they decide to go with pitching, Matusz is still in the mix.

Last week's projection: Hosmer

4. Baltimore Orioles: Aaron Crow, RHP, University of Missouri

It's been up and down lately for the right-hander, who slid partially because of a mini-slump and partially because of some perceived demands for a big-league contract. He had a terrific start in the NCAA regionals and the big-league-deal request has reportedly been taken off the table. The O's will still consider Matusz as well as South Carolina first baseman Justin Smoak.

Last week's projection: Brian Matusz

5. San Francisco Giants: Buster Posey, C, Florida State

If the Rays don't take him and the Pirates take Alvarez, this is the next place Posey can end up. The Giants supposedly are leaning toward a bat even if Posey's gone, with Smoak and Skipworth being possibilities. If Matusz were around, they might discuss going in that direction, but they'll be pleased as punch to get the FSU catcher.

Last week's projection: Posey



6. Florida Marlins: Brian Matusz, LHP, University of San Diego

With the O's going with Crow, that leaves the Marlins with a choice of Matusz or Skipworth, the two players they seem to have been on the most. There was some late talk of Andrew Cashner here, but with Matusz still on the board, they won't hesitate to take the southpaw.

Last week's projection: Skipworth

7. Cincinnati Reds: Yonder Alonso, 1B, University of Miami

The Reds could consider Smoak, but word all along has been that they prefer Alonso. If they want a middle infielder, there's Georgia's Gordon Beckham. High school bats being considered could include Skipworth and Canadian Brett Lawrie. For now, we'll stick with the Miami first baseman.

Last week's projection: Alonso

8. Chicago White Sox: Gordon Beckham, SS, University of Georgia

They'll have interest in Alonso if the Reds don't take him and they might have interest in Skipworth if he's around. ASU's Brett Wallace still gets mentioned occasionally here, and Smoak could get some consideration, but G-Beck still makes the most sense in this slot.

Last week's projection: Gordon Beckham

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Rays' reversal of fortune extends to draft

By Paul White, USA TODAY

Baseball's amateur draft is designed to provide the most help to the weakest teams, but the Tampa Bay Rays could be in first place when they help themselves to the first pick this year.

The American League East-leading Rays, who picked first last year and earned the top pick for Thursday's draft by finishing with the major leagues' worst record last season, are the first team to have the top pick two years in a row.

The Rays aren't tipping their hand in a field without a consensus top pick. But while the rest of the Rays front office and scouting department was meeting in St. Petersburg, Fla., last weekend, area scout Milt Hill made the 135-mile round trip from his home to Griffin, Ga., to keep tabs on Tim Beckham, the Griffin High School shortstop who hit .677 this season and is among the candidates to be taken first.

Should the Rays opt not to select Beckham, most of the other top candidates are college players who could provide major league help sooner.

Other likely early picks:

- Florida State catcher Buster Posey, a slugger who also has been the Seminoles closer.
- Third baseman Pedro Alvarez of Vanderbilt, from where Tampa Bay took pitcher David Price with last year's first pick. Alvarez is unlikely to be No. 1 because the Rays recently signed rookie third baseman Evan Longoria to a long-term contract.
- University of San Diego pitcher Brian Matusz, a left-hander in a hitter-heavy draft.
- University of Georgia shortstop Gordon Beckham (no relation to Tim), who was the Southeastern Conference player of the year.

Contributing: Ray Glier

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The Oregonian

Amateur draft makes college coaches uneasy

Tuesday, June 03, 2008

The Oregonian

When the Tampa Bay Rays pick first Thursday in baseball's 2008 first-year player draft, it will signal the resolution of a reconnaissance marathon for major league scouts and a worrisome period for college coaches.

Whether the Rays pick Vanderbilt third baseman Pedro Alvarez; Brian Matusz, the polished and powerful left-hander from University of San Diego; or Tim Beckham, an athletic shortstop from Griffin, Ga., Tampa Bay should get a player who will make an impact on its young, talented roster.

Beckham has committed to USC, but it's doubtful he'll end up on campus in Los Angeles. There's too much money at stake. It is one of the wrinkles that makes college baseball recruiting a volatile and ever-changing exercise.

"Every year you expect things to happen in the draft, and you are not sure how things will turn out," Oregon State coach Pat Casey said. "I don't have any sense of what will happen. We try not to worry about it too much because we don't have any control over it."

As a college coach, however, you can't help but fret that your prized recruit will never arrive.

Casey has several in that category, including Niko Vasquez, a highly rated shortstop from Las Vegas. Baseball America rates Vasquez, who figures to be drafted in the top three rounds, as the No. 65 prospect.

Two Oregon State recruits from Iowa are likely to land in Corvallis. B.J. Hermsen, a 6-foot-6, 230-pound left-handed pitcher, broke his collarbone last fall playing quarterback. The injury seemed to affect his pitching velocity this spring, diminishing his draft status.

The other highly ranked Iowa recruit, Brent Warren of Cedar Rapids, has rebounded from open-heart surgery that threatened his life.

Last fall, a routine physical revealed a congenital defect in Warren's heart. His aortic valve was deformed and his aortic root was in danger of forming an aneurysm, a bubble in the body's biggest blood vessel that could burst with catastrophic results.

Warren underwent successful surgery at the Mayo Clinic in Rochester, Minn., and is back playing ball and expected to bring his sweet, smooth left-handed swing to Goss Stadium.

Oregon's revived program also will watch the two-day draft with keen interest. Ty Morrison of Tigard High School had a great season and raised his stock. He has committed to Oregon but could go high in the draft.

Interviews with professional scouts and coaches indicate that this is the thinnest field of draft prospects in the Pacific Northwest since about 1994.

"What that does is it gives guys the opportunity to turn over rocks and really bear down on some players

MLB Draft 2008: Who Should the Cincinnati Reds Take with the Seventh Pick?



Before dissecting the draft, we first need to dissect the Reds' needs.

The Cincinnati Reds are a powerhouse, full of young talent with tons of potential. The Reds have enough positional players (Dunn, Griffey, Bruce, Keppinger, Phillips, Votto, Encarnacion, Bako), but not enough pitching. Aaron Harang and Edinson Volquez are two of the best one-two starters in all of baseball. Arroyo is good but not great, and is a solid fifth starter.

With the seventh pick in this year's draft the Reds have a chance to nab southpaw Brian Matusz. In 2007, he went 10-3 with a 2.85 ERA with the University of San Diego Toreros. He was previously drafted fourth overall by the Los Angeles Angels, so you can expect him to be go high. I think that a seventh pick overall would be enough to grab him out of the pool.

The Reds already have an amazing pitcher in their farm system, one that many people forget about—Homer Bailey. This guy could possibly be the ace of the team in a couple of years. He had some seasoning last year as a fall call-up.

Bailey's arsenal, in conjunction with a pitcher like Matusz, would make the Reds' staff the best in the big leagues.

With that said, the Reds have a lot of potential. If they can nab a high-quality pitcher early on in the draft, then they might make they playoffs in a couple years. With All-Star caliber players like Griffey, Dunn, Harang, Volquez, and Bruce, the Reds are set offensively and defensively. With the draft of another ace, they would be set for pitching for years to come.

Go Reds! Thank you and have fun Reds fans.

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THE ENQUIRER

Last Updated: 12:27 pm | Thursday, June 5, 2008

Draft: Talent is top need

Position, shmosition; Reds say they'll go 'best available' route

BY JOHN FAY | JFAY@ENQUIRER.COM

PHILADELPHIA - Call it the Jay Bruce Philosophy. The Reds will pick the best player available today in the annual draft, regardless of position.

When they picked Bruce in the first round in 2005, no one saw outfield as a pressing need, but the Bruce pick worked out pretty well.

"You want to go for value," scouting director Chris Buckley said. "(General manager Walt Jocketty) can trade anybody. The needs right now for the Reds might not be the same as they are in three years."

The Reds pick seventh in the first round. Buckley said the club is focused on four players for that pick:

Brian Matusz, a left-handed pitcher from the University of San Diego: He is the No. 2-rated player in the draft overall by Baseball America. He was a fourth-round pick out of high school. He throws up to 93 mph, but his off-speed stuff sets him apart.

Buster Posey, a catcher from Florida State, rated No. 4 by BA: He's a converted shortstop. Baseball America calls him "one of the safest picks in this year's draft. His projection as an offensive catcher with Gold Glove-caliber defense has boosted Posey's draft stock as much as anyone's over the weeks leading up to the draft."

Gordon Beckham, a shortstop from Georgia, rated No. 6 by BA: His background is the same as Jeff Keppinger's. Beckham won the home run title last year in the prestigious Cape Cod League. He's been among the leading hitters in the NCAA, both in average and home runs.

Yonder Alonso, a first baseman from Miami (Fla.), rated No. 10 by BA: He drove in 69 runs as a freshman and hit .376 with 18 homers as a sophomore.

The Reds cleared a spot on their 40-man roster Wednesday, so if they offer the top pick a big-league contract, they have a place to put him.

The ability to sign players greatly affects the draft.

"We've been talking to agents, seeing where guys stand," Buckley said.

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Brewers sweep Mustangs

By *JEFF WINDMUELLER - Independent Record - 06/28/08*

The Helena Brewers got the game started off right and closed it even better Friday night as they swept Billings in a short, two-game series with an 8-2 win at Kindrick Legion Field.

Lead-off hitter John Delaney belted a home run over the left field fence to start the bottom of the first and Erik Komatsu brought in the winning run with a two-run double in the fifth inning, blasting the Brewers (5-6) to the easy win over the Mustangs (6-5) before 964 fans. Michael Vass added a three-run homer in the inning to put the game away.

The fact that the Brewers did it short-handed made it even more impressive.

Helena started Josh Romanski in his professional debut, though it probably wasn't under the circumstances he had hoped for. Drafted as a left-handed pitcher, Romanski, a product out of the University of San Diego, came in as the designated hitter, batting eighth in the lineup.

The Brewers, who started the season off with just 25 men on the roster, have suffered four injuries to position players in the last two weeks and were forced to start Romanski.

"Basically, I didn't have any other options. I couldn't put both of my catchers in the game, because if one goes down — it just seemed like the logical choice," said Brewers manager Rene Gonzales. "He's a good enough athlete, he played centerfield when he wasn't pitching at USD."

Romanski did a good job defending the plate, but finished without a hit, going 0-for-4.

It didn't seem to matter as the Brewers took advantage of one tired, and another wild pitcher in the bottom of the fifth to rally from a 2-1 deficit and score six runs.

Marseco got it started by walking on with a full-count and John Delaney followed it up taking a pitch in the upper arm.

With two men on, Erik Komatsu crushed a double off the right-centerfield wall to score both runners for the gamewinner.

The Mustangs relieved Justin Freeman to bring in Junior Martinez, but in four straight pitches, Martinez walked Chris Dennis. After the runners advanced on a balk, Brock Kjeldgaard brought Komatsu home with a sacrifice fly.


Corey Kemp walked and Vass put the game out of reach when he sent the ball flying over the centerfield wall, making it 6-2.

The Brewers scored once more in the seventh inning when Kjeldgaard came home on an RBI single by Jose Duran.

Gonzales said he liked the way his team swung the bats in the second half of the game. They had difficulty earlier on when, with no outs and runners on first and third, they were blanked in the third inning. Two of the batters flied out and another struck out swinging.



Norco grad Romanski ready to pitch, or hit, in the pros

 Download story podcast

11:53 PM PDT on Wednesday, June 4, 2008

By **JERRY SOIFER**
The Press-Enterprise

NORCO - Josh Romanski has been both a pitcher and outfielder since he stepped on a baseball diamond at age 4.

He's been a star at both positions at every level from PONY League to high school at Norco, where he was Riverside County player of the year in 2005, to the University of San Diego, where he was a Louisville Slugger All-American this spring.

Now, Romanski figures to become a specialist, retiring either his bat or his pitcher's glove, perhaps depending on which team picks him today in the major league amateur draft. Romanski and USD coach Rich Hill say specialization will advance his path through the professional ranks.

The left-handed thrower and hitter is expected to be selected in an early round. The only suspense is whether he will be picked as a pitcher or an outfielder.

"I'd say half the teams like me as a pitcher and half like me as a hitter," said Romanski, 6 feet tall and 185 pounds.

Either way, Romanski says, "I'm looking forward to being able to focus all my attention in either pitching or hitting.

Story continues below



2007 / Special to The Press-Enterprise
Former Norco High standout Josh Romanski has a 24-3 pitching record in three years at the University of San Diego, and he's hit .315 as an outfielder. But he expects to play one position in the pros, and welcomes it. Playing two has "been kind of wearing on me," he says.

"It's fun, it's awesome to do both at such a high level, but it's tough mentally and it's tough physically. It's been kind of wearing on me for three years. I'm excited to get my pro career rolling and be able to master one of them."

Romanski had a 24-3 pitching record and a .315 batting average in his career at USD. Hill predicts Romanski will be selected as a pitcher in the third to the 12th rounds.

"He's got a tremendous future on the mound," Hill said. "His strong point is his bulldog mentality. He's an absolute gamer."

"He's got a very loose arm. He can throw three pitches for strikes. His arm action is extremely good; that arm whips through there. It creates tremendous arm speed. That makes his change-up so effective. The ball comes in on you and all of a sudden it has a parachute on it. The team that drafts him will be rewarded big time."

In 2005, Romanski turned down a \$500,000 signing bonus from the San Diego Padres, who drafted him in the 15th round, to play three years on scholarship for USD. He led the Toreros to the NCAA regionals this spring, pitching a no-hitter in a 12-0 win over Harvard on March 24.

Romanski had four hits in Sunday's 15-1 win over Fresno State in the NCAA regionals. However, Fresno State came back Monday to beat USD, 5-1, likely ending Romanski's college career.

Romanski said he has no regrets about spurning the pros in 2005.

"I was not ready for pro ball out of high school," he said. "I wasn't a big kid ... I felt that getting three years of college baseball under my belt allowed me to get more physical, get with a good (weight) lifting program. Playing college baseball was going to be the best way to reach my goal of getting to the major leagues."

Parcell said Romanski's relatively diminutive size has always been an issue. He predicted Romanski will be like David Eckstein, the smallish shortstop who won World Series titles with the Angels in 2002 and the St. Louis Cardinals in 2005.

"Because of his size, he's going to have to keep proving it," said Gary Parcell, Romanski's coach at Norco. "He's been to the top of every level he's played at."

Baseball has expanded Romanski's horizons. Last summer he traveled to Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, for the Pan American Games and to a world tournament in the Netherlands.

"It changes your view of the world," he said. "It makes me thankful I grew up in America. I appreciate smaller things (like) being able to drive a car -- having a vehicle, period -- (and) living in a house that has warm water."

Reach Jerry Soifer at 951-893-2112 or jsoifer@PE.com



Corona

Participants walk and remember at Relay for Life

Download story podcast

03:27 PM PDT on Sunday, June 15, 2008

By JERRY SOIFER
The Press-Enterprise

CORONA - Graduation was over. School was out. The parking lot of Santiago High, the largest school in the city of Corona, was nearly full Saturday before the start of the ninth annual Relay for Life.

An estimated 7,000 people were expected to take part in the 24-hour event that raises money for the American Cancer Society.

"It's going to be hot," said John Zickefoose, relay co-chairman. "It's not stopping anybody."

Story continues below



Jerry Soifer / The Press-Enterprise

Taking part in the Survivors lap of the Relay for Life are Corona residents Bryan Hartson, 41, his daughters, Ashley, 11, left, Kaitlynn, 10, and his son, Bryan Joseph, 1, in stroller. Bryan, Ashley, and Kaitlynn have had their colons removed because of a congenital form of cancer. Bryan Joseph is due to have his colon removed because a test has revealed he has the same cancer-related gene as his sisters and father.

Opening ceremonies included the presentation of colors, the release of a white dove by David and Carol Holmes, of Chino Hills, and a talk by Carolyn Bruzdinski, the Oakland-based chief mission delivery officer for the California division of the society, who said there are 10.8 million cancer survivors in the United States.

Her words were prelude to the survivors lap, featuring nearly 400 cancer survivors and their caregivers that opened the relay. Megan Roberts, a teacher at Corona Fundamental intermediate School, and Centennial High student Rene Redd, 17, performed a song in remembrance of Alexis Betancourt, a Santiago High student who died at 16 of leukemia in February.

Taking part in the survivors lap were Corona residents Bryan Hartson, 41, his daughters, Ashley, 11, and Kaitlynn, 10, and his son, Bryan Joseph, 1.

Hartson, Ashley, and Kaitlynn have had their colons removed because of a congenital form of cancer. Bryan Joseph is due to have his colon removed because a test has

revealed he has the same cancer-related gene as his sisters and father.

Bryan Hartson's father was 34 when cancer killed him.

"It's camaraderie with others that have gone through tough times," Bryan Hartson said. "You get choked up because you see so many people out here on the field. You realize you are not alone."

His wife, Patricia, walked the survivors lap as a caregiver and worked with the Washington Elementary School team of Corona, where she is a teacher.

Corona police Officer Jeff Glenn walked laps with his K-9 companion, "Gauss," a Czech shepherd, as part of the department's support for the fight against cancer.

Corona resident Josh Romanski, 21, bore a mixture of excitement and anxiety as he walked.

The Norco High graduate, who recently signed a professional baseball contract, wore two silver cancer awareness dog tags symbolic of the cancer his mother, Shelia, 45, and his grandfather, Matt Matthews, 68, of Scottsdale, Ariz., have battled.

Romanski said doctors recently found floating cancer cells in his mother.

About to start his pro career after playing at the University of San Diego for three years, Romanski said he wore his dog tags when he played baseball to support his relatives.

Corona residents Peggy Irey and Michelle Whieldon prepared the bags that held candles for the 9 p.m. luminaria ceremony that remembers cancer victims.

Norco High student Jessica Tejada, 14, Santiago student Marissa Valenzuela, 14, and Mira Loma resident Yanina Aguirre, 19, wore halos as symbols of their fundraising team. They also ate corn on the cob as they walked to promote what they were selling to raise funds.

The relay is scheduled to end today at 9 a.m.

Reach Jerry Soifer at 951-893-2112 or jsoifer@PE.com

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Pecina and Gelbrich Drafted on Day Two

Pecina goes in the eighth round and Gelbrich in the 35th round.

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June 8, 2008

SAN DIEGO, Calif. - Two more University of San Diego baseball players have been taken in the 2008 Major League Baseball draft with junior left-hander Ricardo Pecina being drafted in the eighth round by the Washington Nationals and senior catcher Logan Gelbrich being drafted by the San Diego Padres in the 35th round on the second day of the draft.

Pecina completed his career at USD with an overall record of 15-12 and a career ERA of 3.83. In 2008, Pecina helped lead USD to the WCC Championship and to the championship game of the Long Beach Regional. Pecina established himself as the mid-week starter and picked up impressive wins over Long Beach State, UC Irvine and UCLA. This season, Pecina had his most productive season as he posted a 6-4 record and had a 3.29 ERA.

Gelbrich played his entire four-year career in a Torero uniform and helped lead USD to the WCC Championship and into the championship game of the Long Beach Regional. For his career, Gelbrich hit .293 with 181 hits, 47 doubles, one triple, 15 home runs 34 RBI. Gelbrich is a two-time first-team All-WCC selection.

Ricardo Pecina was drafted in the eighth round by the Washington Nationals.



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June 9, 2008

SPORTS: Nationals' draft picks to join Lake Monsters

The Washington Nationals announced over the weekend the signing of 10 picks from the 2008 draft held last week, including six picks who are expected to report to the Vermont Lake Monsters.

Those six picks include four college left-handed pitchers and two college infielders. The pitchers are 8th round pick Ricardo Pecina out of the University of San Diego, 10th round selection Tommy Milone out of the University of Southern California, 12th round pick Will Atwood out of the University of South Carolina and 25th round selection Austin Garrett from the College of Charleston.

The two infielders who will report to Vermont are 17th round pick Jose Lozada from Bethune-Cookman University and 39th round selection James Keithley from the University of Texas-San Antonio.

Pecina was 6-4 with a 3.29 ERA for San Diego in 2008, while Milone 6-6 with a 3.51 ERA in 14 starts for USC this past season. Atwood finished 5-4 with a 5.25 ERA for South Carolina and Garrett was 6-2 with a 7.43 ERA for the College of Charleston.

Lozada hit .398 with 61 runs, seven homers, 57 RBI and was the Player of the Year in the Mid-Eastern Athletic Conference (MEAC) for Bethune-Cookman, while James Keithley hit .358 with a school-record 73 runs scored for UTSA in 2008.

Around 25 more players will be assigned to Vermont this week from the 2008 Draft and players currently in the Nationals Minor League system. The Lake Monsters hold their first practice Saturday and open the 2008 New York-Penn League season on June 17 at Centennial Field against Oneonta.



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BASEBALL: HUNTINGTON BEACH'S DRUMMOND PICKED IN ROUND 34 | MAIN | BASEBALL: SAN DIMAS' LEYLAND TAKEN BY RAYS IN ROUND 36 »

Baseball: Super agent Scott Boras' son Shane is drafted in Round 35

Shane Boras, the eldest son of baseball agent Scott Boras and a second baseman at JSerra High, was drafted by the St. Louis Cardinals Friday in the 35th round of Major League Baseball's first-year player draft with the 1,055th overall selection.

The analyst on MLB.com were joking that Shane was a casualty of the Boras effect.

Virgil Hill, an outfielder from Los Angeles Mission College by way of Valencia High, was selected 1,054th by the Oakland Athletics, and Mike Vass, an outfielder from Chapman University by way of Villa Park High and Cypress College, was selected by the Milwaukee Brewers with pick No. 1,058.

Logan Gelbrich, a catcher from the University of San Diego by way of St. Monica High, was taken 1,065th by the San Diego Padres.

If I've missed any of our local players who have been drafted out of college, let me know!

-- Jaime Cardenas

03:13 PM PT, Jun 6 2008 in L.A. County , Orange County , San Fernando Valley/North | [Permalink](#) | [Comments \(0\)](#) | [TrackBack \(0\)](#)

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- April 2008
- March 2008
- February 2008
- January 2008
- December 2007
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Giese showing Yankees he's no lemon

Posted by dbburke June 23, 2008 23:16PM

NEW YORK -- By Dan Giese's estimation, he'd made only three or four good pitches over the course of two months. It's a poor ratio by any measurement, and if he hadn't taken the proactive step of retiring before things got too bad, the writing was on the wall.

"I was awful," Giese said. "They probably would've fired me."

Luckily, a career at the Hoehn Honda in Carlsbad, Calif., wasn't his preferred line of work. Since he couldn't convince anyone to buy a car, a return to pitching was in order.

This was the summer of 2005 -- Giese, then 28, had retired from baseball because of a lack of professional mobility and a scary incident back home when his pregnant wife got into a minor car accident. The career minor-leaguer went the family-man route, making ends meet selling cars while wrapping up a degree at the University of San Diego.

"I was pretty desperate for a job because they weren't hiring too many guys without a degree," Giese said. "I only did it for two months, but it was probably the worst two months of my life."

Tom Sowles, a sales manager at Hoehn Honda, remembers Giese's stint being closer to 6-8 months. Giese, presumably, has blocked out some of the memories, but understood that the decision to work at the dealership wasn't a long-term move for the pitcher.

"He wasn't bad, he was certainly a nice young man," Sowles said. "I'm sure he would've become a real good salesman if he would've worked at it, but I don't think his heart was in it."

Being stuck in the minors since 1999, when he was drafted in the 34th round by the Red Sox, had admittedly taken its toll. But life in the "real world," as Giese calls it, never felt quite right. He called the Phillies, the organization he had last pitched for and was still under contract to, and asked to return.

After pitching 72 innings in the Philadelphia system in 2006, Giese finally got his major-league break last season when he pitched in eight games for the San Francisco Giants. He signed with the Yankees last November as a possible emergency arm for the bullpen.

Then Phil Hughes got hurt. And Ian Kennedy got hurt. And Chien-Ming Wang was possibly lost for the season. And Kei Igawa was ineffective. And Jeff Karstens was possibly worse. And Daniel McCutchen wasn't ready for the majors. And Joba Chamberlain needed a long reliever while he stretched out to become a starter.

Giese, 31, was so effective as Chamberlain's inning-filler (just one earned run through 7 1/3 innings) that he received a spot start on Saturday against the Cincinnati Reds, the first start of his career after 385 consecutive relief appearances. He gave up three runs through 6 2/3 innings, but all were unearned because of his own seventh-inning throwing error in a 6-0 loss. His ERA now stands at 0.64.

He and Darrell Rasner have been what Hughes and Kennedy were supposed to be: Effective arms at the back of the rotation to complement veterans Andy Pettitte and Mike Mussina.

Now, Giese is making a pitch to stay with the team when the bigger names get healthy. But, given how far he's come from dealing Hondas and scrapping in the minors for nearly a decade, it's not something he's going to stress too much about.

"I've got nothing to lose," Giese said. "Coming from my background, everything now is a blessing. ... When they tell me to pitch, I'm going to prepare for my day. If I'm worrying about who's coming off the disabled list, that'll just drive you nuts."

Rasner says he and Giese have benefited from coming in under the radar and not having to deal with the hype and public expectations guys like Hughes and Kennedy have to face as the team's top prospects.

"It's nice, but I have pretty high expectations of myself, too," Rasner said.

Giese, meanwhile, has filled the expectations of his peers. Pettitte said his performance on Saturday was exactly what the team needed.

"Like Danny did the other day, just go out there, relax, throw strikes and give us a chance," Pettitte said.

June 4, 2008

YANKEES NOTEBOOK

Newest Yankee Just Tries to Blend In

By TYLER KEPNER

Dan Giese had never been to Yankee Stadium before Tuesday, when he showed up five and a half hours before game time. Giese wanted to see the sights, and he noticed a group taking a tour of the ballpark. He tagged along a few feet behind, careful not to step out of line.

"I didn't want to get yelled at," he said.

Giese could have amazed the group by revealing himself as an actual Yankees pitcher, but the fans might not have believed him. Giese wore No. 74 in spring training and was not on the 40-man roster until joining the team Tuesday, when Scott Patterson was optioned to Class AAA Scranton/Wilkes-Barre.

But he earned his promotion — primarily as a long reliever behind Joba Chamberlain — by going 4-2 with a 1.98 earned run average for Scranton, allowing just 43 hits in 59 innings. Those are good numbers, but Giese, a veteran of five organizations who pitched for the San Francisco Giants last September, knows he will not cause a stir.

"I'm not someone who's going to come out and hit 100 on the radar gun," said Giese, who came in Tuesday in relief of Chamberlain with one out in the third inning. "I'm usually 88 to 90, around there. Joba has that electricity he brings to a game. I don't know if I have that 'wow' factor."

Giese, 31, attended the University of San Diego when Mark Prior was a student at University of San Diego high school. He works out every winter with Prior, who helped him make critical mechanical adjustments last winter.

Prior, the former star right-hander for the Chicago Cubs, is something of a cautionary tale. Organizations are placing more and more emphasis on regulating the workload of their prized young pitchers, as the Yankees are doing with Chamberlain, who turns 23 in September.

Prior pitched 234 2/3 innings in the regular season and postseason in 2003, the year he turned 23. He missed last season because of shoulder surgery and needs another operation that will cost him this season.

"He has no bitterness, no grudges," Giese said. "It's amazing how positive he is. He's 100 percent positive he's going to get back to where he was before."

NO CONCERN OVER TÁBATA According to Mark Newman, the Yankees' senior vice president for baseball operations, the latest disciplinary incident involving the top prospect José Tábata is not a cause for alarm within the organization.

Stadium is striking for Dan Giese

BY SEAN BRENNAN
DAILY NEWS SPORTS WRITER

Wednesday, June 4th 2008, 4:00 AM

The last few days for Dan Giese had been a whirlwind.

It began when the righthander was pulled from his Triple-A start for Scranton in Rochester after one inning Sunday night and told he was heading to New York. It continued yesterday when, having never set foot inside Yankee Stadium before, he took the time to soak in the history and the mystique.

So how did Giese spend his first hours at the House That Ruth Built? Why, cheating the Yankees out of \$20, of course.

"I got to the Stadium around 1:30 p.m. and there was a tour group going around," said Giese. "So I just kind of trailed behind them a bit, just following them around. I went into the monuments and just walking around the bullpen and stuff like that. Man it was awesome. You know I've always seen (the Stadium) on TV and it's larger than life. But actually being here gave me goose bumps, that's for sure. That's what this stadium does to you. It really is neat to be able to say I was here for the last year. It's really special."

Giese, 31, pitched effectively in his first Yankees stint, allowing a run on five hits in 3-2/3innings in relief of Joba Chamberlain. But despite performing far better than the rest of the Yankees' beleaguered bullpen, Giese was tagged with the loss in the Yanks' 9-3 defeat to Toronto.

"It's better than a loss in the minor leagues," Giese said. "I mean I don't want to be part of a loss but this was a tough game and that's a good team."

Giese knew he'd be called upon when Chamberlain labored through a 38-pitch first inning. "I started preparing myself a little more, getting locked in mentally," Giese said. "But the first inning I went out there I was pretty nervous and the second time I went out I was nervous. But I settled down the last two."

Joba's Great Conversion lasted 2-1/3 innings before Giese got the call with one on in the third inning.

"I was just glad I gave 3-2/3 (innings) to save the bullpen, which was my job coming in," Giese said. "So I was happy with (the outing)."

Giese said it was tough being the one to follow Chamberlain Tuesday night.

"He has a way of electrifying a game," said Giese, who was born in Anaheim, Calif., and attended the University of San Diego. "When you see a guy throw that hard, it just 'Wow.' I don't know if I have a 'Wow' factor."

But pitching before more than 50,000 fans at Yankee Stadium was everything he hoped it would be.

"A sellout crowd, and to be able to pitch in it was great," Giese said.

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June 9, 2008

Mets minor league report

Jordan Abruzzo lightheartedly likened himself to the movie character Crash Davis after he declined to sign with the Red Sox - who drafted him in the 39th round in 2006 - and instead returned for his senior season at the University of Pennsylvania.

Imagine how the catcher feels now. Playing at the Mets' low-A affiliate in Savannah, he's just 23 years old. Yet that's a full five years older than the Sand Gnats' other catcher, Francisco Pena, the son of five-time All-Star Tony

"You kind of have to sit back and say, 'Wow, he's only 18,'" Abruzzo said. "It's going to be fun to see him grow."

The Savannah catchers will be the Sand Gnats' two representatives in the South Atlantic League All-Star Game on June 17 in Greensboro, N.C.

Abruzzo, who became his school's all-time hits leader during his final year at San Diego, passing ex-Yankee farmhand Kevin Reese, is hitting .315 with four homers and 25 RBI in 181 at-bats. Because Pena's development takes precedence, two-thirds of Abruzzo's starts have come at DH.

Mets brass has assigned a full-time catching instructor, Pedro Lopez, to Savannah, so Abruzzo works early every day on catching to offset his relative lack of activity behind the plate.

"The No. 1 thing I want to improve on is throwing guys out," Abruzzo said. "We work on our transfer times every day. I think we're headed in the right direction."

Becoming a catcher was a natural choice for Abruzzo. For one thing, he cites the family's lack of a speed gene. As significantly, both of his older brothers played the position - 38-year-old Spike (who legally changed his name from Travis as a teenager) at Palomar College and Fort Hays State, and 26-year-old Jared, a 2000 second-round pick, in the Angels and Rangers' systems. Jared's minor-league career, which reached Double-A, ended two years ago after he was converted to pitcher and required Tommy John elbow surgery.

Abruzzo, who picked up switch-hitting after launching homers from the left side of the plate while fooling around during batting practice as a sophomore in high school, suggested not signing with Boston had nothing to do with finances. As a late-round pick, he didn't think the Red Sox had plans for him. He instead changed his eating habits, dropped from 240 pounds to 215 pounds his senior year, which allowed him to become more agile, and then improved to a 13th-round pick by the Mets.

Hitting lefty remains a work-in-progress. He's hitting .385 from the right side of the plate, and .287 from the left side.

"The time playing summer ball in Illinois and the Cape Cod League really helped in my development from the left side," Abruzzo said. "I still have to stay on it every day."

This year, he even had an opportunity to meet fellow USD alum Reese, who retired from playing and became a Yankee scout. Reese approached him before a recent South Atlantic League game.

"He said, 'Thanks for breaking my record,'" Abruzzo recalled.

ORGANIZATIONAL LEADERS

Average: Mike Carp, Binghamton, .351; Daniel Murphy, Binghamton, .325; Jesus Feliciano, New Orleans, .322; Jordan Abruzzo, Savannah, .315; Chris Aguilu, New Orleans, .296; Nick Evans, Binghamton, .295; Lucas Duda, St. Lucie, .282; Fernando Martinez, Binghamton, .280; D.J. Wabick, St. Lucie, .274; Argenis Reyes, New Orleans, .271.

Homers: Chris Aguilu, New Orleans, 16; Valentino Pascucci, New Orleans, 11; Mike Carp, Binghamton, 9; Nick Evans, Binghamton, 9; Daniel Murphy, Binghamton, 8.

RBI: Daniel Murphy, Binghamton, 47; Mike Carp, Binghamton, 38; Lucas Duda, St. Lucie, 37; Chris Aguilu, New Orleans, 35; Jose Jimenez, Savannah, 35.

Steals: Greg Veloz, Savannah, 20; Ezequiel Carrera, St. Lucie, 12; Emmanuel Garcia, Binghamton, 10;



ADAM RUBIN

Adam Rubin has covered the Mets for the Daily News since 2003. He's a graduate of Mepham High School in Bellmore, Long Island, and the Wharton School at the University of Pennsylvania

CONTACT

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8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
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Whoa hoo!



Four RiverDogs, Tyson selected to All-Star team

Staff report
Tuesday, June 3, 2008

Avoiding injury was the key to a quartet of Charleston RiverDogs getting selected to play in the South Atlantic League All-Star Game.



Montero

The RiverDogs will be represented by catcher Jesus Montero, second baseman Justin Snyder, pitchers Jason Stephens and Jonathan Ortiz and manager Torre Tyson at the 2008 SAL All-Star Game on June 17 at NewEnergy Park in Greensboro, N.C., the league announced Monday. They will play on the Southern Division roster.

"I am happy for the four players who are getting this opportunity to represent our team at the All-Star Game," Tyson said. "I also feel that we would have had more players deserving of the honor had they been able to stay healthy for more of the half."

Tyson has a good point. Third baseman Bradley Suttle and center fielder Abraham Almonte were among the statistical leaders at their respective positions before each succumbed to leg injuries.

Montero and Snyder were two of the few everyday players to avoid the team's injury bug in May, and they made the most of their playing time.

Montero will serve as the Southern Division's starting catcher, following a first half in which the 18-year-old put up potent offensive numbers. The Venezuelan native is rated as the sixth best overall prospect in the New York Yankees organization. He's hitting .308 with a team-leading six home runs, 40 RBIs and 35 runs scored.

Snyder has been selected as a utility infielder and has been one of the most consistent bats this season. The former University of San Diego star has started 55 games for Charleston and is hitting .303 with three home runs, 22 RBIs and 33 runs.

Stephens is in his first full season back from Tommy John surgery and started the season as a middle reliever. Injuries to two pitchers gave him an opportunity to show what he could do as a starter. The right-hander has a 2-2 record with a 1.64 ERA in 14 appearances, including five starts since joining the rotation on May 8.

Ortiz, signed by the Yankees as a non-drafted free agent in 2004, has been one of the premier closers in the league this season with 16 saves in 19 opportunities. He has a 1-1 record with a 1.69 ERA and is tied for the league lead with 24 appearances.

Tyson, in his second season as the RiverDogs' manager, will serve as a coach on the Southern Division team. It will be a bit of a homecoming for the Charleston skipper, as he played for the SAL's Greensboro Bats in the 2000 season, when the franchise was a New York Yankees affiliate.

"Personally, I am excited to get my first opportunity to coach in an All-Star Game," Tyson said. "This means a lot to me, especially because I played in Greensboro. I'm sure it will bring back a lot of great memories."

The Asheville Tourists had seven players selected to the Southern team which will be managed by Asheville's Joe Mikulik.

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June 22, 2008

Singleton goes from All-Star in Beloit to Miracle

By *DAVID DORSEY*
ddorsey@news-press.com

As Steve Singleton Sr. sat on a Chicago-bound airplane, on his way to watch his son's scheduled appearance in the Midwest League All-Star Game, Steve Singleton Jr. learned that he would not be playing in it.

The Oakland, Calif., native had been promoted from low-Class A Beloit, Wis., to the high-Class A Fort Myers Miracle of the Florida State League.

So instead of playing in the All-Star Game on Tuesday night in Midland, Mich., Singleton Jr. suited up in Dunedin, where the Miracle faced the Blue Jays.

"He was on the plane, so I couldn't even get ahold of him," Singleton Jr. said Thursday, shortly before he made his home debut for the Miracle at Hammond Stadium.

"I was heading to Detroit, and my flight connected in Chicago," Singleton Sr. said. "I got a text message from him. It said: 'Good news, bad news. The bad news: No All-Star Game. The good news: I'm being promoted and heading to Fort Myers.'
"I wanted to see him play in the All-Star Game. But the promotion probably excited me even more."

Singleton started at second base, his primary position, on Thursday and slugged a solo home run.

"Welcome to Hammond Stadium," Singleton Sr. said.

Listed at 5-foot-11 and 189 pounds, Singleton Jr., a left-handed hitter, played at the University of San Diego along with Miracle relief pitcher Anthony Slama.

The Twins chose Singleton, 22, in the 11th round of the 2006 draft.

"They started me at second base this year, and I got off to a good start," said Singleton, who hit .302 with six home runs, 32 RBI and two stolen bases during the first half of the season in Beloit.

"I'm improving on my defense from last year."

He showed that improvement Thursday, making two stellar defensive plays. Singleton admitted to having some mixed emotions about the timing of his promotion. "I would have like to have played in it," Singleton said of the All-Star Game. "But I'm here. I guess you could say it's a little bittersweet."

Singleton hit .271 with two homers, 30 RBI and eight stolen bases last season in Beloit. As a rookie in 2006, Singleton hit .340 with four home runs, 24 RBI and one steal for low-Class A Elizabethton, Tenn.

"He'll be batting leadoff a little bit," Miracle manager Jeff Smith said.

Singleton Sr. said that maybe next season his son could make the Florida State League All-Star Game — and actually get to play in it.

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Article published Jul 1, 2008

Carrying the lumber: The 2008 Sox are hitting at a furious pace

By Brent Stecker
World sports writer

WENATCHEE — Jimmy Patterson is the reason. So is Hawkins Gebbers. Brad Padia. Cameron Edman, too.

These players — and the rest of the Wenatchee AppleSox roster — are why the team holds the best record in the West Coast Collegiate Baseball League. And they're also why the team is hitting at a furious pace, second only to the 2004 squad that hit .326 for the season.

"It's just a better offensive team," AppleSox manager Ed Knaggs says. "You look at Cameron, Hawkins, Jimmy, Brad Padia. We just have guys that have more pop. We're lucky to have some guys that pack a little punch."

Those power hitters have turned in quite a season so far, helping the team average 0.4 home runs per game — ranking third among the nine teams Wenatchee has fielded since 2000 in that category.

"We have a lot of guys who can drive the ball," right fielder/pitcher Patterson says. "Teams usually have two or three power hitters, but we have four or five."

"We have quite a few guys who can hit the ball deep in the gap," second baseman Gebbers says. "It's nice, because we can score runs quick."

It's no surprise that Gebbers is in the middle of the offensive explosion. The third-year AppleSox player has one homer in league play and leads the team with 12 RBIs. He's third with a .360 batting average.

"(Gebbers) has always showed some power," Knaggs says. "You look at his lower body — he's just stronger and more mature."

Patterson has been setting the table for most of the season in the leadoff spot, and as a result he has a team-high 14 runs scored. He's currently on a 13-game hitting streak, and he also gave a preview of his power in Sunday's 5-4 win over Kelowna, hitting a leadoff homer over the wall in left field.

"(Patterson) generates a lot of power with his bat speed," Knaggs says of the freshman from Central Arizona Community College.

Catcher/designated hitter Padia has shown a flair for the dramatic by blowing open several games with key hits.

The soon-to-be freshman at the University of San Diego is batting .333 and has a homer and seven runs driven in.

"(Padia) has had some big at-bats," Knaggs said. "Certainly since he got here, he's been doing nothing but swinging the bat. He's an impressive young hitter, and the ball jumps off his bat, that's for sure."

And then there's cleanup hitter and third baseman Edman, who perhaps holds the most potential as a home run hitter.

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Cindy Fisher Receives Multi-Year Contract Extension

Head coach Cindy Fisher led USD back to the NCAA Tournament for the first time in eight years in 2008.

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June 27, 2008

SAN DIEGO, Calif. - The University of San Diego has announced that head women's basketball coach Cindy Fisher has received a multi-year contract extension.

"We are excited by the growth and progress in our women's basketball program and how Cindy Fisher has led us here," stated USD Executive Director of Athletics Ky Snyder. "Cindy has the future of Torero women's basket ball looking bright."

"The University of San Diego is an amazing institution," stated Fisher. "I feel very fortunate and blessed that this administration believes in my leadership and has extended my contract to continue to work with these outstanding student athletes and coaches everyday."

Fisher guided the Toreros back to the NCAA Tournament for the first time since 2000 as USD earned the West Coast Conference's automatic bid by winning the WCC Championship Tournament this past season. The Toreros, who opened conference play 0-5, finished strong in the second half of play as they went 7-2 down the stretch to finish in a tie for third in the WCC, then went on to upset top-seeded Gonzaga on in the WCC Championship game to earn the trip the "Big Dance."

Head coach Cindy Fisher has received a multi-year contract extension.

The Toreros' trip the NCAA Tournament marked the second consecutive season the Toreros have been in the post season under coach Fisher, which is a first in program history, as the Toreros made the program's first appearance in the WNIT in 2007.

Under Fisher's tutelage, the Toreros placed three players on the All-WCC lists this season highlighted by Amanda Ruyg and Amber Sprague being named first-team All-WCC. The third Torero to take home All-WCC honors was Sam Child, who was named to the All-WCC Freshman team.

Verizon Wireless' Lee Pauling puts his customers on the map. Roll over to see how.

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North County Times

June 28, 2008

USD extends Fisher's deal

The University of San Diego announced a multi-year contract extension for women's basketball coach Cindy Fisher on Friday, three months after she led the Toreros to their first NCAA tournament appearance in eight years.

In three seasons as USD's head coach, Fisher has guided her team to two postseason appearances. USD won a school-record 21 games and reached the Women's National Invitation Tournament in 2006-07. Fisher is 49-41 in her tenure at USD, but that includes a 9-19 record in her first season, 2005-06.

Terms of Fisher's extension weren't released.

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=== Fisher gets contract extension from San Diego ===

San Diego, CA (Sports Network) - The University of San Diego gave head women's basketball coach Cindy Fisher a multi-year contract extension Friday.

Fisher guided the Toreros back to the NCAA Tournament for the first time since 2000 as USD earned the West Coast Conference's automatic bid by winning the WCC Championship Tournament this past season. The Toreros began conference play 0-5, but finished strong in the second half.

The Toreros' trip the NCAA Tournament marked the second consecutive season the Toreros have been in the post season under Fisher, which is a first in program history. The Toreros made the program's first appearance in the WNIT in 2007.

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Fisher Gets Contract Extension From San Diego

POSTED: 2:44 am EDT June 28, 2008

San Diego, CA -- (Sports Network) - The University of San Diego gave head women's basketball coach Cindy Fisher a multi-year contract extension Friday.

Fisher guided the Toreros back to the NCAA Tournament for the first time since 2000 as USD earned the West Coast Conference's automatic bid by winning the WCC Championship Tournament this past season. The Toreros began conference play 0-5, but finished strong in the second half.

The Toreros' trip the NCAA Tournament marked the second consecutive season the Toreros have been in the post season under Fisher, which is a first in program history. The Toreros made the program's first appearance in the WNIT in 2007.

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Fisher Gets Contract Extension From San Diego

posted 12:34 am Sun June 29, 2008 -

from ABC 7 News - <http://www.wjla.com/news/stories/0608/531944.html>

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June 13, 2008

Satisfied by a tiny taste of fame

Spotlight on Toreros since March success

By Hank Wesch
STAFF WRITER

Bill Grier tells this story.

Not long after the incredible March run when he coached the USD men's basketball team to the West Coast Conference Tournament championship and an NCAA Tournament victory over Connecticut, Grier and his wife went out to dinner at a local restaurant with former UCLA coach-turned TV commentator Steve Lavin and his wife.

When Grier stepped away from the table for a moment, a waiter came over and asked discreetly: "Isn't that Steve Lavin?"

Grier tells it with a shrug and a laugh and professes to feel not in the least slighted. He has been in San Diego for only a little more than a year but has a pretty good read on his new hometown and USD's place on its sports radar screen.

"I've had a few more speaking engagements and things of that nature than a year ago, but my life hasn't changed much," Grier said recently. "Does it bother me? Not at all. I can still just be myself and enjoy friends, family and the city."

As an assistant at Gonzaga, Grier was a close witness to head coach Mark Few's rise to celebrity status in Spokane,



Since the Toreros made it to the NCAA Tournament, they've enjoyed increased recognition. Doug Beinc / Getty Images

Wash.

"While it can be very flattering, it can get almost annoying at times," Grier said. "Mark does a great job of being polite and giving everybody time, but I know there are times he probably wishes he didn't have that obligation."

It's one week short of 90 days since sophomore guard De'Jon Jackson hit the step-back jumper with 1.2 seconds remaining in overtime to beat UConn. Jackson was the only nonfreshman in the lineup at the time, junior standouts Brandon Johnson and Gyno Pomare having fouled out.

It galvanized the campus of the little university (enrollment 7,600) on the hill in Alcala Park and caught the fancy of the community at large. But since then, the Padres' season started and the club waned before showing possible signs of waxing lately. The Chargers generated interest for a week regarding what they'd do with the 27th pick in the NFL draft. And now the latest big event, the U.S. Open, has come to town.

In the days since USD's ride ended with a second-round loss to Western Kentucky, the players have enjoyed increased recognition, modest though it

might be by standards of NCAA Division I schools in other places. And they've been treated to congratulatory events like the one this week at the Hall of Champions, where the Toreros men's and women's teams were honored for their dual NCAA Tournament qualification.

"It's cool," said guard Brandon Johnson, the MVP of the WCC Tournament. "I think a lot more people know who we are when we go out places and show us more love."

"We go out and, especially if you're wearing clothes that say USD on them, people come up and say, 'Great team, great season,' things like that. We're glad people recognize the accomplishments."

Forward Rob Jones, a WCC All-Freshman Team selection, said he has received congratulatory messages from high school friends who have spread across the country with stories of how the USD win over UConn registered in that particular area.

And, on a trip home by Jones to the San Francisco Bay Area, a store clerk saw the name and said, "You play for San Diego, don't you?"

"People get us confused with State or even UCSD, but maybe there won't be as much of that now," Jones said. "It definitely feels good to think that we made a name for ourselves."

Gonzaga, Saint Mary's, San Diego Lead Charge for WCC

With the Missouri Valley Conference having a down season and conferences like the Pac-10 losing talent to the NBA Draft, Zack Farmer says the WCC has an opportunity to break through and get multiple bids into the NCAA Tournament again.



March 2009 should once again provide much excitement for the West Coast Conference, with Gonzaga, Saint Mary's and San Diego all vying for the NCAA Tournament next season.

It seems very odd for a small conference to be getting multiple bids, let alone three, but the WCC has proven that it can contend with the best of them. All three conference representatives had some very impressive wins last year.

Gonzaga held wins over Western Kentucky, Connecticut, and Saint Mary's. San Diego defeated Saint Mary's twice, beat Kentucky at Rupp Arena, and Gonzaga. Saint Mary's recorded wins against Oregon, San Diego State, Gonzaga, and Drake.

Gonzaga has been a tournament automatic for the past 11 years, and this does not look like it will change. The biggest factor for the Bulldogs' success next season was senior Jeremy Pargo returning to Gonzaga for his final season. The WCC Player of the Year averaged over 14 points and five assists per game.

The Bulldogs return everybody from last season except for David Pendergraft. Sophomore Austin Daye, who many believe to be a future NBA lottery pick, was in the running for WCC Freshman of the Year and shot over 50 percent from the field in his first year in Spokane.

Saint Mary's lost two key role players to graduation in seniors Todd Golden and Tron Smith, but they will return four of the starting five that won 25 games last season.

The Gaels' squad is highlighted by the possible Olympian, Patty Mills. The WCC Freshman of the Year led the Gaels in scoring, assists, and steals.

Moraga has become a second home to Australians, as the Gaels will run four Aussies with rumors of a fifth on the way. Seniors Carlin Hughes and Lucas Walker played pivotal roles for the Gaels' run to the NCAA Tournament.

Indiana transfer junior Ben Allen will provide a larger inside presence and offensive firepower, both of which Saint Mary's lacked last season.

San Diego returns their entire roster, and the theme of the WCC powers is stellar point guards. Senior point guard Brandon Johnson helped lead the Toreros to their first WCC Championship since 2003. Johnson also led the charge to the NCAA Tournament upset of fourth-seeded Connecticut.

The return of center Gyno Pomare is also huge for San Diego. He was an All-WCC First Team member, along with Johnson. Other key components for San Diego are Rob Jones and De'jon Jackson.

With the Missouri Valley Conference having a down season and conferences like the Pac-10 losing a great deal of talent to the NBA Draft, this opens the opportunity for the WCC to break through and get multiple bids to the NCAA Tournament.

Gonzaga is in most preseason top-25 rankings, with Saint Mary's and San Diego also getting consideration.

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ANDREW'S MAILBAG

June 18, 2008

More: Updated Preseason 2008-09 Top 25 | Early entry tracker

Any surprise contenders out there?

Andrew Skwara
 Daily Top College Basketball Staff Writer

This past season widely is viewed as "The Year of the Favorites," because all four No. 1 seeds in the NCAA Tournament reached the Final Four for the first time.

But rewind the Tournament a couple of rounds and it's a different story. Six of the teams that reached the Sweet 16 were not ranked in the AP preseason top 25: Davidson, Villanova, West Virginia, Western Kentucky, Wisconsin and Xavier.

Western Kentucky didn't receive a single vote.

West Virginia was picked 10th in its league.

Davidson and Xavier, which each advanced to the Elite Eight, had fewer votes than four teams who went on to miss the NCAA Tournament.

It is teams like that that give hope to a broader base of college hoops fans, each hoping his team is the next Davidson.

Who will be the sleepers in 2008-09? We select a number of candidates in this week's mailbag and address questions about which mid-major league will surprise next season, how to build an unproven mid-major program into a national power, if UCLA coach Ben Howland will win a national title soon, if highly touted recruit Samardo Samuels can replace David Padgett at Louisville and if our preseason top 25 has been tainted by an East Coast bias.

ANDREW'S MAILBAG

Surprise contenders

Can we get some sleeper teams for next season? What team outside of the (preseason) top 10 will have a chance at the national championship? What team will start outside the top 25 and be dangerous in March?

— Taylor from Clarksville, Tenn.

Unlike this past season, there don't appear to be many dominant teams out there. Outside of North Carolina, our preseason No. 1, every team has some big questions.

That's why I think a number of teams outside the top 10 could win it all. I'd start with Florida.

Three years ago, a sophomore-heavy Gators team began the season out of the top 25 and went on to capture the 2006 national title. The Gators, who likely will open the season somewhere between Nos. 15-25, have another talented crop of sophomores. Leading that group is versatile guard Nick Calathes, who I think is going to be a special player. Coach Billy Donovan will also have a wealth of talent to work with, thanks to the addition of the nation's No. 9 recruiting class. It is highlighted by big men Kenny Kadji and Eloy Vargas. The key is getting Kadji and Vargas to develop quickly so they can make up for the early entry loss of Marreese Speights.



Jack McClinton could help Miami make a run at the NCAA tournament next season.

Oklahoma will be a Final Four contender if five-star guard Willie Warren lives up to the hype as a freshman. With sophomore big man Blake Griffin surprising some by choosing to stay in school, he and Warren could form one of the nation's top inside-outside tandems.

I also like Gonzaga quite a bit. This will be the best blend of talent and experience that Bulldogs coach Mark Few has had, and that's saying something considering he has taken the program to nine consecutive NCAA Tournaments. Their biggest obstacle may be a fast-improving West Coast Conference that is probably the best he has seen.

As far as dangerous teams outside the top 25, watch out for Kentucky. I'm not entirely sold on the Wildcats, who are losing their top two guards (Ramel Bradley and Joe Crawford). But Billy Gillispie has shown a penchant for getting his previous teams to overachieve, and having powerful big man Patrick Patterson (the co-SEC Freshman of the Year along with Calathes last season) gives him a solid building block.

I don't know if Miami and San Diego will start out in the top 25, but I expect both to improve on their second-round appearances in the 2008 NCAA Tournament. The Hurricanes return their top five scorers and add five-star wing Dequan Jones. The Toreros return every key player.

And watch out for Wisconsin, another borderline top-25 team, as well. The Badgers have almost always exceeded expectations under coach Bo Ryan. With three starters back, Ryan has a solid base on which to build.

Banner year for C-USA

The Sun Belt surprised everyone by landing two bids to the NCAA Tournament last season. The Colonial did the same in 2006. What mid-major league will follow in those footsteps and surprise everyone in 2008-09?

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Posted on Sat, Jun. 14, 2008

Being a father to just his children wasn't enough

BY ANA VECIANA-SUAREZ

Playing basketball for his high school team and then for the University of San Diego, Ray Witt felt the absence of his father, murdered when he was just 3 years old.

"It was a time when seeing all these guys with their father was very, very hard," he recalls. "I knew what I didn't have, but I also knew I had all these strong feelings for a person I couldn't even remember."

Witt's father had been killed by a man who was after someone else. Though he was close to his three uncles, they lived in Detroit while Witt and his mother, Gail Conteh, a nurse, lived in California. The stories the family told about his handsome and social father were dear to Witt. He knew, for example, that his dad was a Vietnam vet, very athletic and that his family owned a successful electrical contracting company in St. Louis. Growing up, he vowed "to be the father my father couldn't be."

Witt, 37, a business consultant and financial manager in Weston, has gotten that chance several times over. In 1999, he married his high school sweetheart, Angela. They now have three children -- Ray Jr., 7, Bella, 5, Amia, 2 -- and a fourth on the way.

As soon as his children were born, Witt began practicing what he had learned from his uncles and coaches. "Every day I take bits and pieces from the men in my life," he says. From one uncle, a military man, he adopted a commitment to discipline. From another uncle, an entrepreneur, he took independence. From others, he received the love of sports. His son is into football, basketball and track. His daughter plays soccer.

Yet, being a father to the children in his household wasn't enough. He remembered the child he once was, the boy who yearned for a father he didn't have. Earlier this year, when he read *Quiet Strength*, the memoir by football coach Tony Dungy of the Indianapolis Colts, Witt recognized his calling.

Dungy had set up All Pro Dad (AllProDad.com), a national charity featuring NFL players, coaches and alumni speaking out on the importance of fatherhood. There are 640 All Pro Dad chapters in 40 states and in five countries, but there was none near Witt's area.

"I felt so connected with him," he says of Dungy's message. "There was this underlying theme about his connection to his family, the importance of his dad, the need for role models."

Witt spoke to his pastor, Wayne Lomax of The Fountain of Pembroke Pines, about opening a local chapter of All Pro Dads. Lomax thought Witt was the perfect man for a wonderful idea.

"Ray has a passion for strong families," Lomax says, "and not just for families where fathers aren't there, but also for vulnerable families that need help."

Adds wife Angela: "He's not content with mediocrity, with the way the world is. He wants to make it better. Everything he does is not only for us, but for anybody else he can help. If he has an extra dollar

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June 18, 2008

Idaho men's assistant Burns leaves for job at San Diego

MOSCOW - Idaho assistant men's basketball coach Mike Burns has accepted a position as an assistant on Bill Grier's staff at the University of San Diego.

Burns and his wife, Mary, cited the importance of being near family in southern California as a major factor in their decision.

"Coach Burns' departure is not a complete surprise," Idaho coach Don Verlin said. "Basketball is important in all of our lives, but doing what is best for your family is the most important thing. For their family to have the opportunity to be a part of their grandchildren's lives is a move we all thought they had to make."

NATIONAL POST

Heat name Fizedale assistant coach

PA SportsTicker

Published: Monday, June 16, 2008



David Fizedale
Getty Images

The Miami Heat welcomed back David Fizedale, naming the 34-year-old assistant coach on Friday.

Fizedale began his NBA career with the Heat in 1997-98, assisting in the team's video room. He went on to serve as an assistant with Golden State in 2003-04 before holding the same position with Atlanta the last four seasons.

"We're excited to welcome David back to the Heat organization,"

Miami coach Erik Spoelstra said: "He has proven to be a great teacher and has helped develop a number of young players in his 10 years of coaching on the professional and collegiate level. Additionally, his belief and familiarity with our culture is an added bonus."

Between his first stint with the Heat and his tour of duty with the Warriors, Fizedale held assistant coaching positions with the University of San Diego - his alma mater - and Fresno State.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

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David Fizdale returns to the Miami Heat as an assistant coach

3 days ago

MIAMI — The Miami Heat hired David Fizdale as an assistant coach Friday, bringing the 34-year-old back to where he began his NBA career.

Fizdale was an assistant in the Heat video room during the 1997-98 season - starting in almost the same position that new Heat head coach Erik Spoelstra did 13 years ago. He spent the past five seasons as an assistant with Golden State and Atlanta.

"He has proven to be a great teacher and has helped develop a number of young players in his 10 years of coaching on the professional and collegiate level," Spoelstra said. "Additionally, his belief and familiarity with our culture is an added bonus."

Fizdale has also worked as an assistant coach at Fresno State and the University of San Diego, his alma mater.

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HEAT Name David Fizdale Assistant Coach

MIAMI, 06/13 – The Miami HEAT announced today that they have hired David Fizdale as an assistant coach, returning the Los Angeles native to where he began his NBA career. Fizdale, who has served as an assistant coach for the past five seasons in Golden State and Atlanta, began his professional career assisting in the HEAT's video room during the 1997-98 season. Among his responsibilities in his new role he will be assisting in the areas of player development, scouting, game preparation and other duties assigned by Head Coach Erik Spoelstra.



"We're excited to welcome David back to the HEAT organization," said Spoelstra. "He has proven to be a great teacher and has helped developed a number of young players in his 10 years of coaching on the professional and collegiate level. Additionally, his belief and familiarity with our culture is an added bonus."

The 34-year old Fizdale returns to Miami after spending the past four seasons (2004-08) as an assistant coach with the Atlanta Hawks where he played an instrumental role in the development of their young players. He helped the Hawks increase their win total in each of the past three seasons and this year earn the franchise's first postseason appearance since 1990, before being eliminated in seven games in the opening round by the eventual Eastern Conference champion Boston Celtics. He began his NBA coaching career as an assistant coach with the Golden State Warriors for one season (2003-04).

Directly before joining the Warriors, Fizdale worked as an assistant coach for one season at Fresno State University (2002-03) where his responsibilities included player development and serving as the school's recruiting coordinator. After concluding his collegiate playing career and spending one year as the HEAT's video intern in 1997-98, he began his coaching career with a four-year stint (1998-2002) as an assistant coach at his alma mater, the University of San Diego. During his final year with the Toreros he was the top assistant for coach Brad Holland. While at USD, he was in charge of scheduling, served as the recruiting coordinator and worked in player development and on-court coaching.

A three-year starter at point guard while playing at the University of San Diego, Fizdale was selected to the All-West Coast Conference team after his senior season in 1996. He led the WCC in assists that season and ranked ninth nationally, averaging 7.0 assists per game. On two occasions he captured the Bugelli Leadership Award and was named the team MVP and Defensive Player of the Year as a senior. He also was named the school's outstanding sportsman of the year as a senior. Additionally, he is the school's all-time assist leader (465) and also owns the school single-season assist record (195 in 1995-96).

Born on June 10, 1974 in Los Angeles, CA, Fizdale earned a bachelor's degree in communications and a minor in sociology from San Diego in 1996. He is single and currently resides in Miami.

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Posted on Fri, Jun. 13, 2008

Hawks' assistant joins Heat coaching staff

Atlanta Hawks assistant coach David Fizdale, a former Heat assistant video coordinator, will join Erik Spoelstra's Heat coaching staff.

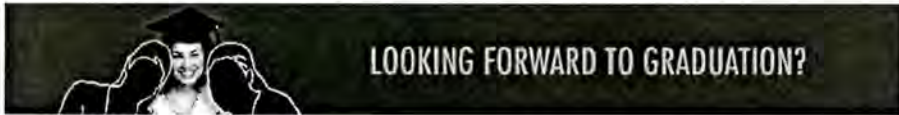
The Heat decided to hire Fizdale instead of having assistant Keith Askins move to the Heat's bench. Askins will remain behind the bench. Teams can have no more than three assistant coaches on the bench, and those will be lead assistant Ron Rothstein, Bob McAdoo and Fizdale.

Fizdale, 33, worked with Spoelstra on the Heat's video staff in 1997-98. He worked for the Hawks for four seasons and also served as an assistant at Fresno State, the University of San Diego (where he was an all-conference point guard) and the NBA's Golden State Warriors.

-- BARRY JACKSON

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Women's Soccer Releases 2008 Schedule

USD will open the season at home against defending national champion USC on Aug. 22.

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Senior Amy Epslan and the Toreros will look to win the WCC championship and return to the NCAA Tournament in 2008.

June 13, 2008

SAN DIEGO, Calif. - Fresh off a program-best 15-3-3 overall record in 2007 and a return to the NCAA postseason, the University of San Diego head women's soccer coach Ada Greenwood has released the 2008 schedule, which is highlighted by the opening match of the season against the defending national champion University of Southern California at Torero Stadium.

San Diego is slated to face five teams that competed in the 2007 NCAA playoffs, starting with the defending national champions USC on Aug. 22 at Torero Stadium. USC set numerous school records en route to the national championship a year ago, including most season victories (20) and fewest goals allowed in a season (13). The Women of Troy also set an NCAA record with five post-season shutouts.

Another big highlight for the Toreros will be their match at Southern California rival UCLA in Los Angeles on Oct. 5. The Toreros will also be in L.A. to compete in the UCLA Tournament against New Mexico on Sept. 19th then conclude play in the Tournament against Miami, who was an NCAA tournament qualifier a year ago.

Eight regular-season home matches are on the women's schedule in 2008. The five non-conference opponents will feature matches against UC Irvine (Aug. 31), La Salle (Sept. 12), UC Riverside (Sept. 26), and Idaho State (Sept. 28).

USD will then begin play in the ever so tough West Coast Conference, as the University of San Francisco comes to San Diego on Oct. 17 to kick off the home conference action. USD will also play host to Saint Mary's on Oct. 19 and will conclude the regular-season with a Nov. 8th match against national power Portland.

USD will play WCC road matches at Santa Clara (Oct. 12), Pepperdine (Oct. 24), Loyola Marymount (Oct. 26) and an Oct. 31st match against Gonzaga in Spokane, Wash.

The Toreros road matches will be involving four out of region teams, but all matches will be played on the West Coast. Besides the UCLA Tournament, the Toreros will compete in the Pepperdine Nike Challenge in Malibu. USD will open play against Northwestern on Sept. 5 at 1 p.m. and will conclude play in the Tournament on Sept. 7 against Iowa at 10:30 a.m. The Toreros will have one more non-conference match on the road against Cal State Bakersfield on Sept. 14.

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BACK TO SPORTS



Bolts help educate coaches

Monday, Jun 23, 2008

By Tom Shanahan, Chargers.com

This is the time of year when NFL players take time off before training camp opens; a time when players usually prefer to avoid the crowds and commitments that are heading their way in another long season. But Chargers veteran center Cory Withrow took part of his vacation time Saturday to speak to a full house of 287 youth football coaches.

The coaches attended the USA Football Youth Football Coaching Clinic hosted by the Chargers to receive their certificate to permit them to coach youth football in 2008.

Withrow spoke as more than the Chargers' nine-year NFL veteran who has filled in so well for the last two seasons as Pro Bowl center Nick Hardwick's backup. He spoke as someone who played youth football and has coached it. He said youth football changed the course of his life.

"I was a bad kid," Withrow said, "until a mentor picked me up and said, 'You can end up in jail or you can use your body for something good.'"

That was the beginning of his football career, although he admitted it was inauspicious. He was issued a different colored jersey than the one that was worn by his teammates and mismatched helmet when he first joined the team, a signal that he didn't see the field much.

Withrow emphasized the need to teach kids techniques, even at a young age. He told a story of a friend that was just lining up the kids with little instruction.

"The techniques are good for their career and they're also good for safety reasons," Withrow said. "If you're not teaching techniques, you're not helping kids; you're hurting them."

Withrow also relied on Chargers running back LaDainian Tomlinson as an example for coaches to encourage kids to follow. He was asked how to encourage kids to play the offensive line if they were reluctant to be cast in that role.

"When I was in college (Washington State), when our receivers scored a touchdown, they always waited in the end zone for the offensive linemen to come down and celebrate with them," Withrow said. "LT does the same thing with us. You point out to the offensive linemen that the one guy can't do it on his own. You have to do things like that to get kids to see the big picture."

Withrow, who started his career with the Cincinnati Bengals and played for the Minnesota Vikings, joined the Chargers in 2006. He played so well in a backup role he was signed to a three-year contract before the 2007 season.

When Hardwick was injured in Week 6 against the Oakland Raiders, Withrow replaced him and Tomlinson scored four touchdowns. Withrow started four games before Hardwick returned to the lineup.

The USA Football Coaching Clinic also included talks from San Diego State head coach Chuck Long, University of San Diego head coach Ron Caragher and former Chargers defensive coordinator Tom Bass, a long-time NFL assistant coach that organized the clinic for USA Football.

GMHS Football Giant More Than Just Muscle

Written by Alex Prewitt

Wednesday, 25 June 2008 22:35

Sitting in a chair on an ordinary Saturday night, you scan the room, quickly observing the faces squarely fixed on the television screen. A couple of scrawny high school students are sprawled out on the couch, but then your eyes are instantly drawn to him. The 6'1", 270 pound behemoth is whooping and hollering with the rest of them as his deft hands, glued to an Xbox controller, are efficiently downing any player's offensive in, of all things, Halo 3.

Austin Lucas, a 2008 graduate from George Mason High School, is the Atlas-sized teenager reigning over this video game kingdom. Players confidently thumb the analog sticks, positive that they can sneak past the giant's perch on top of the tower and maybe, just maybe, get a kill. Very rarely, though, does he let someone slip through his field of vision, as you're downed with one quick shot. A friend recalls his first encounter with the Halo master, when he walked into a house and thought, "Hey, who's the huge guy?" After about five minutes, he began thinking, "Hey, this huge guy is kicking my butt."



Afterwards, however, the gentle giant is the first one to help you rebound from the loss, offering you a brownie or a soda in truce. A philosophical and docile man, his amiable spirit illuminates the room, while his soft-spoken nature garners the respect of teammates and foes alike. He is described by his buddies as "better than probably everyone in the room [at Halo]," but with an innate sense of "fairness and modesty that always makes sure that everyone has a good time."

One would be hard-pressed to combine the sniper rifle-toting, energy sword-wielding gamer with the hauntingly massive football player who toed the football field at Moore Cadillac Stadium just one night prior. In fact, these talented individuals are one and the same.

The Virginia chapter of Lucas' story began in 2005 when he moved to Falls Church from San Antonio in the summer before his sophomore year at Mason, bringing with him an incredibly efficient work ethic and unmatched competitive drive which, combined with his knack for humility, has made him a standout both on the gridiron and in the community.

"I just think that I've been humbled by all my experiences," said Lucas, who has lived in four different countries and five states. "There's just someone out there who's always better, so I figure that I don't really need to tell people that I can do things, I just go out there and do it."

In the August leading up to his sophomore year, Lucas entered Coach Tom Horn's football program at George Mason, and was voted to the Leadership Council for the Mustangs after only two weeks with his new brethren.

Last fall, Lucas was an anchor on the offensive line for the 7-3 Mustang football team, carving pathways for one of the most successful Mustang rushing seasons in recent memory. Just like it is next to impossible to sneak by him in a friendly game of Halo, Lucas' size and surprising agility makes him a double-team all by himself to opposing linemen.

On the opposite end of the football, Lucas takes his stance at the nose tackle position, bullying his way past opposing centers for easy sacks on a defense which recorded three shutouts and allowed 20 or fewer points in eight out of their ten games. For his efforts, Lucas garnered first-team All-Bull Run, All-Region B, and All-State honors for group A.

In the spring, Lucas was a member of the boys' track & field team, finishing with All-District honors in the shot put and discus, and posting career best distances in both events at the Region B meet.

For the standout Mustang, the accolades did not stop there. At the spring sports banquet in early June, Lucas was awarded the Jack Gambill Scholarship by the Mason Athletic Boosters, given to one of the best male athletes at George Mason.

Lucas' extracurricular passion goes beyond the field, where he recently earned an Advanced Studies Diploma for George Mason and an Eagle Scout badge earlier this year - which he marks as his proudest accomplishment. Simply put, as the "About Me" section on Lucas' Facebook states, "Yes, I'm a huge geek."

In the midst of all garnered titles, Lucas remains humbled. With gaming and football being the "more superficial part" of Lucas' friendships, his friends describe his presence as "light-hearted" and "fun," recalling more notably, discussions about character and life integrity at a moment's notice.

"I find that it's so important to not take it too seriously. You know that you have to get stuff done, so you work hard, but it's still important to take in the experience. I just want to be focused, not narrow-minded."

Drawing away from the typical jock stereotype of football players, Lucas prefers to spend his weekends "owning noobs"-from what he simplified, means dominating in a video game and making the opposing players look foolish-and studying for upcoming exams.

By no means, though, does this detract from his skills on the gridiron. A quiet and focused leader, Lucas generally lets his standout play do all the talking. Former teammate Ryan Larcamp, a linebacker at Salisbury University, once said that Lucas was "the best offensive lineman I've ever seen at George Mason."

In just a few days, Lucas will pack up all of his athleticism, his affability and his scholarly nature and ship them across the country, where he will attend the University of San Diego next year to play football. The Division I-AA Toreros compete in the Pioneer Football League, where they have won two of the last three league titles.

"It's an overwhelming opportunity, being able to play college football," Lucas softly quipped. "When I think about it, it's just incredible. San Diego is such a great city and everyone there was so welcoming."

Whether he is remembered for the way he threw blocks on "99-Super Power" or the way he set up four televisions in one room for a 12-person Halo Party, Lucas should continue "owning noobs" throughout his four-year tenure at the University of San Diego, racking up multi-kills on Coagulation and paving the way for 1,000-yard rushers.

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June 26, 2008

Ching was Tiger-like in clutch to dominate 100th Manoa Cup

By Bill Kwon

Jay Hinazumi has been tournament director of the Manoa Cup at Oahu Country Club since 1991. In all these years, he has never seen a more impressive performance than what Alex Ching pulled off to win the 100th playing of Hawai'i's oldest golf tournament.

Ching, a recent Punahou School graduate who will enter the University of San Diego this fall, shot 29-under-par over 128 holes, including the qualifying round when his 5-under 66 shared medalist honors with four-time champion Brandan Kop.

Ching was only 1-under in his opening two matches — both 5-and-4 victories over Whitey Kaho'ohanohano and Ethan Wang. He then got hot, playing 6-under in beating Jared Sawada, 9 and 8, closing out the match by eagling the par-4 10th hole with a 25-foot putt. He was 8-under for 24 holes against Travis Toyama and 5-under against TJ Kua.

Ching threw nine birdies, six in the first 11 holes, at Jonathan Ota before their championship match ended at the par-3 11th, saving the 46-year-old Kaua'i native from having to hike up OCC's two steepest holes.

"Every time I looked up, he was this far from the hole," said Ota, holding his hands less than two feet apart. "I had to charge for birdies every time."

Ching posted 41 birdies and an eagle during the week.

"He had his A-game," said Hinazumi, who added that Ching's birdie putt at the 18th to survive the quarterfinal match against Toyama, a two-time winner, reminded him of the birdie putt at the 72nd hole that Tiger Woods had to make to win his third U.S. Open. It was a must-make putt for birdie to force a playoff with Rocco Mediate in their epic duel at Torrey Pines.

Tiger sank it and the rest is history.

Ching also made history by sinking his birdie putt of the same distance — 12 feet — to stay alive.

"That was the key. That was the biggest putt of the tournament," said Ching, who went on to beat Toyama, 1-up, in a stirring duel that went 24 holes. Ching then advanced with a 1-up victory in 19 holes over Kua in the semifinals later that afternoon. By comparison, his victory in the 36-hole final the next day over Ota was a cakewalk as the score indicated, 8 and 7.

"Actually, when I was walking up the fairway on that hole, I was thinking about Tiger Woods making that putt. Trying to do the same," said Ching, who had a nasty downhill, downgrain, downwind putt that broke right to left. The slick Oahu Country Club greens had a stimpmeter reading of 11, but it was easily 13 on Ching's roll to glory.

And what a roll it has been this year for the 18-year-old Ching, who didn't play high school golf until his senior year. He won the Interscholastic League of Honolulu and state golf titles, captured the Hickam Invitational and was the lone amateur in the Sony Open in Hawai'i. He can now add the Manoa Cup, which represents the state amateur match-play championship, to his resume.

<<Back


LIVE • LOCAL • LATE BREAKING

Alex Ching wins 100th Manoa Cup

Updated: June 22, 2008 01:15 AM PDT



Alex Ching

By Stephen Florino - bio | email

HONOLULU (KHNL) - Fellow golfers say 18-year old Alex Ching is the best amateur in the state. He proved it Saturday, by winning the 100th Manoa Cup.

We're only in June, but it's already Ching's year. He played in the Sony Open, won the ILH and state golf titles, and now, he can add the state's top amateur title to his collection.



Kurt Nino

With some help from defending champ Kurt Nino, Alex Ching puts on the green jacket, as champion of the 100th Manoa Cup.

"It felt good, me and Kurt are buddies, so, it's just good to be in that group of people," said Ching.

That group -- winners of the most prestigious golf trophy in the state. What's more impressive about the victory -- how he did it, dominating runner up Jonathan Ota, 8 and 7, in the 36 hole finale.



"He just was tearing up the course the whole week," said Ota. "Tried my best, was a little tired, so didn't have my a game, but he really played well. He's a deserving champion."

Home green advantage played a factor. Ching calls the Oahu Country Club his home course.

"It helped a lot," said Ching. "The pins were in tough situations, and you know, the greens were rolling, the edges were shaved, so you know, i knew i just had to go out there and play conservative and play aggressive at the same time."



That added up to a convincing victory, but it's not complete, until one last tradition.

"after he beat me, I told him, you not Manoa Cup champion until you go in the pool," said Ota.



Ota was among the group that tossed Ching in the pool.

"The past five days it's been raining and cold, so it was good that it was sunny and felt refreshing," said Ching.

Up next for Ching -- rest. He said he was up at 4:30 almost every morning this week, to make those 7:00 tee times.

The Punahou grad will then enjoy the rest of his summer, before starting college at the University of San Diego.



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USD's 2008-2009 Novice Rowing Team Tryouts

Contact Novice Coach Andrea Shook for more information

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Women's Novice Rowers

June 18, 2008

SAN DIEGO, Calif. -The University of San Diego Women's Rowing Program is in search of athletes for the '08-'09 novice walk-on team. Novice Rowers are generally students who have no rowing experience, but were often high school athletes who have the desire to continue their athletic careers competing as NCAA Division 1 student-athletes.

Rowing is a total body, intense workout that instills both mental and physical endurance in its participants. Although no experience is necessary to join the novice team, you will quickly develop the skills needed to train and race other universities across the country, while racing with your teammates and friends.

Anyone can learn to row! All female students at USD are eligible to tryout. Generally more athletic people begin with an advantage, but you will quickly notice a change in your level of fitness. Rowers come in all shapes and sizes, but the commonality they all share is a solid work ethic and a love for sports.

Unlike club sports that you will find on campus, rowing is an NCAA Division 1 sport, and there are no dues involved. The university funds rowing, so races, gear, equipment use, and travel are provided at no cost to you. Academic counselors, strength and conditioning coaches, and athletic trainers are also available to you as a student-athlete

to ensure you are able to do your best in the classroom and on the water.

Come give rowing a try! There are several ways to learn more about Novice Rowing:

- 1: Click on the "Want to Row?" button located on our main page or [CLICK HERE!](#)
- 2: Meet the Coaching staff during the Alcalá Bazaar on campus during the first week of school
- 3: Attend the informational meeting in September (Date TBA)
- 4: Email Novice Coach [Andrea Shook](#)

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Close

Women's National Team

U.S. WNT Set to Face Norway in Olympic Preview

United States Women's National Team

Notes from Fredrikstad, Norway

July 1, 2008

U.S. WOMEN TO FACE NORWAY ON JULY 2 IN OLYMPIC PREVIEW: The U.S. Women's National Team has been in Norway just four days, but after four trainings, the squad is ready to face its long-time rival on July 2 at Fredrikstad Stadium in Fredrikstad, Norway. The match kicks off at 6 p.m. local time (12 p.m. ET). Fans can follow the action from the 42nd meeting between the two countries on ussoccer.com's MatchTracker. This is the USA's shortest international excursion of the year as the team will be in Europe for just eight days. Following the Norway match, the U.S. team will travel the next morning to Skellefteå to face Sweden on July 5. While both the USA and Norway are unlikely to put all their cards on the table as they will meet just 32 days later on Aug. 6 in Qinhuaogdao, China, to open the Olympic Games, there are not too many secrets between these two teams. The players and coaches are quite familiar with each other, having met many times over the years. The teams met most recently at the Algarve Cup last March, a 4-0 victory that saw all four U.S. goals come in the second half, two of them on goalkeeping mistakes. The 13,000-seat Fredrikstad Stadium, which opened in 2007, will serve as an excellent venue for the match that will be just the USA's third-ever in Norway.

U.S. WNT Scandinavia Tour

Date	Opponent	Venue	City	Kickoff / ET
July 2	Norway	Fredrikstad Stadium	Fredrikstad, Norway	6 p.m. local / Noon ET
July 5	Sweden	Norrvala Stadium	Skellefteå, Sweden	5 p.m. local / 11 a.m. ET

FOUR FRIENDLIES LEFT IN RUN UP TO OLYMPICS: The two games in Europe start a run of four friendly matches for the U.S. women leading into the Olympic Games, the final two against Brazil. The USA defeated an less-than-full-strength Brazil side, 1-0, at the Peace Queen Cup in South Korea, but should be facing a more representative team in the two domestic matches against the South Americans on July 13 at Dick's Sporting Goods Park in Commerce City, Colo. (2 p.m. MT live on ESPN) and on July 16 at the University of San Diego's Torero Stadium (7 p.m. PT live on Fox Soccer Channel).

U.S. WNT Olympic Send-Off Matches

Date	Opponent	Venue	City	Kickoff / TV
July 13	Brazil	Dick's Sporting Goods Park	Commerce City, Colo.	2 p.m. MT / ESPN
July 16	Brazil	Torero Stadium	San Diego, Calif.	7 p.m. PT / Fox Soccer Channel

WAMBACH TWO AWAY FROM 100: With four matches left before the 2008 Olympics, U.S. forward Abby Wambach is approaching a unique milestone. At 98 career goals in 123 games, Wambach's prolific scoring rate – the best goals-to-game ratio in U.S. history in fact – puts her just two away from joining four other U.S. players in the 100 Goal Club. Mia Hamm (158), Kristine Lilly (129), Michelle Akers (105) and Tiffeny Milbrett (100) are four of eight players in the history of women's soccer to score 100 international goals. Wambach would be the ninth and one has to believe she will pass Milbrett and Akers at some point soon, before taking aim at Lilly, who may still have some international matches left in her after the birth of her first child due in July. At 28, Wambach has averaged about 18 goals a year for the past four years, but with the onset of the new professional league in 2009, the National Team may not play as many matches in the coming years. Still, with three years until the next World Cup and four years until the next Olympics, Hamm's world record 158 goals may not be out of reach.

FIRST MATCH IN NORWAY SINCE 2000: The U.S. women last played in Norway in 2000, playing the first game about 200 miles above the Arctic Circle in Tromso (1-1 draw), and the second in Oslo (1-2 loss). Those were the first-ever matches for the USA in Norway. While the USA is 22-18-2 all-time against Norway, the Americans have never won in Norway and could accomplish that feat for the first time on Wednesday night. The Norwegians actually own the best record against the USA of any team in the world. China has had the most success of any other team, defeating the USA eight times. Germany, Italy and Denmark have four all-time wins over the USA and Sweden and Canada have three each.

U.S. Women's National Team Roster**2008 Scandinavia Tour**

GOALKEEPERS (3): Nicole Barnhart (Gilbertsville, Pa.), Briana Scurry (Dayton, Minn.), Hope Solo (Richland, Wash.);

DEFENDERS (6): Rachel Buehler (Del Mar, Calif.), Lori Chalupny (St. Louis, Mo.), Stephanie Cox (Elk Grove, Calif.), Kate Markgraf (Bloomfield Hills, Mich.), Heather Mitts (Cincinnati, Ohio), Christie Rampone (Point Pleasant, N.J.);

MIDFIELDERS (8): Shannon Boxx (Redondo Beach, Calif.), Tobin Heath (Basking Ridge, N.J.), Angela Hucles (Virginia Beach, Va.), Carli Lloyd (Delran, N.J.), Heather O'Reilly (East Brunswick, N.J.), Lindsay Tarpley (Kalamazoo, Mich.), Aly Wagner (San Jose, Calif.), Kacey White (Arlington, Texas);

FORWARDS (4): Lauren Cheney (Indianapolis, Ind.), Natasha Kai (Kahuku, Hawaii), Amy Rodriguez (Lake Forest, Calif.), Abby Wambach (Rochester, N.Y.).

Norway Women's National Team Roster (Club)

GOALKEEPERS (3): Erika Skarbø (Arna-Bjørnar), Ingrid Hjelmseth (Asker), Christine Nilssen (Kolbotn);



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US National Teams

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Rodriguez Sinks Brazil

2008-06-17 16:22:26

The U.S. Women's National Team defeated Brazil, 1-0, on a 41st minute goal from forward Amy Rodriguez in a scrappy encounter at the 2008 Peace Queen Cup, giving the USA control of Group B and taking a major step toward a berth in the tournament's championship game.



The USA will face Italy on June 19 (5 p.m. local / 4 a.m. ET) in the final group match for both teams. A win or a tie for the USA will earn top honors in Group B and a berth to the June 21 championship game, likely against Canada, which currently heads Group A.

"I thought the first half was just a battle, so we changed the style and formation (in the second half)," said U.S. head coach Pia Sundhage. "We didn't play well attacking (in the first half), although the defending was good. I am very proud with the way we turned it around. We changed so many players and that is difficult for a team coming into the second half, but I think we played better."

This was the first meeting between the USA and Brazil since the 2007 FIFA Women's World Cup semifinal, a 4-0 Brazil victory. It was also the first of three games the USA will play against Brazil before the 2008 Olympics. The two teams will also meet on July 13 at Dick's Sporting Goods Park in Commerce City, Colo. (2 p.m. MT live on ESPN) and then again on July 18 at Torero Stadium on the campus of the University of San Diego (7 p.m. PT live Fox Soccer Channel).

The first half was virtually devoid of quality attacking chances as both teams struggled to find any rhythm in the midfield or on the forward line. The teams combined for just three shots in the first 45 minutes with each side producing just one shot on goal. Brazil's chance needed to be cleared off the line and the USA produced the game's only goal.

The U.S. score would not have come about without a gutsy play from forward Abby Wambach, who ran down a ball in the deep left corner that looked as if it would roll over the sideline, and then the end line, but somehow stayed on the field. Wambach jammed her body between Daniele and the ball and the Brazilian defender hauled her to the ground about four minutes from the end of the half.

Aly Wagner took the free kick from just a few yards in front of the corner flag and drilled a service low to the near post where several players collided, sending a Brazilian player rolling over the end line. The ball was suddenly sitting right in front of Rodriguez, who cracked a point-blank shot from almost no angle high towards the near post. Brazilian goalkeeper Barbara stuck a hand up, but could only palm the ball into the upper left corner of the net. For Rodriguez, it was her fourth international goal. The goal came from the USA's first shot of the game and its only shot of the first half.

Wambach also played a role in repelling Brazil's only chance, that coming about 20 minutes into the game after a corner kick from the right side was driven low to the near post. The USA cleared poorly and the ball rolled right to Fabiana, who wailed away from just six yards out. The low shot skidded under diving U.S. goalkeeper Hope Solo, but Wambach held her foot strong, the ball hitting her heel before rebounding out for another corner kick. The ensuing Brazilian service was also dangerous as Solo couldn't punch the ball, and it flew through the goal mouth without a Brazilian foot close enough to re-direct it.

Both teams lost key players in the early going as Brazilian captain Aline had to leave the match in just the seventh minute with an ankle injury. U.S. midfielder Carl Lloyd suffered a broken nose about 10 minutes into the game while jumping for a head ball and had to be replaced by Angela Hucles. The USA also lost captain Christie Rampone who came off at halftime after she injured an ankle just after the USA's goal.

Sundhage made three changes at halftime, sending on Heather O'Reilly to replace Wagner (who had started her first match in about eight months), Rachel Buehler to replace Rampone and Stephanie Cox to replace Lori Chalupny. The USA moved to a 4-5-1 for most of the second half, dropping Wambach in behind Rodriguez on the forward line.

The USA put together a better attacking performance in the second half, producing five shots and five corner kicks, but only two real scoring chances. The first came in the 57th minute when Wambach had a go from 40 yards out and sent a sizzling drive just outside the upper left corner of the goal.

Brazil came right back seconds later to produce one of its two good scoring opportunities of the second half, sending a long ball to the top of the penalty area. Solo came out and bashed into a few players as the ball squirted right across the penalty box. Fortunately, Cox was able to run it down and put some pressure on the ball, but Rosana was still able to crack a shot on frame. Cox allowed Solo time to recover back into the goal and the U.S. goalkeeper made a fine save, diving hard to her right to push the ball outside the post.

In the 78th minute, Brazil had a chance from a free kick from about 25 yards and just to the left of the penalty arc, but Solo gobbled up Maycon's shot with a solid catch at the upper left corner.

Solo had an excellent game for the USA although she had to make just two saves. She caught several high free kicks into the penalty area and came off her line numerous times to cut off long balls.

Brazil's speedy midfield did a fine job of pressuring the USA all over the field, making it hard for the Americans to find an attacking rhythm, but on the flip-side, the South Americans rarely clung together a sense of defeat either. The under-strength Brazil team, which use

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Time to try new formation

Affio Basile opted to use Lionel Messi, Sergio Aguiro and Julio Cruz on attack and a three-defender line in Argentina's friendly against Mexico.

The Argentine side practiced at the University of San Diego to warm-up for the clashes against Ecuador and Brazil at the South American 2010 World Cup Qualifiers.

Roberto Abbondanzieri, Nicolas Burdisso, Martin Demichelis, Gabriel Heinze, Javier Zanetti, Fernando Gago, Javier Mascherano, Maxi Rodriguez, Lionel Messi, Sergio Aguiro and Julio Cruz will start against Mexico.

Basile had announced in Buenos Aires, before heading to USA, he would try in this stage "some tactical variances", and the first is a three-defender formation, as he had always played with four on the back.

In turn, Martin Demichelis, at Bayern Munic, said "it is really important for the team to gather and work for 25 days before the Qualifiers. Basile has time to try new formations and this is good for the players too."

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Affio Basile begins tests with a three-defender

Affio Basile begins tests with a three-defender formation.

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Girls take on summer tournies

TWENTYNINE PALMS — The Twentynine Palms High School girls' summer basketball program, run through the Twentynine Palms Park and Recreation Department, has gotten off to a successful start.

The girls played in Cathedral City Fridays to Sundays, June 13 to 15 and June 20 to 22.

Coaches Tim Stanford and Luis Barraza have been pleased with the early success of the lady 'Cats.

Barraza said, that "as soon as the old meshes with the new, the ladies will be great!"

Combined on the two weekends the ladies had six wins and four losses.

Every team they beat on the two weekends has an enrollment of over 2,000 students including: Cathedral City, 44-15; Vista (San Diego) 44-35; and Redlands East Valley, 40-34.

They lost a close one to Mt. Miguel (San Diego) 36-43 and another game to an outstanding Arizona team 40-61.

On the second weekend the ladies beat Morse 42-30, Cathedral City 54-18, and Duarte 32-17.

They didn't do as well against Marina 29-47 and Penninsula 26-42.

The first weekend captain Haly Herrera, who is being scouted by some major universities, picked up an all tournament selection.

Also, on June 11 and 12 Herrera went to San Diego to participate in the University of San Diego's elite basketball camp and came away with the best defensive player in the camp award.

The second weekend captain Irie Engesser played extremely well, earning all tournament recognition.

Engesser has worked hard on her defense, shooting, and rebounding; she is becoming an outstanding post player. She led all scorers on the second weekend against some tough defenders, sometimes giving away some size.

Top scorers for the two weekends in order were Herrera, Engesser, Rayele Elmore, Erin Stanford, Marlene Goldsmith, Cherrie Schaut, Ashante Burton and Chezerae Bogan. Leading in assists was Herrera followed by Stanford.

Top rebounders in order were Engesser, Goldsmith, Bogan, Herrera, Elmore and Joeanna Aguirre. Also playing well for the lady 'Cats were: Daisy Chavez, Natalie Larsen and Ariel Sands.

The stats were compiled by Lisa Engesser who the coach called "a tireless worker for the Lady Wildcats."

-- CLOSE WINDOW --

June 5, 2008

Peak Performance Baseball Camps to be held this summer

Peak Performance Baseball will be holding two baseball camps this summer at the Wells Fargo field in 4S Ranch. Instruction will be given by Dave Bagley (RBHS & USD Alum & Los Angeles Dodgers Organization), Mike Oseguera (LCC & USD Alum & UCSD assistant Coach), and other former professional and college players. Ages 7-12 are welcome. Session 1: June 16-20, Session 2: July 9-11. For sign up and other information please visit our Web site at: www.peakperformance-baseball.com.

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