

## Sarah Rodrigues

**From:** University of San Diego [parents@sandiego.edu]  
**Sent:** Friday, January 25, 2008 9:36 AM  
**To:** Wolf@returnpath.bluehornet.com; Sarah Rodrigues  
**Subject:** University of San Diego - Family Newsletter - February 2008

from the Office of Parent Relations



Dear USD Families,

Happy 2008 to our USD families! We're looking forward to welcoming your students back to campus for the spring semester and offer a special welcome to new freshman and transfer student families. This newsletter will continue to be sent to you each month during the academic year, and you may also receive other special messages from us in between these newsletters. If you misplace this message, you can always find copies of past newsletters at [www.sandiego.edu/parents](http://www.sandiego.edu/parents).

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For parents of first year students, you may be amazed that your student's first year is already half over. Meanwhile, parents of students about to graduate are marveling at how fast the years have gone! We encourage all of you to be proud of your student's accomplishments, regardless of how many semesters they have under their belts at this point. The USD experience makes us all one community – and that sense of community is taking a prominent place in the buzz around campus these days. Construction crews are on campus and work has begun to make way for the new Student Life Pavilion, adjacent to the existing Hahn University Center. This facility will offer improved and expanded student services and the excitement is beginning to build as well! Please refer to the first article below for more information, and we're hoping you will share this update with your student, so they know what to expect when they return to campus.

Please remember our office is here to assist you. You can contact us by phone at (619) 260-4808, by email to [parents@sandiego.edu](mailto:parents@sandiego.edu) and you can visit us at [www.sandiego.edu/parents](http://www.sandiego.edu/parents). We look forward to seeing some of you at our Grandparents Weekend that will take place February 29-March 1.

Best wishes to you and your student for a successful spring 2008!

[Brent Wakefield](#) [Sarah Rodrigues '99, '05](#) [Christopher Coccagna '05](#)  
 Director Associate Director Executive Assistant



## Grandparents Weekend 2008

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### February 29 & March 1, 2008

We invite your family to take part in USD's 4th annual Grandparents Weekend, February 29 and March 1, 2008. Don't miss this opportunity for your USD student to share their university experience with their grandparents! Highlights will include attending student classes and a Grandparents Breakfast, with a special presentation by Rev. William R. Headley, C.S.Sp., dean of the Joan B. Kroc School of Peace Studies. Grandparents can tour campus in the comfort of USD shuttle vans, participate in a San Diego city tour and join their student for an afternoon Torero basketball game. For a complete Grandparents Weekend schedule and other details, [please click here](#).



Invitations for this year have already been sent directly to the grandparents. If you or your student has already submitted this information, you do not need to re-submit this information. If you would like your family's grandparents to be included in future events and mailings, please send an email with their names and mailing addresses along with the name of the USD student to [parents@sandiego.edu](mailto:parents@sandiego.edu). For this year, please refer family members to the [Grandparents Weekend website](#). Be sure that your family members RSVP for Grandparents Weekend by February 20, 2008.



## Take your Grandparents to Lunch for FREE!

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### Friday, February 29

USD Dining Services welcomes your family to campus! In honor of Grandparents Weekend, any student may take their grandparents to lunch for free in the Main Dining Room on Friday, February 29. The all-you-care-to-eat lunch buffet will be served from 11 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. Grandparents must be accompanied by a student with a valid USD ID. (Additional guests may pay with cash \$7.50, or campus cash \$7.00.)



## Student Life Pavilion

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Students returning to campus will notice USD's newest sign of progress and improvement. Just east of the Hahn University Center, progress has begun on the utility tie-ins for the "New Student Life Pavilion."

The opening is slated for fall of 2009. In the meantime, the University Center and its offices, dining spaces and other student resources are indeed open during the construction. It may be helpful to inform your student of this current project, and help ensure them that the services they are used to finding in the UC are still there!



This exciting space will be a four story, 50,000 square-foot space for student learning and engagement. The new building will house exciting new dining options accented by exhibition-style cooking and offering healthy cuisines. There will be a variety of flexible outdoor plazas and courtyards for gathering, dining, concerts and programming. A new Mercado will include organic groceries and a wide variety of sundries to enhance campus life.

The upper floors will include the Student Leadership and Involvement Center. Included will be space for the Associated Student Government, Student Organizations, Greek Life, an Honors Center, Multicultural Center, Women's Center and a unique rooftop terrace landscaped in an eco-friendly manner.

Stay tuned for more information as the project progresses!



## Join USD alumni to cheer on the Toreros

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The USD Alumni Association invites you to join the San Francisco Bay Area Chapter to support the Toreros! Join USD alumni and parents in the San Francisco area for Torero men's basketball games and pre-game

receptions.

Monday, February 11 at University of San Francisco  
6 p.m. Pre-Game Reception & 8 p.m. Game  
[Click here for additional details.](#)

Saturday, February 23 at Santa Clara  
5 p.m. Pre-Game Reception and 7 p.m. Game  
[Click here for additional details.](#)

For information, please call the Office of Alumni Relations at (619) 260-4819.



## New Student Transitions – Helpful Resources

By Carmen Vazquez  
Vice President, Student Affairs



Dear Torero Parents,

### Welcome to Spring Semester, 2008!

I trust your holidays went well and your students enjoyed family, friends and a brief respite from their studies. Thanks to all of you who take the time to not only read this column but also to let us know your thoughts.

“Turning Green” and focusing on sustainability is one of the major strategic directions USD is committed to. Did you know?

- Americans use 80,000 plastic bags every five seconds
- Americans throw out about 85% of office paper used
- There are 428,000 cell phones disposed of on a daily basis
- About 106,000 aluminum cans are used every 30 seconds
- USD recycles all types of paper.
- If you bring your own cup to one of our eateries and fill up, you save a dime and a tree



Bringing together faculty, students, student affairs administrators and staff, a task force has been formed under the leadership of Dr. Michael Boudrias, to examine what we are already doing at USD, what other schools are doing and to develop a sustainable strategic plan. Associated Students has also created a new position, director of sustainability, and sophomore Andrew Gorell is leading the way for students. If you have any ideas on the ways we may each make sustainability work on a personal basis, feel free to email me at [camenvazquez@sandiego.edu](mailto:camenvazquez@sandiego.edu) with your ideas and I will publish them in the March newsletter.



Wellness is always on the radar screen at USD. Dr. Melissa Halter has joined our team as the first Director of the **Center for Health and Wellness Promotion**. Dr. Halter is dedicated to engaging the campus community in the shared responsibility for campus wellness and in emphasizing the value of peer education. Melissa believes that when

students are involved in their education, credibility is enhanced, and students are more likely to engage in behavior change. With her talented staff the Center addresses topics such as nutrition, avoiding colds and flu, fitness, tobacco cessation, alcohol and other drugs and stress management. Encourage your student to stop by and visit the Center, meet the staff and check out the center's Web site at <http://www.sandiego.edu/chwp>.

**School spirit** is something we take seriously at USD and no where do you see school spirit shine more then when we have a big game. February 18, 2008 will see Torero Blue everywhere as the men's basketball team takes on their rival Gonzaga. Be sure and have your student join in on the many spirited events that are being planned through Student Activities.

One of USD's core values is it commitment to Community—the creation of a welcoming, inclusive and collaborative community accentuated by a spirit of freedom and charity. No where is this more recognized then with the **Grandparents** of our students. While President Jimmy Carter in 1978 proclaimed that Grandparents Day to be the first Sunday after Labor Day, we at USD are pleased to celebrate you during the weekend of Feb. 29, 2008. As one of my staff members, a new grandparent shared, "**Grandparents Listen With Love**". Not bound with the vicissitudes of daily parenting, grandparents are free to give, to listen and to cherish their grandchild. And so to our Torero grandparents, I salute you and thank you for being such an important part of your "grand student's" life.

In Torero Spirit,

**Carmen M. Vazquez**  
*Vice President for Student Affairs*



## Family Weekend Scheduled for October

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The next Family Weekend is taking place October 31 – November 2, 2008. We will soon begin meeting with the Family Weekend Student Committee, which provides ideas for events, prepares and distributes marketing materials, and volunteers to staff various aspects of the weekend's events. If you know a student who may be interested in participating in event preparations and volunteer opportunities during Family Weekend 2008, they can contact us at [parents@sandiego.edu](mailto:parents@sandiego.edu).



## Annual All Faith Service

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### **Thursday, February 7, 12:15 p.m.**

The Annual All-Faith Service will be held Thursday, February 7 at 12:15 p.m. in the Immaculata Church. All members of the USD community are invited to join in this celebration that will draw on the prayer traditions of several faiths to ask for blessing on the 2008 Spring Semester. The theme of this year's service is "Gathered in Prayer, Reverencing Creation." All are welcome.



## The Update is Going Green

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The Update is a monthly calendar of university events. Previously, parents and families in the San Diego area were receiving a printed version of this calendar in the mail. Beginning in February, as part of the university's ongoing efforts to use resources wisely, the *Update* will be distributed in an electronic format. USD will e-mail your *Update* directly to your e-mail address. To receive the *Update* in this new format, [please click here](#) and fill in the information form with your name and e-mail address. *Update* does not share these e-mail addresses with other organizations. Receiving *Update* is a great way to become informed about the wide variety of presentations, special events and other happenings on campus – and we encourage you to be sure your student is aware of these events. Parents and families are always welcome on campus, and perhaps you will see something in your *Update* that would interest your student as well!



## Plan Ahead for Commencement 2008

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Parents of students participating in Commencement weekend (May 24-25, 2008) may want to begin visiting [www.sandiego.edu/commencement](http://www.sandiego.edu/commencement) for information that will be updated throughout the coming months. If you have not done so already, you may want to read the letter to undergraduate students from the Provost, as it includes information you may be interested in as well. Parents and families will receive an information packet in the mail from our office in February. We will be sending this information to the permanent address on record for your student at the Registrar. It is important that your student keeps accurate address information on file with the Registrar. Congratulations to students and families in anticipation of this important accomplishment!



## New Passport Rules

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As you may know, there have been additional changes in rules regarding travel to Canada, Mexico, Bermuda and the Caribbean. When traveling by air, a passport or other valid travel document must be shown to enter or re-enter the United States. As of Jan. 31, 2008, for land and sea travel (including land borders such as Tijuana, Mexico), U.S. citizens must present a government-issued photo ID, such as a driver's license, **plus** proof of citizenship, such as a birth certificate. At a later date (to be announced) the proposed rules will require a U.S. passport, a U.S. passport card or other specified identification card.

Therefore, your students taking field trips or participating in ministry trips across the border will be able to do so without a passport if traveling by land, but they will need a valid document such as a birth certificate as of January 31, 2008.

Please click here for detailed explanation from the U.S. Department of State. ([http://travel.state.gov/travel/cbpmc/cbpmc\\_2223.html](http://travel.state.gov/travel/cbpmc/cbpmc_2223.html)) For additional information on obtaining a passport, please visit <http://travel.state.gov/passport>.

University Ministry offers a variety of opportunities for USD students to experience Tijuana, Mexico in a safe and educational way. One-day trips are planned for three Saturdays during the spring semester: February 2, April 5 and May 3, 2008. Also, during a portion of spring break (March 14-19), University Ministry facilitates a five-day immersion trip to Tijuana. To sign up for any of these programs, students should visit the University Ministry Center located in the University Center, Room 238, or call Kelly Martin at (619) 260-4897. For more information about University Ministry programs, including the Tijuana trips, please visit <http://www.sandiego.edu/administration/missionministry/>



## Important Dates to Remember

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- **February 25** – Start of 2008 on-campus Housing Sign-Up Process ([Contact Residential Life](#) for information (619) 260-4777)
- **March 17 – 24** – Easter/Spring Break, no classes
- **May 14 – 20** – Final exams ([Remember to use your student's class schedule to determine his or her individual exam schedule](#)).
- **May 24 – 25** – [Commencement Weekend](#)
- **June 2** – First day of first Summer Session ([Click here for more information on Summer Session 2007](#))
- **August 22** – Last day of last Summer Session
- **September 3** – First day of Fall Semester



## Torero Update

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Conference play is a great time to support all the Torero teams – and right now you can catch both the men's and women's basketball teams as they square off against West Coast Conference teams. Torero basketball games have live radio broadcast and some games are televised this season in the San Diego area and beyond. Visit [www.usdtoreros.com](http://www.usdtoreros.com) to check the schedule for a Torero game near you.

Other Torero teams competing this spring include men's and women's tennis and swimming. Softball and baseball are gearing up for their spring season openers. Visit [www.usdtoreros.com](http://www.usdtoreros.com) for schedules and ticket information.

Go Toreros!



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