

**USD TRANS-BORDER INSTITUTE
TBI GRANT COVERSHEET**

Please submit all grant materials with this form by **March 15, 2008**.
Please type or print (please use black or blue ink).

Project Title: Casa San Eugenio Dental Project

Main Contact: Ryan Brennan **Phone/Extension:** x5879 Cell: (480)593-4913

Department: University of San Diego Dental Club **Email Address:** ryanb-10@sandiego.edu

Preferred Mailing Address: 5998 Alcalá Park Unit 4134 San Diego, CA 92110

Co-Applicant(s) and Department(s):
USD American Medical Students Association, University of San Diego Spanish Department

Date(s) of Grant Research and Activities: Every other Saturday, starting Fall 2008

Total Amount Requested: \$7,000

Type of Grant (select one*): _____ Faculty Research; Other Border Activities

Brief Description of Project/Activities:

The University of San Diego Dental Club will begin a project assisting the Colonia La Morita in Tijuana, Mexico. The goal of the project is to send four to five USD students interested in dentistry together with a dentist from the San Diego area to Casa San Eugenio every other Saturday. Here, students will help the community by performing cleaning and sealants on patients and teaching and promoting oral healthcare to the area. Project outputs include a photography exhibit and a positive impact on the community.

Please list any additional funding sources and/or sponsors:

| Funder | Contact Information | Total Amount |
|------------------|----------------------------------|---|
| Patterson Dental | Shawn Sullivan (858) 678-3200 | Help with supplies such as toothbrushes, floss, etc. Amount not yet confirmed. |
| | | |
| | | |

For TBI's annual grant competition please submit all required materials by **March 15, 2008** (see grant guidelines). Requests for mini-grants may be submitted throughout the year. Please direct any questions or concerns about TBI's Grant Program to:

Charles Pope
Trans-Border Institute, IPJ 255
University of San Diego
San Diego CA 92110
cpope@sandiego.edu
Telephone: (619) 260-4090

Project abstract

The University of San Diego Dental Club will begin a project assisting the Colonia La Morita in Tijuana, Mexico. The goal of the project is to send four to five USD students interested in dentistry together with a dentist from the San Diego area to Casa San Eugenio every other Saturday. Here, students will help the community by performing cleaning and sealants on patients and teaching and promoting oral healthcare to the area.

From this project, I hope to put together a photography exhibit, which documents our progress and shows some of the border issues we will encounter. This project relates to the U.S.-Mexican border due to the difference we will encounter in healthcare service and availability of dental and medical care. This will also allow us explore the U.S.-Mexico bilateral relationship as it is related to healthcare. From this project, I hope that our club will be able to reach out to a community in need and learn about the U.S.-Mexican relationship while also practicing dentistry.

Project description

This project is designed with three goals. First, to aid the community in La Morita by providing dental care to the residents of the area. Second, to help students of the University of San Diego explore the field of dentistry in a hands-on environment while giving back to the community and learning cultural competency. Third, to explore the relationship between U.S. and Mexico through this project.

The primary objective of this project will be providing dental care to the community. In order to do this, I plan to find select dentists in the San Diego area to interested in community service. At the present time, I do not have a dentist committed, but am in the process of making such contacts. This will be the first part of the project. I will also need to find a faculty advisor from the University of San Diego to assist with the project. USD has instituted a policy that any project going to Tijuana must be accompanied by an advisor from USD. Finding an advisor to accompany our group on selected weekends will be included in the first part of the project.

Before trips can begin, supplies must also be ordered. I will be working with Patterson Dental in order to obtain needed dental supplies. I would like to bring toothbrushes, tooth paste, and floss for the community. We would also need supplies for teeth cleaning and sealants. The clinic has most of the tools we would need, but I would need to bring down cleaning paste, gauze, replaceable suction, and any other supplies the dentist suggests we supply. These supplies will be arranged for prior to the start of trips to the clinic.

Once, supplies, a dentist, and an advisor have been arranged, trips can begin. I would like for this stage of the process to occur at the start of the Fall 2008 school semester (September 2008). Elaine Elliott, Director of Community Service Learning, has offered the use of one of their vans for transportation to the clinic. However, we will still need insurance and gas for the van. The trips will run every other Saturday with four or five students from our club going along with an advisor and a dentist. Father Pablo has told me that they will be able to make an announcement to the community of our visits to allow patients to participate in the cleanings. The group will be at the clinic all day. My goal is for the students to get a hands-on dental experience while giving back to the community. I would like the dentist and Norma Mendoza, the dentist at Casa San Eugenio, to help supervise the students while they perform sealants and cleanings. The dentists would need to perform the more difficult procedures while students assist. One important factor for consideration in this project would be sanitation. Careful attention would need to be paid to this issue as diseases can easily be spread. Once the project is

up and running, I would like to continue to develop the program and expand it to new areas.

In this project I am also working to collaborate with USD's American Medical Student Association (AMSA) and the Spanish department. Translation skills will be critical to the students working with the prospective patients. Thus, I would like to work with the Spanish department to provide such translators for the trips. AMSA would also like to get involved by setting up a similar program with the health clinic at Casa San Eugenio. I would like to merge these two programs and make a joint trip with both medical and dental services for the community.

For this project, I hope to have two different outcomes. First, I hope to produce a photography exhibit on the project. This will be the more concrete output. Through my passion for photography, I hope to explore this project and the relation between the U.S. and Mexico. In this exhibit, I would like to expose the problem of healthcare in Mexico. I would also like to reflect how we are making a positive impact on the community and working to improve the situation. My second outcome would be to positively affect the community and students who attend the trips. Although less concrete, this outcome is equal or more important to the first. I hope the students will be able to gain cultural competency through these trips. I also want to aid the community through providing dental care and teaching dental hygiene. It would be my pleasure if residents looked forward to receiving our compassionate service. I hope this project can have a very positive effect on the community and help to address some of the issues related to the U.S. and Mexico.

This project would work to support the University and Trans-Border Institutes missions. The Trans-Border Institute was created "to promote an active role for the University in the cross-border community. Promoting USD's outreach to the cross-border community in a manner consistent with its nature, mission and values." This project fits this description perfectly in working with the cross-border community and exploring many issues related to this topic. The University mission states "preparing leaders dedicated to ethical conduct and compassionate service." Again, this project will promote this goal through compassionate service to the community of La Morita.

Supporting materials





Casa San Eugenio is a mission that is made up of a medical/dental clinic, a church, and a community center. This clinic and facilities provide the only medical facility for the 23,000 residents of Colonia La Morita. It also serves as a community center, a school, and a base of operations for improving the surrounding community. Casa San Eugenio, in fact, is built on top of a dump.

The Missionary Oblates consisting of one Oblate priest with the help of 2 seminarians founded the Mission of San Eugenio De Mazenod in 1997. At that time “La Morita” and the surrounding “colonias” was a sparsely populated area of a few thousand inhabitants who lived without most of the basic necessities of life. However since the year 2000, there has been a veritable explosion of people. Presently San Eugenio Mission comprises 14 chapels and/or centers where religious services, religious education and other community services, especially health services are being offered to a population of nearly 200,000 people.

However, San Eugenio Mission, despite its great growth in population continues to be one of the poorest parts of Tijuana. Most residents have migrated from other areas of Mexico in search of a better life, only to find a very harsh reality. What they found is work in assembly plants and factories that pay \$70 to \$120 in weekly wages – barely enough to support one person, let alone a family of four or more. Others survive on even less paying jobs.

In simple terms the challenge that faces the Missionary Oblates and three other congregations of religious Sisters who serve at the Mission, is to bring the Good News of Jesus Christ to this fast growing and sprawling area. In recent years the challenge of bringing the Gospel and evangelizing has been made more difficult as the once beautiful hillsides have become dotted literally with thousands of very small and compact track houses (“pichioneras”) whose living plan has been carefully laid out to extract as much economic gain as possible for the investors. This makes it almost impossible for the people to form any community life. Each large section of these track houses has been divided into small “closed-gate” communities called “privadas”. Also in these areas, hardly any land and space has been

allocated for adequate schools, churches and park areas. In other parts of the world, this type of housing would be called “housing projects”.

This anti-cultural approach of providing housing is beginning to create enormous social problems. First of all, family problems: To make the housing payments, both parents have to work. In many families the children are quickly becoming “latch key” kids who hardly ever see their parents because they are working in the “maquiladoras”. The influence of the gangs, drug dealers and other negative activity is fast on the rise and is being fomented by the physical outlay of these track houses. Also it has almost been impossible to secure any land to build a church or catechetical center in the areas of these track houses which now comprise almost 50% of San Eugenio Mission.

We are dealing with a population that is largely illiterate. Many parents have never been given the opportunity to study past the 5th or 6th grades and often as adults don't fully understand how important education is and will be in the lives of their children. The families most in need are those who have children who are mentally, emotionally and physically handicapped. The public school system in our area offers these families no resources and therefore most of these children stay at home often passing their time watching television.

While the challenges are great, the Oblates and the Pastoral Team of San Eugenio Mission believe that we need to act proactively before more areas of San Eugenio Mission are covered with these type of track houses and the people become even more disengaged from one another. The Church needs to become a community-forming and people-uniting force. The church must become a strong advocate for those who have little voice and whose basic needs are not being met. We would especially wish to make as our focus those who lack education and children with special need.

*Adapted from Pablo Wilhelm

Websites:

Casa San Eugenio:

www.lamorita.info

USD Dental Club:

<https://secureapp.icsrecruiter.com/ICS/CM/V1/Student/ClubFrameSet.aspx?ClubId=2437&uid=unsndg&mainmenulink=>

Contacts:

P Pablo Wilhelm, OMI

Iglesia de San Eugenio

1245 Fourth Ave

Chula Vista, CA 91911

Norma Mendoza – Casa San Eugenio Dentist

Norangely3@hotmail.com

Sister Martha – Head of Dental Clinic

casaneugeniodis@yahoo.com.mx

Project budget – Approximately 15 Trips

| Item | Cost (All Approximations) |
|---|---------------------------|
| Auto Insurance | \$400 |
| Gas | \$50 per trip = \$750 |
| Dental Supplies | \$5,000 |
| Photography supplies (Prints, frames, etc.) | \$200 |
| Water/Food for trips | \$50 per trip = \$750 |
| Total | \$7,100 |

Ryan T. Brennan

5998 Alcala Park, USD #4134
San Diego, CA 92110
480-593-4913 / ryanb-10@sandiego.edu

Personal Information: USD Sophomore Date of Birth: June 23, 1987 Place of Birth: Glenwood Springs, Colorado

Extracurricular: USD Activities -

Chief Photography Editor, USD *The Vista*. Compilation of photographs from the week's events for the weekly publication. Photographing of multiple events daily, including sporting events, conferences, speeches, student life activities, and special events. Pursuit of my passion for photography while being involved in school events. *Spring 2007 – Present*

Member, National Society of Collegiate Scholars USD Chapter. *Spring 2007 – Present*

Founder and President, USD Dental Club. Due to my personal experiences and interests in exploring the field of dentistry, I founded USD's Dental Club, and became its President. My intention was to help prepare, assist and educate students interested in a career in dentistry by providing leadership and community service opportunities in a cooperative, positive environment. *Fall 2006 – Present*

Team Captain, USD intramurals. Actively involved in the intramural sports program. *Fall 2006 – Present*

Photographer, USD Honors Newsletter. *Fall 2006 – Present*

Member, USD Ambassador's Club. Host overnight students seeking admission to USD, providing first-hand experience of university and campus life. I also work as a Pre-Dental Ambassador to advise future students interested in Dentistry by hosting them for the day. *Fall 2006 – Present*

Pre-Dental Peer Advisor. I work with the Pre-Health department to advise other students interested in a dental career. *Spring 2008-Present*

Member, Intervarsity Surf Club. *Fall 2006 – Present*

Member, Resident's Hall Association. Freshman organization in which I worked to plan activities and events for students in the residence halls. *Fall 2006 to Spring 2007*

Extracurricular: Non-USD Activities -

Accepted Participant, Summer Medical and Dental Education Program, University of Nebraska Medical Center. Selected to participate in program to prepare students for medical and dental professions, with an emphasis on serving underrepresented populations. *June – July 2008*

Internship, Dr. William Thomas Poway Braces Poway, CA (858) 748-6200. Interning with orthodontist, USD alumni, exploring the field and confirming my goal of becoming an orthodontist. *January 2008*

Internship, Dr. Collin Ito, Sonoran Dentistry, Phoenix, AZ 480-785-9191. Summer internship exploring and learning about the field of dentistry. *January 2006 to Present*

Published author, short story, Character for Tomorrow, Powerful Stories by Today's Young Men by James F. Warne. Compilation of student stories relating life-changing experiences that shaped their character. My story of service in Oaxaca, Mexico was selected for publication. *2006*.

Academic Awards and Honors Societies:

- Highest Academic Average, Sophomore Class, 2006/07
- USD Dept. of Chemistry Award - Outstanding Achievement in General Chemistry 2006/07
- First Honors, USD Office of the Dean, Fall 2006, Spring 2007
- Bishop Maher Catholic Leadership Scholarship, Fall 2006 & Fall 2007
- USD Trustee Scholarship, Fall 2006 to Present
- Brophy Preparatory H.S. Distinguished Student Award, 2006
- Brophy Preparatory H.S. Intellectually Competent Award, 2005
- National Honor Society and Spanish Honor Society

Employment:

Camino/Founders Hall, University of San Diego - *August 2007 to Present*

Resident Assistant, mentoring incoming freshman. I play a major role in the implementation of programs, policies and services that promote the mission of the university. As an RA, I am a resource person, peer counselor, and peer educator.

Copley Library, University of San Diego - *September 2006- May 2007*

Duties include all librarian functions. (619) 260-4600.

Countryside Animal Hospital, Tempe, Arizona - *August 2003 to July 2006*

Provide animal housing services for hospitalized or kenneled animals. (480) 775-9966.

Service on campus and in community:

- USD Campus Ministry – Food deliveries during San Diego fires at Qualcomm Park
- Eucharistic Minister, Founders Chapel, USD - Weekly
- St. Benedict's Catholic Community, Phoenix, Arizona
- Tijuana Spring Breakthrough – March 14-19 2008 University of San Diego University Ministry

References:

Carol Moffett
USD Director of Pre Health
5998 Alcalá Park ST-251
San Diego, CA 92110
619-260-2944

Dr. Collin N. Ito, D.M.D.
Sonoran Hills Dentistry
4909 E. Chandler Blvd. #501
Phoenix, AZ 85044
480-785-9191

Matthew Kuder, Resident Director
Camino/Founders
5998 Alcalá Park F293
San Diego, CA 92110
619-260-5709