Dear Torero Parents and Families,

Happy New Year! We hope your winter break was an enjoyable one and your year is off to a wonderful start. As students are getting settled back into campus life and academics, they'll most likely be readjusting to college life, having spent the last six weeks with family and friends. Please let us know if we can aid your student or you in this transition.

We'd also like to take a moment to welcome the new additions to the Torero family - Spring 2017 transfer students and families. We're happy you have decided to join the USD community and we look forward to working with you in the upcoming year. Please consider the Office of

FEATURES:

Register Now!
Grandparents' Weekend
February 24 - 25th

Register Now!
3rd Annual Be True to Your School Party and Auction
February 24th

Help a student and enter for a chance to win $5,000 or a San Diego Vacation Package

"Living Our Mission" Video Series

UPCOMING EVENTS

Mass for Peace
Every Wednesday at 9 p.m.

Founders Chapel Mass
Every Sunday at 7 and 9 p.m.

Financial aid applications for Summer 2017 available Wednesday, February 1

On-campus housing sign-ups begin
Wednesday, February 1

Groundhog Day
Thursday, February 2
Parent and Family Relations as a resource for any questions or concerns you may have.

The following newsletter includes information about upcoming events, student and family resources, and campus community updates. With exciting events such as Grandparents' Weekend and the Be True to Your School Party happening this month, we invite you to take some time and look through the stories. If you are interested in being a sponsor for our communications, you can email parents@sandiego.edu.

As always, let us know if we can help make your USD experience even better!

Cheers,

The Office of Parent and Family Relations

Renda ’86, Regina ’12, and Allyson ’16

A Message from Carmen Vazquez

Vice President, Student Affairs

Dear Torero Families,

We are excited to have our student community back on campus. As the spring semester begins, I am reminded of the significant impact families have on their students and how greatly we depend on your partnership. As our mutual commitment to supporting your students' academic and personal growth continues, I would like to encourage you to engage in dialogue with your student about their current academic status, level of active involvement in the USD community, and housing for next year. Click here to continue reading.

USD's 13th Annual Grandparents' Weekend

February 24th - 25th

A weekend for all family members, grandparents, parents, and friends. There is still time to register for the 13th Annual Grandparents’ Weekend! With a fun weekend planned, you won’t want to miss the opportunity to spend time with your student while enjoying all that the campus and San Diego have to offer. Whether you enjoy a painting class or would like to
see a play at the Old Globe Theatre in Balboa Park, the weekend will be an experience you won’t forget.

Click here to register for the weekend’s events.

***Pre-registration for events closes Tuesday, February 21st.***
year. Help support student scholarships!

Click here to register for the event.

***Pre-registration for the event closes Tuesday, February 21st.***

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### Financial Aid for the 2017-2018 Academic Year


### Financial Avenue Provides Online Financial Education for USD Students

The University of San Diego Office of Financial Aid has teamed with Inceptia, a nonprofit organization, to give students a head start on their financial education via Financial Avenue, an online program. This resource can help demystify the world of personal finance. It's all about empowering students with smart basics and good planning skills. With Inceptia’s money mascot, the Knowl, students have access to ten online courses that can help prepare them for financial success. Get started by setting up your private account at [https://fa.financialavenue.org/](https://fa.financialavenue.org/). Once there, just click the “Login” link at the top of the page, click to sign up as a student, and then provide the access code shown below. To create your account, you’ll need your USD email address and a password of your choosing.

**USD ACCESS CODES:**
Undergraduate students: Toreroundergrad

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**Join us for the Celebrate San Diego Rally**
University of San Diego's Online Graduate Education Program Ranked #22 in the Nation

SAN DIEGO (Jan. 10, 2017) – U.S. News & World Report has listed the University of San Diego’s online Master of Education program among the nation’s best in its 2017 ranking of online graduate education programs. USD ranked #22 out of nearly 250 schools in the 2017 U.S. News and World “Best Online Graduate Education Programs” report.

“The success of this program is a testament to how great teacher development happens in an online environment. The superb teaching in our great online program parallels our superb teaching in our face-to-face classes.” said Nicholas Ladany, dean of the School of Leadership and Education Sciences for USD. [Click here to continue reading.]

USD Student Health Insurance Requirement

New incoming full-time students for Spring 2017 are subject to the USD Student Health Insurance Requirement. If your student is incoming for Spring 2017, please work with them to learn how to enroll in or waive the plan. If no form is submitted, your student will remain enrolled and billed accordingly.

Travel While You’re Young
A Reflection on a Semester Abroad
Garrett Stollar ’18

Travel while you’re young . . . You have to study abroad . . . SAS was the best thing ever . . .

Looking back now, I am incredibly grateful that the times I was thinking
about not studying abroad were eventually drowned out by the many voices telling me I definitely needed to study abroad.

For the fall 2016 semester with the Semester at Sea program, I traveled to 15 countries: England, France, Germany, Greece, Italy, Spain, Morocco, Senegal, Brazil, Trinidad and Tobago, Panama, Peru, Ecuador, Costa Rica, and the United States. While in these countries I visited Santorini, the Pyrenees, the Sahara Desert, Pantanal, and Machu Picchu, to name a few. Click here to continue reading.

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**University Ministry at USD**

The University Ministry (UM) Team is here to serve your student! We provide a place for students to belong, to explore what they believe, and to become the people God has created them to be. Please encourage your student to get involved in one of the many exciting programs we have planned to kick off the new year. We have offerings designed to meet the particular needs of students at each step of their USD journey as well as to serve students of all faith backgrounds.

**Senior Seminar: February 3 - 4**

This special, on-campus experience, designed only for graduating seniors, will help those in the job search process, those thinking about graduate school, as well as those who have already figured out what they will be doing next year. Co-sponsored by the Career Development Center, Alumni Association, Student Affairs and University Ministry, the seminar helps students not only prepare for life after USD but also sets them up to get the absolute most out of their final semester in college. [www.sandiego.edu/senior](http://www.sandiego.edu/senior)

**Rachel’s Night Shelter: February 15**

Spend an evening preparing dinner for and then sharing fellowship with the women at Rachel’s Night Shelter, a program run by Catholic Charities. Transportation is provided. [www.sandiego.edu/rachels](http://www.sandiego.edu/rachels)

**Men@USD Leadership Retreat: February 17 - 19**

What does it mean to be a man? What does it mean to be a leader? What kind of man, and what kind of leader, do I most want to be? These are the core questions that we’ll explore during the men’s retreat. A team of USD faculty and administrators, including President Harris, will facilitate the retreat which will take place in Julian. A high ropes course
Confirmation
Catholic students who have not yet received the Sacrament of Confirmation are invited and encouraged to do so this spring. An intensive preparation process throughout the spring semester leads up to the Sacrament which will be celebrated by San Diego Bishop Robert McElroy on May 7th in Founders Chapel.

www.sandiego.edu/ministry/faith-formation/rcia-confirmation.php

Search Retreat: April 7 - 9
Focused on growing closer to God, Jesus, community and one's true self, the Search Retreat is one of our most cherished, and most popular, USD traditions. As the students tell one another, Search is definitely something your student should do before graduating.

www.sandiego.edu/search

For more information about these programs as well as a full listing of all that we offer, including our schedule of Masses in Founders Chapel, please visit our home page at www.sandiego.edu/ministry.

USD Participates in Honoring Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. at Local Parade

The city of San Diego celebrated and honored the legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. by hosting the 37th annual Martin Luther King Jr. Day Parade downtown on Sunday, January 15, which is the late civil rights leader’s birthday.

The University of San Diego contingent walked along with thousands of parade participants — including school marching bands, local organizations, colorful floats and other academic institutions — and interacted with the many spectators who lined the street along the
Embarcadero on a very nice, sunny, blue-sky day. Click here to continue reading.

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**Important Commencement Information**

For families of graduating seniors, make sure to check your email in the upcoming weeks for important information regarding your student's commencement. If you have any questions, please feel free to email parents@sandiego.edu.

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**Just One Contact - Your Referral is Needed**

The "Just One Contact" Initiative aims to connect students with industry professionals. If you or someone you know is interested in being an industry contact and resource for student internships and jobs, please contact Sheila Schaffzin in the Career Development Center by emailing her at sschaffzin@sandiego.edu or by calling (619) 260-4654. Just one contact can make a difference in a student's life.

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**USD Men's Basketball Works with PYBL Challenged Division**

USD students are Changemakers on campus, in the community, and on the court. Check out the recent video of the Torero men's basketball team visiting with the PYBL Challenged Division.

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*UniversityParent, "Set the stage for a successful second semester"*

Check out the following article by UniversityParent, which discusses the start to a new semester, and how students and parents can make it successful.
We all need to hit the restart button on our computer from time to time.

It gives the machine a chance to start up again and often work faster and with fewer problems. College students need a refresh sometimes, too, and the start of second semester can provide that opportunity. Click here to continue reading.