Dear USD Parents and Families,

The year has flown by! It seems like just yesterday everyone was getting settled back in for the fall semester. Now students are gearing up for the summer months - getting ready to head home, preparing for family vacations, or contemplating post-grad life.

The end of the month will be here before we know it. However, before summer can officially start, students will be finishing up those last-minute projects and preparing for finals.

In an effort to help you assist your student over the next month, we've included in this newsletter important academic and campus information you should be aware of.

FEATURES:

- Article: "This may be Politically Incorrect: This graduation weekend is (also) for us" Paul D. Riley, P'17
- Living Our Mission Video Series "Students Plan Purposeful Futures"
- USD PARENT CORPS Care Project
- Looking for a Place to Stay in San Diego? Consider Bartell Hotels

MAY EVENTS

- Mass for Peace is Every Wednesday at 9 p.m.
- Founders Chapel Mass is Every Sunday at 7 and 9 p.m.
- Cinco de Mayo Friday, May 5th
- Mother's Day Sunday, May 14th
- Mother’s Day Brunch Sunday, May 14th
- La Gran Terraza
- Last Day of Classes Monday, May 15th
- Finals Late Night Breakfast Monday, May 15th
If your student is graduating later this month, we'd like to take a moment to congratulate you and your Torero. We've enjoyed sharing the journey with you the past few years and we hope you'll continue to be active members of the USD family.

If your student is returning for the 2017-2018 academic year, we look forward to continuing the journey with you.

To all, have a wonderful, safe, and enjoyable summer spent with those you love. As always, if we can be of assistance, please email us at parents@sandiego.edu or call 619.260.4808 during normal business hours.

Best,

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

The Office of Parent and Family Relations
parents@sandiego.edu
619.260.4808

A Message from Carmen Vazquez
Vice President, Student Affairs

Dear Torero Families,

May brings an exciting time as our students look ahead to the culmination of their hard work over the course of the spring semester. The completion of coursework and finals bring a sense of accomplishment and pride while often bearing a level of stress. During the next few weeks, our students will need additional support and mentoring as they prepare for finals and manage summer transitions. At the same time, it is important to recognize the accomplishments of our community. As I collectively congratulate the USD community on a remarkable 2016 - 2017 academic year, I encourage you to take the time to congratulate your student on personal milestones and academic achievements. Continue reading . . .

Spring 2017 Finals Schedule

Spring 2017 final examinations are from Thursday, May 18th to Wednesday, May 24th. Click here to view the 2017 Finals Schedule.
Summer Wellness Services

As the 2016-2017 academic year comes to a close, we wanted to share important Wellness information with you regarding your student.

Summer Services for Returning Students

Students that are returning in fall 2017 who are involved in University-sanctioned or sponsored summer activities (athletics, summer courses, internships, research, summer housing, etc.) will have access to services at the Wellness Units (Center for Health and Wellness Promotion, Counseling Center, Disability and Learning Difference Resource Center and Student Health Center) over the summer. Visit the Student Health Center website for summer hours of operation.

Returning students not enrolled in university-sanctioned or sponsored activities during the summer, but who are otherwise registered to attend classes in the fall of the upcoming academic year can contact any of the Wellness Units if in need of guidance or referrals to the community.

Student Health Insurance Plan and Returning Students

Students currently enrolled in the annual student health insurance plan, can seek a referral from a clinician in the Student Health Center if they are in need of access to providers in the community and want to have their deductibles waived. Coverage for the annual plan ends on August 14, 2017.

If you want your student to have coverage starting August 15, 2017, they need to submit a new decision form to enroll. Students that do not want to be enrolled the 2017-18 plan, must submit a decision form to waive. You can enroll or waive starting June 14, 2017 and the deadline to complete this is September 15, 2017. If no form is submitted by the deadline you will remain enrolled and billed the annual premium. Visit www.sandiego.edu/healthinsurance to learn about how to enroll or waive.

Graduating Students

Congratulations as your student completes their studies! Alumni are not eligible to receive health and wellness services from the Wellness Units on campus, including referrals for waiving the student health insurance plan deductible. If your student needs a referral please ensure they connect with the Student Health Center prior to graduation. As you might be aware, health care benefits for the uninsured can cause financial hardships and we encourage you to please protect yourself and your family with affordable short-term plans. Click here to learn about options available to graduating students currently covered under the University plan and those covered through different insurance.

We wish your student the best as they finish this academic year and congratulations!

Sincerely,
Melissa Halter, PhD  
Assistant Vice President for Student Wellness  
Student Affairs

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**Dr. Gail F. Baker Named University of San Diego Provost and Vice President of Academic Affairs**  
(USD News Center  
Tuesday, April 11, 2017)

Gail F. Baker, Ph.D., a distinguished leader with more than 30 years of experience in higher education, has been appointed Provost and Vice President of Academic Affairs at the University of San Diego. Dr. Baker currently serves as Dean of the College of Communication, Fine Arts and Media and the Executive Associate to the Chancellor at the University of Nebraska Omaha. She will begin her leadership role at USD in July.

Baker will succeed Andrew T. Allen, Ph.D., who has served as vice president and provost since 2013. Dr. Baker was selected after an extensive national search that resulted in meetings with several highly qualified candidates including three finalists who visited the USD campus to meet trustees, faculty, staff and students. [Continue reading ...]

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**University Ministry Information**

The staff and student leaders of University Ministry are busy preparing for the final few weeks of the academic year. In early May we host our final [Tijuana Day Trip](#) of the year (held on Saturday, May 6th) and celebrate the [Sacrament of Confirmation](#) on Sunday, May 7th with our local Bishop.

University Ministry is also in the midst of planning for the beautiful USD tradition of the Candlelight Mass. Celebrated on the last Sunday of each semester, the Candlelight Mass is a fantastic way for students to gather together to give thanks for all the blessings of the semester and to pray for God's guidance in the weeks to come. An especially powerful moment for our graduating seniors, this spring's Mass will be on Sunday, May 21st at 9:00 p.m. in Founders Chapel. Students of all faiths are warmly welcomed and encouraged to attend.

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

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Having Trouble Obtaining Tax Data for Your 2017-2018 Financial Aid Award?

The Data Retrieval Tool (DRT) used to link IRS tax data to the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) is currently not available and is not expected to be functional until approximately October 2017. In lieu of the DRT, parents and students from whom 2015 tax data has been requested through the student’s Financial Aid Requirements will need to obtain a Tax Return Transcript (TRT) from the IRS. To order a TRT, call the IRS at 1-800-908-9946, use form 4506T-EZ at www.IRS.gov, or use the feature, “Get Transcript Online” at http://www.irs.gov/Individuals/Get-Transcript

If parents or students who filed 2015 taxes are having difficulty obtaining a copy of their TRT, they may instead submit a signed paper copy of the 2015 IRS Tax Return that was used by the tax filer for submission to the IRS.

Parents and students who did not file taxes but worked in 2015 are no longer required to submit a Verification of Nonfiling letter from the IRS. Instead, they may submit the Parent/Student Income Certification form along with copies of 2015 W-2s.

Please encourage students to check their portals regularly so they do not miss important information.

Paying it Forward: MacDonald Community Scholarship Begins in 2017-18
(USD News Center
Tuesday, April 4, 2017)

Scott MacDonald lost his father when he was young and grew up on a tight budget. When he applied for college he knew he’d have to pay his own way and says even though it was tough it wasn’t impossible.

Tuition at Indiana University was $360 a year. Room and board was about $500 a semester. He had part-time jobs during the school year and spent his summers working on the assembly line in a fiberglass factory in Chicago. For the most part he could cover the cost of his education on his own and graduated with only a small student loan.

Today, however, MacDonald says it’s not realistic to think a student could cover the cost of college on a part-time job. Today, students who are in what had been his situation, need scholarships and other forms of financial assistance. Continue reading . . .

Tips for Successful Shipments Home
USD Mail Center

- USD has a discount with FedEx Home/Ground. This includes lower prices for heavier packages, shipments that arrive in 5-7 working days, insurance for $100 or additional insurance options, and reliable shipping.
If the option is available to students, items sent by FedEx Ground to a business address generally cost less to mail than when shipped by FedEx Home service deliveries.

USPS and UPS shipping is offered at retail rates.

Pre-printed labels and "bill to 3rd party" accounts are accepted for all couriers.

Packages, including book rental returns, will be picked up by the courier the next business day.

Packages must weigh under 70lbs.

Students will need to find their own boxes (re-used in good condition is fine) or they can purchase them off campus (Office Depot, Storage facilities, or via on-line companies such as Uline, etc).

Tape is provided in the Mail Center.

Often times a laptop or other fragile item wrapped up and tucked into clothing in the middle of an over-stuffed box is not sufficiently protected.

Make sure the boxes are properly labeled (FedEx and UPS cannot deliver to P.O. Boxes)
Student Name/Business
Street Address
City, State, Zip Code

For international packages and further questions, please contact mailcenter@sandiego.edu.

It's Final Exam Time: What's a College Parent to Do?
(College Parent Central)

Check out this College Parent Central article on how parents can help their students during finals.

**Sometimes, it may seem as though one of the most difficult positions for a college parent to be in, is the situation when you know that your student is struggling and you feel as though you cannot do a lot to help. Sometimes final exam period may feel like one of those times. You can’t take the exams for your child. You may be too far away to help him study (and you probably shouldn’t be doing that at this point anyway). You know that your student is stressed, and exhausted, and you must simply stand back. Continue reading . . .**

A Senior's Look Back
A Reflection on a Torero's USD Experience
Arjun Majithia ‘17
I was initially drawn to the University of San Diego by the prospect of going to a smaller school that stressed the importance of bettering its students, not just academically, but as individuals and future leaders. As I soon learned upon arriving at this campus, the faculty and administration make every effort to provide the tools and resources necessary for success, and ensure students have the support to achieve their academic, personal, and career goals. Continue reading . . .

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**Care Packages**

Share your love and support all year long with the University of San Diego care package program. A care package is the best way to remind your Torero that Mom and Dad are thinking of them on a birthday, a holiday, and during final exams. Each of our care packages are loaded with all of your student's favorite snacks, including fresh baked cakes or cookies, fresh fruit, candy bars, and more! The best part is that you can include your own personal note to your student in every package. Don't just show them how much you care, tell them!

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**Second Year Student Leadership Experience**

This August, the Greater Than Yourself (GTY) Leadership Experience will be exclusively offered to second year students. This retreat-like experience is based on Steve Farber’s book by the same name. Greater Than Yourself is a free*, four day program that brings students together to learn leadership concepts and strategies, explore personal awareness and identity, and build campus relationships and alliances. Participants develop their knowledge of self and others, enhance their awareness of intergroup dynamics, and expand their “toolkit” of campus resources and involvement opportunities. Students return to campus relationships, organizations, and other involvements with new knowledge to promote understanding and networks for action.

Participants are able to return to campus housing early at no additional charge. Move-in day is Monday, August 28th, with the experience occurring August 29th - September 1st. Participants will also be members of the USD Welcome Team, greeting and assisting incoming students with the opening of Orientation and move-in day on September 1st.

The experience is free to accepted students, and includes meals, snacks, early housing, and materials. Participants must commit to the entire retreat experience - no late arrivals or early
departures. Failure to do so will result in a charge for early arrival housing on campus.

Mandy Womack, Director of Student Leadership and Engagement, awomack@sandiego.edu or Mayté Perez Franco, Director of the United Front Multicultural Center, mpf@sandiego.edu are available to answer any questions. Please encourage your current first-year students to participate this August!

Space is limited. Students can register now at: http://usd.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_a9s81k2DXI6nWWF

*Cancellations after June 1st will be billed the early arrival fee for on campus housing.*

**Summertime on Campus**

As students prepare for the end of the academic year, summer creeps onto campus. Whether it's the warm sunny days spent sitting outside on the Immaculata lawn or the beautiful sunsets visible from behind the Institute for Peace and Justice, the campus takes on a beautiful glow. Even if you can't be on campus at this time of the year, live vicariously through the beautiful photos of all the campus has to offer. Consider following USD on Instagram.