

Welcome, New Aztec Parents Association Members!

A special welcome and thank you to all new members of the Aztec Parents Association. Because you are attending Parent Orientation, you are automatically in the Aztec Parents Association. You are part of a dynamic volunteer organization dedicated to keeping parents involved in SDSU and to supporting programs and services for students.

Our goals are to provide a comprehensive "family experience" that links parents to the SDSU community; to provide communication between parents and the university; and to provide the university with additional funding through parent support and financial contributions.

In addition to receiving this newsletter, you'll receive other benefits throughout your membership, which lasts for the entire time your student is enrolled at SDSU. These benefits include:

- Special travel discounts on hotel and car reservations.
- Library benefits with the purchase of guest borrower cards.
- A special parents Web page through Career Services. This site is to give parents an idea of what their students should be doing to plan their careers and when to prepare for their job search. Parents can also utilize Career Services' many options for a minimal fee.
- Satisfaction! From knowing you actively support programs and services that directly benefit students. And the Aztec Parents Association keeps you informed so your student can take advantage of these opportunities.

New Student and Family Convocation on August 28

The Division of Student Affairs is hosting SDSU's New Student and Family Convocation this fall on the Sunday before classes begin. All new students and their families are invited to attend this ceremonial tradition to kick off the school year.

What is convocation? From the Latin root *convoco*, meaning calling together, Convocation brings new students and their families together with faculty and staff to mark a new beginning. Just as a graduation commencement ceremony serves as a ritual marking the completion of study, Convocation is a ritual to signal the beginning of a college career. Convocation and Commencement are bookends signifying traditional acknowledgement of milestones in the academic journey.

Students and families will be led to Cox Arena, followed by a processional of faculty, staff and students.

Convocation will begin with opening remarks from the Dean of Students, followed by presentations from Provost Nancy Marlin, Vice President for Student Affairs James Kitchen, Associated Students President Chris Manigault, Aztec Parents Advisory Board Members Dan and Lori Steinberg, and a welcome message from President Stephen Weber.

Be sure to mark your calendars for this no-cost event to welcome new students and their families to SDSU. We look forward to seeing you at New Student and Family Convocation on August 28 at 10:00 a.m.

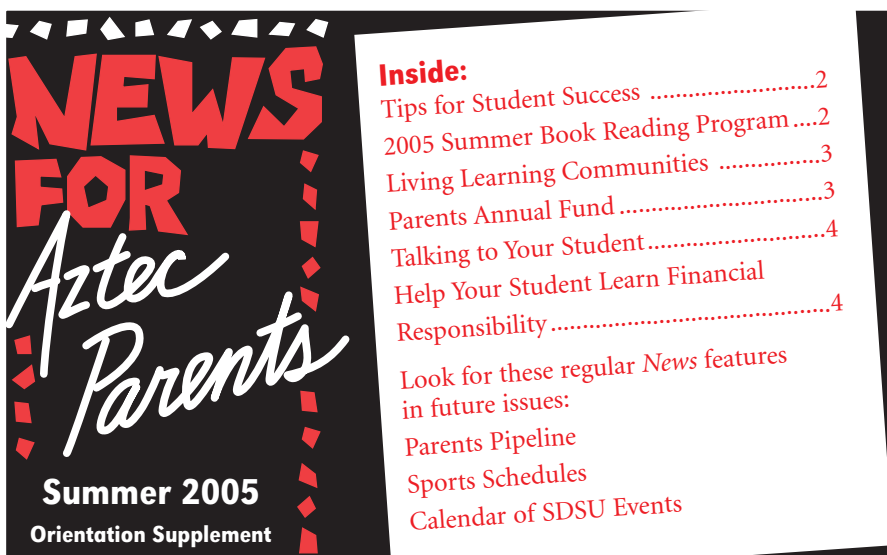


Now Parents Can Stay in Touch, Be Informed

This "mini-issue" of *News for Aztec Parents* is a gift to you from the Aztec Parents Association (APA). As a member of the APA, you will receive three larger issues each year, mailed directly to your home, to help you stay in touch with your student and be informed about what's going on at SDSU.

The sharing of information is of major importance to the building of a partnership between parents and the university. By joining the Aztec Parents Association and reading *News for Aztec Parents*, you will learn about special programs for students, help your student stay informed, find a voice with the administration, and receive needed guidance in making important decisions. Like most campus newsletters, *News for Aztec Parents* will keep you up-to-date about campus news and events. We hope that it will also encourage you to help your student adjust to change, find a direction, achieve his or her goals, and prepare for the future.

Visit www.sdsu.edu/aztecparents to learn more about the Aztec Parents Association.



Family Weekend 2005 Set for September 30 - October 1

SDSU's Family Weekend is a much-looked-forward-to annual event at the beginning of the fall semester. It's a special occasion when families of SDSU students are invited to visit the campus and experience university life.

The Aztec Parents Association sponsors the event in collaboration with Athletics, Aztec Shops, the library, residence halls, Associated Students, and others.

According to Dan and Lori Steinberg, Aztec Parents Advisory Board members and co-chairs of Family Weekend 2005, everyone is eager to make this a memorable weekend event.

"The university staff plans this weekend to provide events and activities of interest and entertainment for everyone," Dan said. "The opportunity to meet with other parents and family members, as

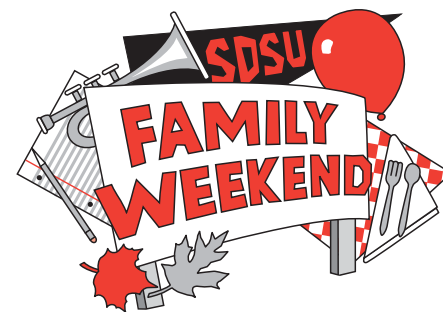
well as committed SDSU staff and administrators, is invaluable in making us and our students feel at home at SDSU. It also demonstrates to faculty, administration

and staff that parents are vitally concerned about and actively involved in ensuring that their students receive a high-quality education in a

safe, creative environment."

To experience your student's college home first hand, plan to attend Family Weekend 2005. You'll be able to dine with administrators, dance under the stars, cheer on the Aztecs at a football game, and enjoy spending time with your son or daughter.

Family Weekend 2005 registration information will be available online after July 1. Register at www.sdsu.edu/aztecparents.

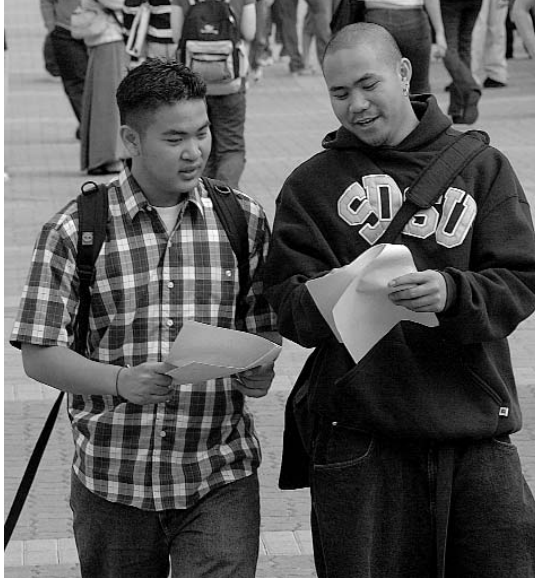


Vice President Kitchen's Tips for Student Success

It is part of the mission of the Division of Student Affairs to help students succeed. We offer programs and services to help students learn about their values, beliefs, strengths and limitations – who they are as persons – and to be true to themselves so that they can be productive as students and citizens in the community.

Generally, as students move from their first to their last year, they mature and go through various intellectual, educational and personal development experiences. The activities offered in the Division of Student Affairs help students develop competence through programs such as the Living Learning Communities, Career Services workshops, Freshman Leadership Connection and EOP tutoring. Students learn to manage emotions through our residential education programming and our Counseling and Psychological Services.

As part of the process of moving away from home and managing their educational expenses, students develop a sense of autonomy. Programs offered by the offices of



Financial Aid and Scholarships, Career Services, the International Student Center, Disabled Student Services and Residential Education are critical to facilitating their independence.

Student activities and student leadership programs, particularly those focused on exposing students to issues related to ethnic, cultural, gender and sexual orientation, are important avenues to helping students establish identity and develop the capacity for interpersonal relationships and for appreciation of differences.

The offices of Counseling and Psychological Services, Residential Education, Student Rights and

TIPS TO PASS ALONG TO YOUR STUDENT

- Learn about the resources available for you at SDSU and don't be shy about using them
- Seek out your professors during his/her office hours and introduce yourself
- Go over the syllabus for each course and ask for clarification of anything you don't understand; find out your professor's expectations for the class
- Learn to manage your time wisely
- Keep up with your reading on a daily basis
- Trade phone numbers with a classmate
- Begin assignments early and do research and writing gradually to avoid last-minute rushing
- Get plenty of sleep
- Participate in some type of daily physical activity to revitalize your energy
- Join a student club that interests you and build a network of friends on campus
- Participate in study skills and other programs offered by the Residential Education staff
- Take a library tour to familiarize yourself with everything available there
- Enhance your emotional intelligence by participating in some of the groups and workshops offered by Counseling & Psychological Services
- Ask for help before you are in crisis
- Remember, we're here to help you succeed!

Responsibilities, the Ombudsmen and Student Health Services support a student's ability to address personal development and interpersonal relationship issues in a positive, healthy manner and with integrity.

Students develop purpose through the counseling and services offered through Career Services, the Center for Community Based Service-Learning, EOP,

Counseling & Psychological Services, and through the sum total of their experiences and conversations as members of the SDSU community.

The programs and services within Student Affairs are designed to help students develop their full potential, enabling them to succeed in college and beyond.

SDSU Announces The 2005 Summer Reading Program

Many universities throughout the United States offer a summer reading program as a means of introducing incoming students to the intellectual life of the university. San Diego State University launched its first summer book reading program last summer.

"The mission of the Summer Reading Program is to welcome new students to SDSU's learning community," said Chris Procello, special assistant to the dean in the Division of Undergraduate Studies. "By involving all incoming students, the program comprises part of each student's orientation to the campus and provides a common experience for them as they transition to both university life and to SDSU."

Procello explained that one goal is to create an opportunity for students to participate in a dialogue around a book and current topics.

"There will be many opportunities throughout the fall semester for students to learn and discuss interpretations of the book," he said. "From social activities, to course discussion in the Freshman Success Programs and study groups, and other structured events, students will develop an enhanced sense of community while strengthening their critical reading skills."

Selected as the 2005 Summer Reading Program book is Barbara

Ehrenreich's *Nickel and Dimed: On (Not) Getting By in America*.

In early 1998 Barbara Ehrenreich, arguably our sharpest and most original social critic, posed the following questions to an editor at *Harper's Magazine*: How does anyone live on the wages available to the unskilled? And how, in particular, were the 12 million women about to be booted into the labor market by welfare reform going to make it on \$6 or \$7 an hour? Millions of Americans work full-time, year around, for poverty-level wages; in 1998, Ehrenreich joined them.

What ensued is an unprecedented and illuminating work of immersion journalism, captured in its provocative entirety in *Nickel and Dimed: On (Not) Getting By in America*, which became a *New York Times* bestseller. To answer her own questions, Ehrenreich left her home, took the cheapest lodgings she could find, and accepted the highest-paying jobs she was offered. Moving from Florida to Maine to Minnesota, she worked as a waitress, a hotel maid, a cleaning woman, a nursing-home aide, and a Wal-Mart sales clerk. She lived in trailer parks and crumbling residential motels, discovering quickly that no job is truly unskilled, that even the lowliest occupations take an enormous mental and physical toll, and that one job is not enough – not, that is, if you intend to live

indoors.

"With all the real life assets I've built up in middle age - bank account, IRA, health insurance, multiroom home - waiting indulgently in the background, there was no way I was going to 'experience poverty' or find out how it 'really feels' to be a long-term low-wage worker," Ehrenreich cautions. "My aim here was much more straightforward and objective - just to see whether I could match income to expenses, as the truly poor attempt to do every day."

What she discovered was that, in fact, she could not. Ehrenreich's hair-raising and darkly funny odyssey through the underside of

the working world brilliantly describes low-rent America in all its tenacity, anxiety and surprising generosity. A rare view of "prosperity" from the bottom puts a human face to the lives sustaining our economy (source: www.creativewell.com).

The Division of Student Affairs is co-sponsoring an open lecture by Ehrenreich on Thursday, November 3 at San Diego State University.



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San Diego State University maintains and promotes a policy of non-discrimination and non-harassment on the basis of race, religion, color, sex, age, handicap, marital status, sexual orientation, or national origin. The California State University is committed to providing equal opportunities to men and women CSU students in campus programs, including intercollegiate athletics.

Corner



VICE PRESIDENT FOR STUDENT AFFAIRS
JAMES KITCHEN SPEAKS OUT

New Living Learning Communities Offer Students More

San Diego State University has developed new learning communities for fall 2005. Research has shown that students who live on campus have higher grade point averages and are more likely to graduate on time. We also know that it adds to a student's overall satisfaction with their college experience, as they often make lifelong friends.

Living/Learning Communities (LLCs)

LLCs link academic experiences to the living environment, providing students the unique opportunity to take courses with the students they live with. SDSU currently offers three living learning communities:

- **Identities and Communities in Action** – Housed in University Towers, the Identities and Communities in Action (ICIA) is a close-knit community of first-year students, faculty and staff. Students take a 9-unit, team-taught, integrated course that explores human identities and perspectives on social justice. The course fulfills three general education requirements.
- **The LLC at Maya and Olmeca** – A freshman-only learning community in which students take a cluster of courses together with other students in their residence hall. Students have access to valuable academic resources such as in-hall tutoring, a computer lab, resource center, and faculty-

student interaction.

- **Toltec House** – Housed in SDSU's newest residence hall, Cuicacalli Suites, the Toltec House is for students who are interested in career exploration. Residents enroll in a common academic course and participate in assessments and programs that can help identify potential careers.

Thematic Living Communities

Thematic Living Communities allow students with common interests to live together, such as:

- **Transfer Student Environment** – Transfer students new to SDSU can enjoy living communities in either Chapultepec Residence Hall or Villa Alvarado. Special programming and resources help transfers connect to SDSU.
- **International House** – The I-House is one apartment building in Villa Alvarado that brings together American and international students in a culturally diverse living environment.
- **Honors House** – Students will find that study groups are fun and easy to form when living in a common residency at Cuicacalli with others who share their academic interests.
- **Aztec Engineering** – The College of Engineering strongly encourages freshmen engineering majors to take advantage of this living option in Chapultepec and participate in the Faculty/Student Mentoring program.

Lifestyle Living Communities

The Lifestyle Living Communities provide students with the opportunity to live with others who will support specific lifestyle choices. These include:

- **Physical Fitness** – Students who live on this floor in Chapultepec will find a wide variety of wellness-related events and intramural opportunities in which to participate.
- **Extended Quiet Study Hours** – These areas feature extended quiet hours as determined by the majority of the residents. Available in Cuicacalli Suites, Villa Alvarado, Chapultepec and Zura.
- **Substance-Free Areas** – Students who sign up for substance-free housing agree to participate in a lifestyle that is alcohol, tobacco and drug free. Programs and activities are designed to support this philosophy. Available in Chapultepec, Cuicacalli, Tenochca and Zura Hall.
- **Housing Over the Breaks** – Some students need on-campus housing over the traditional breaks of Thanksgiving, winter recess and spring break. University Towers and Villa Alvarado remain open during breaks at no additional charge. Meal plans are not available during breaks.

Parents, You Can Help Too! Contribute to the Aztec Parents Annual Fund

Calling for the Aztec Parents Annual Fund will be underway in October. SDSU Students will be asking for your financial support to create and improve programs and services at SDSU that affect them. Your support will help fill in the gap between state support and the level of funding needed to sustain the quality education for which SDSU is nationally known.

SDSU offers highly regarded academic programs, outstanding student services, and preparation for success in today's complex world. Your gifts help provide quality programs and services that offer students the broadest possible scope of opportunity, both within

and outside the classroom. Without your contributions, many of these valuable programs and services would not be available for your students.

Each year, parents establish priorities for funding campus programs; and the Aztec Parents Advisory Board, based on these priorities, makes recommendations to James Kitchen, vice president for student affairs, about programs and services that the Aztec Parents Annual Fund will support. A stronger SDSU enhances the value of the degree your son or daughter will receive. We hope you'll give generously to shape your student's future today.

Donations from committed parents like you have enabled us to support a wide variety of programs, such as:

- New Equipment for the Rape Aggression Defense Program offered through University Police and Public Safety.
- Student Health Services' alcohol and other drug prevention/harm reduction programs.
- Counseling & Psychological Services' Bounce Back Program, which improves the retention rate of students on academic probation; and the expansion of the Dr. Steve Sherr Center for Well-Being.
- Residential Education's Student Taking Academic Responsibility (STAR) Center for on-campus residents and the "Faculty Fellows" Program to increase faculty/student interaction.

Thank you, Aztec Parents, for your continued support.



Talking to Your Student – the Way to a Smooth College Transition

You and your college-bound son or daughter should have a heart-to-heart about what's ahead.

The Aztec Parents Association recommends that you have a conversation with your student regarding academics, finances, safety and wellness. As you bring up each topic, listen to your student. Let him or her know your expectations. The key word is "realities" – students need to understand realities clearly.

Finances

At the risk of stating the obvious, your student needs to know how much money he or she will have to live on each semester in order to plan. Decisions about whether or not students need to work, and how much they need to contribute, should be made together.

There are no guidelines, because every situation is different. You need to be the judge of whether or not your student needs your help about budgeting.

Computers

Use of a computer, and computer literacy are necessities; in fact, all students are required to have a working e-mail account to access official university communications. SDSU offers a variety of computer resources.

The Student Computer Lab (Love Library, Room 222) has extended hours. Free classes are offered at the library on how to conduct research on the Internet.

Students residing in the Living Learning Communities have their own computer room and many individual major departments offer computer labs.

Take a look at the AzTechnology Zone in the SDSU Bookstore, which offers student discounts.

Safety on Campus

SDSU is like a small town located in an urban area. Students need to take the same precautions that they would in any urban area. Here are three highly recommended safety tips:

- Use SDSU's Escort Service. Students, especially women, should not be alone after dark. The service usually arrives within five minutes and will escort within a one-mile radius of campus. The number is 594-6659.
- Report any suspicious person or activity to the University Police.
- Protect your valuable property by taking advantage of the university's Operation ID program. SDSU's crime prevention unit has property engravers available in Love Library. They may be checked out at the circulation desk.

South of the Border

Because SDSU is so close to the border, one place where most students inevitably travel is Mexico. Mexico provides important cul-

tural experiences and the reality is that many students go there. You can regard the proximity of Mexico as a benefit if you talk to your student about being smart on their trips across the border. The key is safety. Students should always travel in groups and stay on the main roads. Remember that the laws in Mexico are different from the United States, and they must be respected. Jail is a real possibility if the rules are violated.

Vacations

Once students arrive at college, they make new friends and may want to spend time with them over vacations.

Let your students know what you prefer regarding vacations. Do you expect them home? Would you be comfortable if they brought a friend or roommate home?

Parents should be aware that most residence halls close during breaks. If a student needs to stay on campus during those times, they should consider living in the specific halls designated as open during the breaks.

Help in making the transition

During this time of transition, the important thing is to listen to your student, communicate your views, and talk openly. When you need to talk to someone about issues facing your student, our parent programs coordinator is available at (619) 594-1653. In addition, attending Aztec Parents Association events offers you information and an opportunity to talk with other parents.

Help Your Student Learn Financial Responsibility

College students face a number of challenges as they leave home and head off to school for the first time. In addition to adjustments in their family and social life, they often have to contend with handling their own finances.

Fortunately for today's students, there are a number of resources available to help finance their education and living situation. Support from family, student loans, financial aid, earnings and maybe even a well planned savings all contribute to what will ultimately fund these college years.

Initially, these resources can seem like a large sum of money to a new student. Clothes, gas, pizza, books and concert tickets don't seem to be any trouble at first. Unfortunately, it doesn't take long for the rosy outlook to disappear as reality sets in for a rude awakening.

At times like these, credit may appear to be the answer to the student's problems. Students are often shocked at how quickly a daily cup of coffee and lunch will add up on their card. Unfortunately, credit only offers a temporary solution for an ongoing problem.

In 2001 Nellie Mae, a leading provider of federal student loans, found that 83 percent of undergraduates have at least one credit card with an average balance of \$2,327. The study showed that students double their credit debt and triple the number of cards they own between the time they arrive on campus and the time they graduate.

U.S. Bank understands these challenges and has created a number of products and services that help raise awareness and provide the tools a student will need to manage his or her budget. During New Student Orientation, representatives from the SDSUcard Office and U.S. Bank will be on hand to introduce some of the resources that will be available to your student throughout their college experience.

The SDSUcard Office and U.S. Bank have partnered to provide students with Financial Wellness Seminars, such as:

- Banking Basics 101
- The Budget Zone
- Got Money?
- Conquering Credit

To learn more about U.S. Bank and its partnership with SDSU visit <http://uco.sdsu.edu/sdsucard/>

SDSU Expects Responsible Community Members

SDSU expects students to conduct themselves in a mature and responsible manner. It's our mission to help them attain a quality education; and we offer programming to teach them our expectations for living together in the SDSU community.

Hall Coordinators, Community Assistants and Faculty-in-Residence all offer programs and guidance to residence hall students about living successfully in a community. Moreover, the *Housing License Agreement* lists the rules and regulations to be followed.

Whether your son or daughter lives in the residence halls or not, all SDSU students are expected to:

- Respect the rights, privileges, and property interests of others;
- Help create the best possible climate for learning at the university;
- Maintain, through responsible thought and action, high standards of academic excellence and professional integrity;
- Furnish the university with accurate information related to health, financial need, educational progress, address, telephone number, e-mail, and other directory information;
- Comply with the Code of Student Conduct and other university policies and regulations found at the Center for Student Rights and Responsibilities' Web site: www.sa.sdsu.edu/srr/.

We encourage you and your student to discuss SDSU's expectations. The *Parents Handbook* and

Student Handbook can help to guide you in that conversation.

Let your son or daughter know that the top four reasons students meet with a discipline officer or are suspended from SDSU are for: cheating; alcohol policy violations; residence hall policy violations; and theft.

Plagiarism (failure to properly attribute credit to original authors) is the number one reason students are accused of cheating. Improper collaboration is another. Remind your students to read and follow all expectations of their professors' syllabi/course outline. The definition of academic misconduct is stated in the *SDSU General Catalog*. SDSU's librarians are also excellent resources about giving credit to original authors.

The top four things your student can do to be a good citizen at SDSU are to:

- Always treat others with respect
- Demonstrate the highest standards in academic coursework
- Be a positive role model for others in the community
- Read and follow the ideals expressed in the Statement of Student Rights and Responsibilities (available online at: www.sa.sdsu.edu/srr/statement)

SDSU is committed to helping your student reach his or her potential and goals for graduation. Best wishes for success in your student's studies!