San Diego State University’s School of Theatre, Television, and Film has reason to
cheer as one of its students won the U.S. Jury prize, a short film award, at the Sundance
Film Festival in Park City, Utah. Graduate student Destin Daniel Cretton won the
award for his film “Short Term 12.”

Cretton, who spent several years as a childcare worker at a residential facility for
abused and neglected children, created “Short Term 12” as a way to deal with his own
questions about that experience. Cretton is expected to graduate from SDSU in May 2009 with a Master of Arts
degree in Television, Film and New Media Production.

Documenting what they’ve called the “Obama Effect,” a study completed by researchers
from San Diego State, Northwestern, and Vanderbilt Universities found the performance
gap between black and white Americans in a series of online tests was dramatically reduced during key
moments of the 2008 presidential campaign. Researchers said this provides evidence that Obama’s election has
had a concrete beneficial effect on Black-Americans on at least this one measurable area of academic
performance.

The San Diego Padres and San Diego State University announced a formal agreement to work toward
improving education in the Najayo public schools system, located in the San Cristobal region of the Dominican
Republic. Padres CEO Sandy Alderson and SDSU President Stephen Weber signed a formal memorandum of
understanding regarding the agreement during halftime of the Aztec men’s basketball game victory over Texas
Christian University at Cox Arena on January 29. SDSU plans to provide faculty and students to develop
teacher training programs, perform public health evaluations and assist with socio-economic development.

San Diego State University’s School of Hospitality and Tourism Management has received a $2.4 million
donation from The J. Willard and Alice S. Marriott Foundation, their largest-ever gift to a hospitality school or
program in the western United States. The gift will endow the school’s Student Center for Professional
Development, which will be renamed The J. Willard and Alice S. Marriott Foundation Student Center for
Professional Development.
INTERNATIONALLY ACCLAIMED MUSICIAN NAMED SDSU’S NEW ORCHESTRA CONDUCTOR

San Diego State University’s School of Music and Dance introduces new symphony orchestra conductor, Matthew Rowe. He began directing the orchestra at the start of the spring semester.

Rowe is an accomplished professional conductor and teacher with more than 15 years of experience working with a broad range of international ensembles.

COSTCO CEO CREATES ENDOURED SCHOLARSHIP IN SDSU’S COLLEGE OF EDUCATION

San Diego State University alumnus and Costco CEO Jim Sinegal has created a new endowed scholarship in SDSU’s College of Education. The Janet Sinegal Scholarship was created as a surprise for Jim’s wife, who is an activist in the field of education. The gift comes in addition to the existing Jim and Janet Sinegal Scholarship, which the couple established in 2003.

AZTECS BLOG FROM INAUGURATION IN WASHINGTON D.C.

As Barack Obama was sworn in on January 20, several San Diego State University faculty, staff, students and alumni were in the midst of this historic event. These Aztecs and their experiences in Washington D.C. can be found online in a blog titled “Aztecs in DC: Blogging from the Inauguration.”

For those not making the trip to Washington, D.C., SDSU Vice President of Student Affairs James R. Kitchen hosted an inauguration viewing party in Montezuma Hall that drew hundreds of Aztecs to share in the historic occasion.

SDSU NAMES GREG LEVIN CFO OF THE CAMPAÑILE FOUNDATION

San Diego State University has appointed Gregory Levin, CPA, chief financial officer of The Campanile Foundation. He joined the university on January 20.

Levin, who most recently served as the City of San Diego Comptroller, will replace former CFO Dr. Allan R. Bailey, who retired from SDSU in November after 40 years of service to the university. Bailey passed away on December 21, 2008.

SDSU’S IMPERIAL VALLEY CAMPUS CELEBRATES 50TH ANNIVERSARY

San Diego State University’s Imperial Valley Campus kicked off its 50th anniversary celebration on Rollie Carrillo Quad. SDSU President Stephen Weber, SDSU-IV Dean Stephen B.W. Roeder and other officials were present at the ceremony to unveil related events planned for 2009.

SDSU Marketing & Communications produces Stateline each month as a service to the SDSU community. We encourage you to share this with your friends and colleagues or contact us via MarComm@sdsu.edu to have them receive it directly.