BACK TO SCHOOL

Nearly 6,000 New Aztecs This Fall

SDSU welcomes another high-achieving freshman class this fall. Incoming freshmen have an average high school GPA of 3.63 (same as last year) and an average SAT score of 1110, up 25 points over last year’s average of 1085.

In total, nearly 4,000 first-time freshmen and 2,000 transfer students will start at San Diego State this semester.

ENGINEERING

SDSU Part of $18.5 Million Effort to Create Mind-Machine Interface

SDSU is a research partner with the University of Washington and the Massachusetts Institute of Technology in a National Science Foundation Engineering Research Center (ERC) for Sensorimotor Neural Engineering, based at UW.

As SDSU’s first ERC grant, Kee Moon, professor of mechanical engineering, will lead a research team to develop technologies to reanimate limbs, and understand and then translate the way the human brain controls movement.

STUDENTS

Students Conceive Next-Gen Solar Cells

A team of SDSU graduate engineering students earned a prestigious fellowship to pursue bringing 3-D, flexible, organic photovoltaic cells to market. The SDSU team is one of three 2011 winners of the $45,000 von Liebig Center Fellowship.

The product has a twofold increase in efficiency over conventional 2-D cells, converts sunlight to energy and could revolutionize solar cell use in windows, buildings and portable consumer electronics.

RESEARCH FOUNDATION

SDSU Research Foundation Welcomes New Director

Bob Wolfson joined the SDSU Research Foundation as its new executive director on July 29. He has more than 30 years of experience in business and financial management.

Wolfson’s first priorities are to meet with the academic community on campus and to evaluate the Research Foundation to make it stronger and more efficient. He assures that the Foundation will continue to provide support and good customer service to researchers.
AZTEC CENTER
Demolition of Aztec Center Completed

Demolition of the 43-year-old Aztec Center concluded this week, paving the way for construction of Aztec Student Union. Aztec Center was designed to accommodate 10,000 students in 1968, and it will be replaced by a sustainable building that will serve 30,000 students. Scheduled to open in the fall of 2013, Aztec Student Union will be the first LEED Platinum-certified student union in the California State University system.

FACULTY
Political Science Prof. Meets Justice Ginsburg

For Ronnee Schreiber, meeting U.S. Supreme Court Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg was a wonderful, once-in-a-lifetime event. The political science professor met Ginsburg at the 2011 Ninth Circuit Judicial Conference held in Carlsbad last week.

Schreiber was part of a panel that examined the progress made following the Reed vs. Reed Supreme Court case that examined gender discrimination under the 14th Amendment of the U.S. Constitution. Schreiber presented the political progress made by women since 1971.

RESEARCH
SDSU to Examine Urban Renewal

SDSU’s School of Public Affairs, along with Northeastern University of Boston and universities in Italy, England and Finland, will research and teach urban regeneration with a focus on commercial local urban districts, exchange faculty and disseminate their findings to both the European and American communities.

Funding was provided by a Marie Currie Grant that aims to examine tools to renovate degraded public spaces and improve the attractiveness and accessibility of deprived urban areas.

AWARDS
KPBS Honored at Recent Award Ceremonies

KPBS won all three of the nominations it received at the 2011 Pacific Southwest Emmy Awards, and was honored for excellence in journalism at the 2011 Society of Professional Journalists’ San Diego journalism contest awards.

KPBS received 26 awards, including 14 first-place awards with Journalist of the Year Award going to Gloria Penner, and the Sol Price Prize and the Diversity Prize both being awarded to Ana Tintocalis.

SCIENCE
Greenhouse is Hidden Gem on Campus

A greenhouse that was founded in the 1960s for teaching purposes by SDSU’s former botany department can be found between SDSU’s Life Science North and Life Science South buildings. It has more than 400 species of plants from around the world and rare specimens for research, teaching and botanic and genetic experiments.

The greenhouse is open Monday through Friday, 9–11 a.m. For more information, contact Bob Mangan at bmangan@sciences.sdsu.edu.

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