SEPTEMBER 2009

BACK TO SCHOOL
SDSU Greets New Students

The 113th academic year at SDSU began Aug. 31. SDSU enrolled 4,089 new freshmen and 2,787 transfer students, making the total San Diego campus population for the new academic year 33,039.

This fall’s incoming class of freshmen is one of the most diverse – ethnically and economically – in SDSU history and one of the most academically impressive, with an average 3.46 high-school GPA.

PARTNERSHIPS
Google Partners with SDSU for “Street View”

Panoramic views from anywhere on San Diego State University’s 281-acre campus are now available around the world, thanks to a unique partnership with Google.

SDSU is the first university in the world to participate in the Google Maps Street View Partner Program, which aims to provide interactive 360-degree ground-level photos of special attractions around the world.

GRANTS
SDSU Receives Nearly $134 Million in Research Grants and Contracts

San Diego State University researchers continue to be among the most productive in the nation, securing nearly $134 million in research grants and contracts this year. SDSU researchers received a total of 823 awards in 2008–09 worth $133,794,378 — almost $3 million more than in 2007–08.

The increase in funding included $1.9 million for the first American Recovery & Reinvestment Act (ARRA) grants received. To date, SDSU faculty and staff have received 25 ARRA grants totaling $5 million, with more awards expected in the next few months.

PHILANTHROPY
Qualcomm Gives $450,000 to SDSU Science and Engineering Programs

San Diego State University announced that Qualcomm, a long-time supporter of SDSU, has granted the university $450,000 to support its science and engineering programs.

Qualcomm’s donation will be distributed among the Improving Student Achievement in Mathematics (ISAM) program ($100,000), Project Lead the Way ($100,000), the College of Engineering ($100,000) and the President’s Leadership Fund ($150,000).
**VETERANS**

**SDSU Veterans House Integrates Vets into Campus Life**

The new Veterans House on SDSU’s Fraternity Row is the only such residence for student veterans in the nation and will provide veterans with a home base for the 500-member Student Veteran Organization. Open house will take place on Sept. 3.

SDSU President Stephen Weber provided funding for the first year of the lease but additional support is needed to extend the lease for the three years the house is available. The Student Veteran Organization is leasing the house from Lambda Chi Alpha Fraternity, which was suspended from campus until at least 2012.

**DONOR SUPPORT**

**Donor Support for SDSU Exceeds $65 Million for 2008/09**

SDSU received more than $65 million in cash and pledges during the 2008/09 fiscal year. More than $44 million went directly to SDSU's colleges and academic units, with the remainder going to Athletics, KPBS and the new Parma Payne Goodall Alumni Center, which opens in October.

While donations of this kind do not directly offset cuts to SDSU’s general budget, they do help the university to protect people and programs in key areas. Donors specify which programs or areas they wish to support, providing critical financial assistance to build on areas of excellence or special need.

**SOCIOLOGY**

**“Fat Studies” Joins the Ranks of Academic Disciplines that Focus on Race, Gender or Age**

As talk of weight and body image pervade our day-to-day conversations, many have begun to examine the issue in a scholarly manner, creating a new discipline called “fat studies.” SDSU women’s studies professor Esther Rothblum is one of the nation’s leading scholars on the topic.

In response to recent increased focus on fat studies, Rothblum has co-edited *The Fat Studies Reader*, the first comprehensive anthology exploring this emerging field.

**RESEARCH**

**SDSU Launches New Wildfire Alert! Website**

San Diego State University’s Field Stations Program has launched its new Wildfire Alert! website at wildfirealert.sdsu.edu. The website uses data from a number of weather stations and calculates the fire danger using a standard fire danger algorithm created by a San Diego Fire-Rescue Captain and used by North County Fire Dispatch.

The fire danger map updates every 15 minutes providing up-to-date measurements of temperature, humidity and wind speed. San Diego residents can sign up to automatically receive alerts by email or text message when a weather station nearby reports extreme fire danger.

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