

## XI. CULTURAL AND RECREATIONAL PROGRAMS

### CULTURAL PROGRAMS

UC San Diego provides a wide range of cultural programs that are open to the community in addition to students and staff. Events, programs, and visual and performing arts include the works of both UC San Diego students as well as permanent collections of established artists. In addition, UC San Diego hosts prominent artists who put on performances and exhibitions open to the general public. Finally, UC San Diego provides venues for local artists and others to display their talents.

#### Visual Arts

**The Stuart Collection.** The Stuart Collection is a series of sculptures that are incorporated into the campus buildings and landscape creating juxtaposition between art and the University. The Collection continues to add pieces to the series as the campus itself continues to grow. The mission of the Stuart Collection is to enhance the artistic, cultural, and intellectual life on campus. A partnership between UC San Diego and The Stuart Foundation was established in 1982; the Collection has also received cooperation and financial support from many organizations such as the UC San Diego Department of Visual Arts, the National Endowment for the Arts, the Russell Foundation, the Lannan Foundation, the California Arts Council, and the Stuart Collection Colleagues. Campus tours have been created around the Stuart Collection as well as a book documenting its history. As of Fiscal Year 2006-07, the Stuart Collection contains sixteen unique pieces. Examples from the Collection include:

- **Sun God:** The first piece of the Stuart Collection created was the Sun God. The Sun God is a 14-foot statue of a multi-colored bird, placed upon a 15-foot concrete arch. This piece is located near the Faculty Club and Mandeville Auditorium and was created by Niki de Saint Phalle. The Sun God has become a major landmark on the UC San Diego campus.
- **The Snake Path:** A winding, 560-foot long, 10-foot wide tiled snake that serves as a pathway leading up to the Geisel Library Building. The snake encircles a small garden representing the Garden of Eden, as well a large granite book with a quote from *Paradise Lost*. The Snake Path was created by Alexis Smith.
- **Trees:** Created by Terry Allen, this sculpture consists of three salvaged eucalyptus trees from a grove that was removed to make way for new campus buildings. These trees are encased in skins of lead; one tree plays music, one recites literature, and one tree perseveres in silence.<sup>106</sup>

**University Art Gallery.** Located on campus, the University Art Gallery offers free admission to the public. The Gallery was shuttered in 2006 for renovation and reorganization. Before the revitalization of the Gallery three to four exhibitions were displayed per year; once reopened they are planning five gallery exhibitions per year — three seven-week shows and one 10-week show, along with an annual four-week showcase of graduating UC San Diego Master in Fine Arts students. Every show will be accompanied by a series of related events: lectures, panel discussions and artists' talks. The objective of the University Art Gallery is to display, research,

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<sup>106</sup> <http://stuartcollection.ucsd.edu/StuartCollection/About%20Us.htm>.

and interpret the works of contemporary artists with diverse cultural backgrounds as well as training students in curatorial practices for museum and gallery careers.<sup>107</sup>

### **Musical Performances**

UC San Diego is host to a diverse array of musical programs ranging from free concerts to major groups, including the Kronos Quartet and Los Lobos. The Music Department also hosts an annual spring festival of music that is organized and performed by graduate students.

The UC San Diego Music Department offers over 150 public concerts each academic year offering a wide range of musical ensembles. The ensembles are composed mostly of students and faculty but invite community members to participate as well. Some of these ensembles include: a collaboration of the San Diego Symphony and UC San Diego Quartet Gospel Choir; red fish blue fish, which is a highly regarded resident ensemble of percussionists; and many other resident ensembles such as Improvisation Ensemble, Concert Choir, Symphonic Chorus, Gospel Choir, Section A: Jazz Ensemble, Chamber Singers, Wind Ensemble, and World Music Ensembles: Sitar and Tabla.<sup>108</sup>

### **Theatre and Dance**

UC San Diego's Department of Theatre presents plays and performances throughout the year and all are open to the public. UC San Diego students are part of nearly every aspect of the productions and performances. Performances during the 2006-07 season included *The Love of the Nightingale*, *The Labyrinth of Desire*, *Heart of a Dog*, *Twelfth Night*, among others.

Among the Department of Dance performances during the 2006-07 season were *danceALIVE!*, a piece choreographed by faculty and performed by students and *We Dance/Our Dances*, a collection of diverse pieces highlighting the performance and choreography of UC San Diego's top dance students.

*Second Sites: Tales of Alternative Routes* was a 2006 performance showcasing students from both theatre and dance.<sup>109</sup>

### **La Jolla Playhouse**

The La Jolla Playhouse is located on the campus of UC San Diego. Since its inception, the Playhouse and UC San Diego have collaborated, creating an integrated environment for the exciting and nationally visible theatre produced by the Playhouse and the nationally respected theatre training program offered by the Department of Theatre and Dance. Though the two entities are completely separate financially and legally, they have entered into an accord that states that the two organizations will collaborate by sharing facilities and technical production staff as well as the training of theatre artists. At times, members of the UC San Diego faculty contribute to Playhouse productions in various forms such as directors, designers, actors, choreographers, voice and movement coaches, and stage managers. Members of The Playhouse staff often teach in the graduate theatre programs at UC San Diego.

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<sup>107</sup> University Art Gallery to Reopen its Doors", [http://ucsdnews.ucsd.edu/thisweek/2008/01/14\\_university\\_art\\_gallery.asp](http://ucsdnews.ucsd.edu/thisweek/2008/01/14_university_art_gallery.asp)

<sup>108</sup> <http://music.ucsd.edu/home/>.

<sup>109</sup> <http://www-theatre.ucsd.edu/season/archives/season0607/>.

The La Jolla Playhouse has produced numerous award winning shows. The Playhouse presented the world premiers of the multiple Tony Award winners, *Jersey Boys* and *Thoroughly Modern Millie*. The Playhouse has also shown Tony Award winners, *700 Sundays...Billy Crystal...A Life in Progress*, *The Who's Tommy*, and *I Am My Own Wife* which also won a Pulitzer Prize. All of the above productions went on to be produced on Broadway. The Playhouse itself earned a Tony Award for America's Outstanding Regional Theatre in 1993.

In addition to its' many productions, The Playhouse also provides patrons with various opportunities to enrich their theatre experience. These include events such as "Talkback Tuesdays", which allows the audience to interact with the actors and artistic staff after the show and "Insider Events", a tour that lets the patrons see aspects of the production not usually visible to the audience. The Playhouse also provides various community outreach programs and performances developed for youth. Types of outreach programs provided by The Playhouse include a four-week workshop to develop theatre skills for grades 2-12, guest speakers who visit classrooms, and internships for high school, undergraduate, and graduate students. The youth performance, called Performance Outreach Program (POP), is a production that goes on tour to schools, libraries, and community centers in San Diego County presenting a new production annually. In addition, POP provides the schools with pre- and post-performance material, a Playhouse teaching artist goes to the classroom before the show to commence discussions on the play, and the actors and artistic staff answer questions after the performance.

The Playhouse holds auditions for local actors as well as accepts play submissions from literary agents and Southern California residents. The La Jolla Playhouse provides a range of productions, educational opportunities, and theatre participation to the community and to the University.<sup>110</sup>

### **ArtPower!**

UC San Diego's ArtPower! is an organization created to encourage students and the community to participate in the arts on campus. This organization gives artists, students, scholars and audiences the opportunity to research, participate, and create. ArtPower! offers exciting, challenging, multi-disciplinary performances by emerging and renowned international artists. Performances have included Cesaria Evora, David Sedaris, Twyla Tharp, and the Emerson String Quartet.

### **Attracting Cultural Events to San Diego County**

The University provides a venue for nationally renowned artists to perform for both the University and the local community. There is an annual student-produced concert event called the Sun God Festival that hosts approximately 8,000 students as well as 5,000 student guests.<sup>111</sup> The Sun God Festival has presented numerous famous bands and musicians such as No Doubt, Cake, Xzibit, Blur, and Cypress Hill. Other performers include comedians Bobby Lee and Jeff Hodge, as well as the touring lectures by former Vice President, Al Gore and TV Host, Katie Couric.

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<sup>110</sup> <http://www.lajollaplayhouse.org/>.

<sup>111</sup> Figures provided by UC San Diego University Events Office.

The UC San Diego Library also hosts annual birthday celebrations in honor of Dr. Seuss. In 1995 the central library was renamed the Geisel Library in honor of Audrey and Theodore Geisel (Dr. Seuss) for their generous contributions.

### **Opportunities for Local Artists**

In addition to the performances of University and nationally famous talent, UC San Diego offers locally based artists opportunities to perform on campus. Some examples include:

- Roma Nights: Live acoustic music every Monday night at Espresso Roma in the Price Center.
- Pub After Dark: Free concerts on select Wednesday and Friday nights at the Pub After Dark.
- Poetry Slamm: A lyrical battle where students can share poetry, spoken word, rap, etc. on select nights at the Price Center.
- Open Mic Night: A chance to show off various talents, offered several times a year.<sup>112</sup>

### **RECREATIONAL PROGRAMS**

Through collegiate sporting events, athletic facilities, and public spaces, UC San Diego provides a wide variety of sports and recreational opportunities to the local community. A sampling of these offerings is described below.

#### **Intercollegiate Athletics**

"A Proud Tradition of Academic and Athletic Excellence," is the adage declared by the UC San Diego Athletic Department. The UC San Diego Tritons have been a member of the National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA) Division II since the year 2000; previously they were a part of the NCAA Division III. Some of the achievements that Triton teams have won include 29 national championships in seven different sports such as women's volleyball and men's soccer. They have been national runners-up 35 times in more than ten sports, and they have finished third in the country 38 times.

UC San Diego was awarded the 1997-98 Directors' Cup, signifying the nation's top overall athletic program at the NCAA Division III level. In the eight years of the Cup's existence, UC San Diego has never finished lower than 12th and has been in the top five of its division six times. Individual national championships have been won by 117 Triton student-athletes and more than 875 have been named All-Americans in their sport.

At UC San Diego student-athletes not only excel in their sports, they excel in their academics. More than 60.0 percent of the more than 550 student-athletes have cumulative GPAs of 3.00 or above and the average GPA of that group is higher than the average of the UC San Diego student body at-large. NCAA Post-Graduate Scholarships have been offered to 23 UC San Diego alumni athletes and 130 Tritons have been recognized as Academic All-Americans.

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<sup>112</sup> <http://theuniversitycenters.ucsd.edu/root/index.html>.

These student athlete achievements have been attained at one of the most rigorous academic institutions in the United States.<sup>113</sup>

### **Recreational Facilities and Programs<sup>114</sup>**

The Recreation, IntraMural, Athletic Complex (RIMAC) facility is the major component of the UC San Diego sports and recreational facilities. While primarily serving as a recreation center for the University community, RIMAC is a multi-use facility capable of accommodating a wide variety of activities ranging from large spectator events including ceremonies and concerts to athletic competitions and tournaments. It also plays host to the UC San Diego Student Recreation Center. The Recreation Center offers many classes that are open to the larger community including fitness, dance, martial arts, squash, meditation, self-defense, first aid/CPR classes, and many more. The Aquatics programs provide two pools and a variety of classes in swimming, water aerobics, and scuba.

The Student Recreation Center also offers an Outback Program of trips, classes, and clinics. The Outback Program provides a variety of programs and services emphasizing safety, skill development, environmental awareness and community. The Outback Program recreational activities and trips include rock climbing, kayaking, horseback riding, surfing, backpacking, mountain biking, and day trips. A Ropes Challenge Course is another activity option through the Outback programs. They also rent out outdoor activity equipment to the community.

Other RIMAC activities and opportunities include:

- Intramural sports with 1,200 teams and over 10,000 participants annually.
- Masters sports programs include swimming, running, and triathlon and are open to anyone over age 18.
- The Mission Bay Aquatic Center (MBAC) is one of the largest instructional waterfront facilities in the country, offering instruction in sailing, windsurfing, kayaking, waterskiing, surfing, wakeboarding, rowing, and kite boarding.
- The weight rooms and personal wellness program provide nutritional counseling, personal training, and private massage.

### **Birch Aquarium at Scripps Institution of Oceanography**

As discussed in Chapter IX, Research at UC San Diego, The Birch Aquarium at Scripps Institution of Oceanography is open to the general public to provide ocean science education. The Aquarium also aims to interpret the research from Scripps Institution of Oceanography to the visitors and promote ocean conservation. The Aquarium provides many public activities, teacher workshops, group tours, and on-site school programs in addition to a specially-equipped outreach van that transports live animals and instructors to schools, senior centers, and community fairs. The Aquarium exhibits a display of live marine organisms anchored by a two-story kelp forest tank and one of the country's largest oceanographic museums. Examples of the discovery activities offered by the Aquarium include: overnight visits offered to families that provide an education experience; snorkeling, whale watching, tide pooling, grunion runs,

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<sup>113</sup> <http://www.ucsdtritons.com/>.

<sup>114</sup> <http://recreation.ucsd.edu/inf/>.

and pier walk trips; adult lectures; summer learning adventure camps; and the Green Flash summer concert series.<sup>115</sup> Over 400,000 people visit Birch Aquarium each year.

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<sup>115</sup> UCSD and You” and [http://aquarium.ucsd.edu/About\\_Us/](http://aquarium.ucsd.edu/About_Us/).