



Please forward items for inclusion to [english@sandiego.edu](mailto:english@sandiego.edu)

# English Dept. Newsletter



## ANNOUNCEMENTS

### Thur, Nov 29, 7:00pm in Warren Auditorium (SOLES): Barton Thurber's Last Lecture.

What would Professor Thurber say...if it was his last lecture? The English Department's Barton Thurber received his BA degree from Stanford and his MA and PhD degrees from Harvard. He teaches classes in poetry, Romanticism and 19th century British literature; his research interests include those areas as well as the impacts of digital technologies on narrative and on the humanities generally. Prof. Thurber has worked at USD's English Department for 34 years, and will be retiring after this semester. A reception will follow Professor Thurber's talk. Presented by USD Mortar Board, and sponsored by USD Associated Students. For more info, contact Sarah at [sjorgensen-13@sandiego.edu](mailto:sjorgensen-13@sandiego.edu).



**Thurs, Nov 29, 5:30-7:00pm in French Parlor, Founders: CosmoPolitanism: a Symposium.** The Honors Program presents *CosmoPolitanism: a Symposium* featuring faculty from the College of Arts & Sciences: Can Bilsel (Art), Clara Oberle (History), Antonieta Mercado (Communications), Chris Adler (Music), Jessica Patterson (Architecture); moderated by **Atreyee Phukan (English)** & Michael Agnew (Spanish). Refreshing talk about the world...with refreshments.

### IMPORTANT DATES:

- Dec 14: Summer Study Abroad Deadline
- Dec 14: Last Day of Classes
- Dec 15-16: Study Days
- Dec 17-21: Final Exams
- Dec 24-Jan 1: Campus Closed for Holidays

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### Writing Center Book

**Drive:** The Writing Center tutors have organized a book drive for Christmas for the **Worldwide Book Drive**. Please stop by & drop off a book or several in their collection box! Worldwide (WBD) promotes global literacy and education by donating and recycling books. WBD has developed a streamlined system for the collection, resale and donation of needed books to qualified organizations promoting literacy. Please drop your books off by Friday, December 14. The Writing Center is in Founders 190B. More WBD info: <http://worldwidebooks.org/>.



"Like" us at: <http://www.facebook.com/USDEnglish>





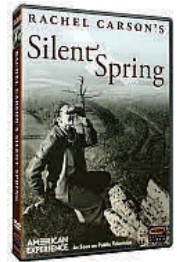
**“Christmas... is not an external event at all, but a piece of one's home that one carries in one's heart.”**

**—Freya Stark**

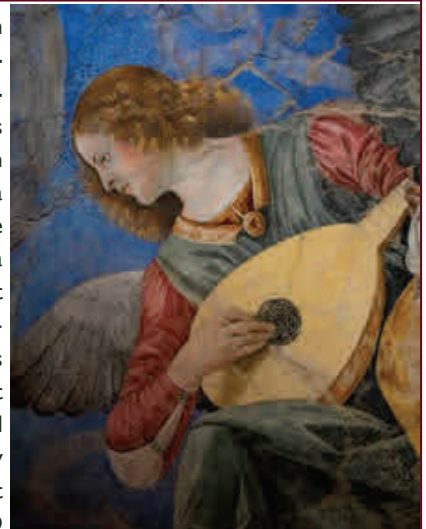


## ANNOUNCEMENTS

**Thur, Nov 29, 12:15-1:15pm in FH 190A: Literature/Environment/Science Reading Group.** Our Literature and the Environment/Science Reading group had an interesting discussion on *Silent Spring* at our last meeting. This week we will watch the **PBS film *American Experience: Rachel Carson's Silent Spring***, and our meeting will be from 12:15-1:15 to accommodate the 55 min. length of the film. We will also decide on our next book, so bring your ideas! All are welcome to join us to watch this film! Founders 190A. For more info please email Faye at [fayem@sandiego.edu](mailto:fayem@sandiego.edu).



**Sun, Dec 2, 2:00pm, and Fri, Dec 7, 7:30pm in Founders Chapel: Lessons and Carols, a Festival of Word and Song to Prepare for Christmas.** Each December, USD invites the campus community and the public at large to gather in Founders Chapel to enjoy "Lessons and Carols," a Christmas celebration that dates back well over one hundred years and is followed around the world in a multitude of different places. Through poignant readings from the Old and New Testaments interspersed with beautiful music, the congregation is invited to reflect on the birth of Jesus in the context of its significance in salvation history. The carols and hymns that accompany the readings are specially chosen for each year, along with some constant traditional favorites. Past festivals have included, "O Come, O Come Emmanuel", "Joy to the World", "Angels We Have Heard on High", "Lo, How a Rose E're Blooming" and "What Child is This", as well as the performance of selections from pieces such as Handel's Messiah and such uplifting modern carols as "Do You Hear What I Hear?", which has served as the festival's recessional song. A full choir, including USD's Choral Scholars, and orchestra, conducted by USD's Ed Basilio, Ed.D., lead the performance. Each year staff, faculty and students help with the preparations and volunteer to be part of the procession, bearing the Book of Gospels, candles and banners, as well as to deliver the readings – the lessons – themselves. All are welcome, admission is free. Presented by the Frances G. Harpst Center for Catholic Thought and Culture. More info: [http://www.sandiego.edu/cctc/events/past\\_events/Lessons\\_and\\_Carols.php](http://www.sandiego.edu/cctc/events/past_events/Lessons_and_Carols.php). Special parking for Dec 2nd!



**Tue Dec 4, 4:00-5:30pm in Salomon Hall (Maher): Presentation by Mitchell Thomashow—Rachel Carson's Legacy: Finding the Wisdom & Insight for Global Environmental Citizenship.** We require the air, water, food, and energy provided by the natural world, but how we act can have severe and potentially irreversible consequences for the very environment that sustains us? Carson's legacy is perspective and vocabulary to answer a fundamental question about the balance necessary for sustainability: How can we balance creation and extinction, wonder and indifference, hope and foreboding? This question remains absolutely pertinent to scientists and citizens alike who are concerned about climate change, threats to biodiversity, and altered biogeochemical cycles. Join Dr. Thomashow, an internationally recognized leader in discussions about sustainability in the context of our contemporary planetary predicament, for this important conversation. Lecture followed by a Q & A session. Register at: <http://www.sandiego.edu/cee/events/registration.php>.

**Fri, Dec 14, 12:15pm in Founders Chapel: Mass for Sister Marina Mapa.** There will be a mass offered for Sr. Mapa, who passed away on November 18, 2012 in Atherton, CA. Sr. Marina Mapa, RSCJ, Associate Professor of Spanish, began teaching in the Languages & Literatures Department in 1969 and retired in 2004. She also taught in the Guadalajara Summer Program for 14 years. Her funeral and burial will take place at Oakwood in Atherton, CA.



“Happy, happy  
Christmas, that can win us  
back to the delusions of  
our childhood days,  
recall to the old man the  
pleasures of his youth,  
and transport the traveler  
back to his own fireside  
and quiet home!”

—Charles Dickens



**Sat, Dec 15, at The Ink Spot: San Diego Writers, Ink is hosting an Art in Books Day.**

Art in Books is a celebration of illustration and writing, & we would like to invite students and faculty to join us! We will be holding a bookmaking & writing class from 10:00am-2:00pm, followed by an art Q&A with artist Blair Thornley, & a gallery opening featuring Thornley's work in the evening. San Diego Writers, Ink is a nonprofit organization that offers writing workshops, classes, readings, & events to the community. More info: <http://www.sandiegowriters.org/>. The Ink Spot: 710 West 13th St., Studio 210, San Diego, 92101. †

**READING FOR OVER THE BREAK: Wed, Jan 16, 12:00-1:30pm in Copley Library: Alcalá Park Readers Book Discussion Presented by HR: Finding Emilie by Laurel Corona.**

Author Laurel Corona, will be joining us for this book discussion. Lunch will be served! *Finding Emilie*: Lili du Châtelet yearns to know more about her mother, the brilliant French mathematician Emilie. But the shrouded details of Emilie's unconventional life — and her sudden death — are elusive. Caught between the confines of a convent upbringing and the intrigues of the Versailles court, Lili blossoms under the care of a Parisian salonnière as she absorbs the excitement of the Enlightenment, even as the scandalous show of her mother's past haunts her and puts her on her own path of self-discovery. Please RSVP for lunch at ext. 6611. Books are available for check out in MH 101.



**STUDENT NEWS**

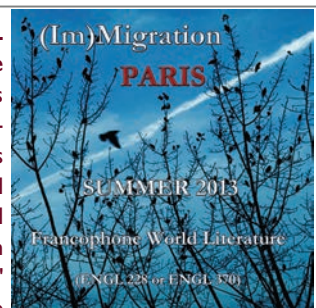
**Study Abroad Summer 2013: London, England! ENGL 494/THEA 494: London Plays in Production** with Dr. Cynthia Caywood and Dr. David Hay.

Students will see eight to nine plays in production during the three weeks. A number of field trips related to the plays will provide context and background. Students will visit a range of venues, from the Royal National Theatre to small, off West End playhouses, and they will read and see a variety of plays, including classical, modern, and multicultural. If taken as English, this course fulfills the GE lit requirement and counts towards both the English major and minor. Enrollment limited to 15. Program dates: June 27-July 20, 2013. Program cost: \$4,800. **Deadline to apply: December 14, 2012.** Contact: Dr. David Hay, ext. 7763, or [dhay@sandiego.edu](mailto:dhay@sandiego.edu).



**Study Abroad Summer 2013: Paris, France! ENGL 228/370: (Im)Migration: Francophone World Literature** with Dr. Atrejee Phukan.

The migration of people and ideas from all over the world, and over centuries, is central to understanding the special cosmopolitan character of Paris today. In this course on world literature, students will read from classic and contemporary works as a way to explore French culture and identity as fluid and evolving categories that have never been static. We will take into particular consideration the literatures' representation of race, gender, nation, and diaspora in both the colonial and post-colonial periods. Almost every day in the week will include strategic walking-tours exploring sites of relevance to course material, such as the Quai Branly Museum at the Eiffel Tower, local African and Caribbean theaters & markets, the Frantz Fanon Foundation, and more. Program dates: May 31 - June 26, 2013. Program cost: \$4,800. **Deadline to apply: December 14, 2012.** Contact: Dr. Atrejee Phukan, ext. 7634, or [phukana@sandiego.edu](mailto:phukana@sandiego.edu).



Learn more about French culture through world literature from Europe, the Caribbean, and north Africa.  
Prof. Atrejee Phukan - [phukana@sandiego.edu](mailto:phukana@sandiego.edu)  
English Department, FH 172 C



## STUDENT NEWS

**Course Descriptions** are up on the web site! Registration for Spring 2013 semester is in progress. Have you selected your English courses yet? See our complete listing of English classes along with their course descriptions: [http://www.sandiego.edu/cas/documents/english/2013\\_Spring\\_Course\\_Descriptions.pdf](http://www.sandiego.edu/cas/documents/english/2013_Spring_Course_Descriptions.pdf).

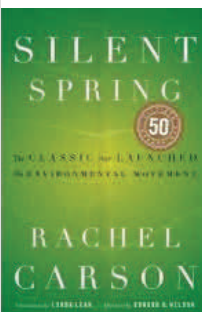
**ALL COURSES LISTED**

Attention **English Majors**: For those of you interested in declaring the English major with the **Creative Writing Emphasis**, DARS is now ready for you! Simply complete a new Declaration of Major form, indicating your English major and the Creative Writing concentration, and bring it to Sr. Hotz's office (FH 171B) for her signature. Her office hours are held on Mondays and Wednesdays, 2:30 to 5:00pm. Thank you. Forms available in the English Office and also on MySanDiego on the One Stop Services tab (under Registration Forms box).



**DUE  
DEC 7th!**

**The 2012 Cropper Creative Writing Contest** is up and running! Prize: Winners in each genre (poetry & prose) **will be awarded \$125**. USD students are invited to apply for the annual creative writing contest in poetry and prose (fiction & creative non-fiction). USD students who are already actively writing poetry and/or fiction/creative non-fiction are invited to apply (no major/emphasis or course requirements for eligibility). **Deadline for submissions is Fri, Dec. 7, 2012, 11:59pm**. Winners selected by judges Lynn Freed (prose) and Ben Doller (poetry), announced at the Cropper Memorial Writers' Series reading on Fri, March 15, 2013. See the English Dept. web site for complete guidelines and more information: [http://www.sandiego.edu/cas/english/cropper/workshops\\_awards.php](http://www.sandiego.edu/cas/english/cropper/workshops_awards.php). If you have questions, please email Dr. Halina Duraj at [hduraj@sandiego.edu](mailto:hduraj@sandiego.edu). We're looking forward to receiving your submissions! Good luck! Sponsored by the Cropper Center for Creative Writing.



**USD Just Read! Essay Contest: Silent Spring, Rachel Carson**. Essay Prize: USD 1st prize \$300; 2nd prize \$150, 3rd prize \$50 (plus regional prizes). Essay Topic: with a specific argument, consider a modern social challenge with direct relationships to issues raised by the content and/or context of *Silent Spring*. Explain the central ethical concern related to this issue; outline the stakes of this issue, & consider who the primary stakeholders are. Finally, offer some general thoughts on how best to navigate this issue. As part of your argument, you may wish to discuss *Silent Spring* directly, but it is not a requirement for submission. You may cite outside sources, but it is not a requirement. Submissions may be individually or group authored. Essay should be 1200-1500 words. The winning essay at USD will be submitted for consideration in the regional competition. **Entries due by Dec 14, 2012**. Submit by Email to: [emch@sandiego.edu](mailto:emch@sandiego.edu). Official rules & grading rubric can be found at: [http://www.sandiego.edu/cee/usd\\_just\\_read.php#Student\\_Essay\\_Contest](http://www.sandiego.edu/cee/usd_just_read.php#Student_Essay_Contest).

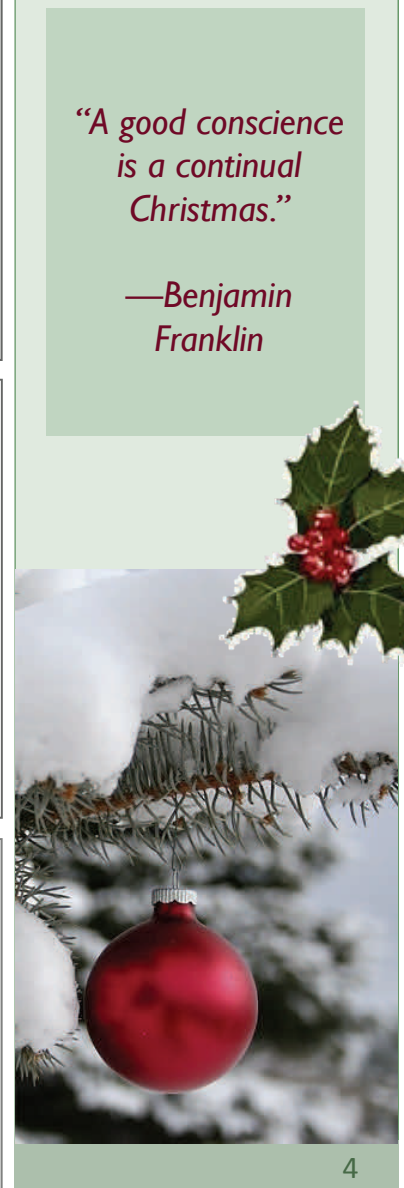


**Elie Wiesel Prize in Ethics Essay Contest**. Great essay opportunity for students, with scholarship awards ranging from \$500-\$5000. Suggested essay topics: Articulate with clarity an ethical issue that you have encountered and analyze what it has taught you about ethics and yourself. Student must be a full-time college undergraduate junior or senior. Students must partner with a faculty Sponsor. **Application deadline is December 3, 2012**. More info: <http://eliewieselfoundation.org/prizeinethics.aspx>. Flyer: [http://www.eliewieselfoundation.org/CM\\_Images/UploadedImages/8%205x11\\_Flyer\\_2013\\_v5%20BW.pdf](http://www.eliewieselfoundation.org/CM_Images/UploadedImages/8%205x11_Flyer_2013_v5%20BW.pdf). If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Christina Williams, Scholarship Assistant, USD Office of Financial Aid at (619) 260-4600 ext: 6953 or [christinawilliams@sandiego.edu](mailto:christinawilliams@sandiego.edu). †



*"A good conscience is a continual Christmas."*

—Benjamin Franklin





## STUDENT NEWS

Associated Students has funded \$20,000 for Undergraduate Research Grants for professors and students. Students need only return the hard-copy application WITH the following 5 items in hard copy form to the director of academics mailbox in the Student Life Pavilion 3rd Floor: 1) Project title and project goal; 2) A five-page (maximum) project description, preferably in “lay person’s” language; 3) A thorough timeline of the project; 4) A budget detailing the costs of materials, books, equipment, etc.; 5) A sealed letter of recommendation from a faculty advisor. \*Additionally, students who are looking to conduct year long research, must apply in the fall cycle. The **deadline for academic grants is November 30, 2012 at 5:00pm**. Contact: Sophia Carrillo, Director of Academics, USD Associated Students, [usdacademics@gmail.com](mailto:usdacademics@gmail.com), or <http://www.sandiego.edu/associatedstudents/academics>.

**Spring Semester Internship Opportunities: The Joan B. Kroc Institute for Peace & Justice** is now accepting applications for spring semester internships. Internship Dates: January 31 – May 10, 2013. Intern Responsibilities: Assist with IPJ programs, including research assistance, events support and a small amount of administrative support. Qualifications:

- Enrollment, with senior status, in an undergraduate program; or a recent degree in a field related to peace studies, human rights, international relations, or a related field (preferred).
- GPA of 3.3 or higher (required)
- Excellent writing skills (required)
- Minimum of 15, and preferably up to 20, hours per week (required).

The internship is unpaid. **Deadline Extended to Monday, December 10, 2012.** To Apply: Please go to <http://www.sandiego.edu/peacestudies/ipj/involved/internships/> to download an application form and view other requirements. Note that application elements may be sent separately, and some may be sent electronically, as described at the above link. If you have additional questions, please call (619) 260-7573 or e-mail [emccollim@sandiego.edu](mailto:emccollim@sandiego.edu). Please note that while we encourage international applicants, we cannot provide them with assistance in securing a visa, nor cover the costs of the visa and health insurance required by USD.

At the **Writing Center’s** weekly workshop, the tutors played the Grammar Game, which is a game the WC tutors created last year. The game is played in a way similar to Trivial Pursuit. Students roll the dice to advance around the color-coded board. Each color represents one category: Commonly Confused Words, Parts of Speech, Common ESL Errors, and Punctuation. Tutors draw one card, and must not only answer the question correctly to advance forward, they must also give an explanation as to why they chose that answer. Senior tutors judge that the question is answered correctly.



**Mon, Dec 3, 2:30-3:00pm in UC 104: SURE Information Session.** Hey USD undergrads — do you want to conduct your won research project this summer? Apply for a SURE Award (Summer Undergraduate Research Experience). Open to all majors! Come to a SURE Information Session and find out more — additional sessions are offered on:

- \* **Wed, Dec 5,** 12:30-1:00pm, UC 104
- \* **Thur, Dec 6,** 1:30-2:00pm, UC 104

Can’t make it at those times but want to know more? Visit [www.sandiego.edu/sure](http://www.sandiego.edu/sure) for more information. **Application deadline is February 14, 2013.** Offered by the Office of Undergrad Research.



### THE WRITING CENTER

Founder 190B

619-260-4581

[http://www.sandiego.edu/cas/english/writing\\_center/](http://www.sandiego.edu/cas/english/writing_center/)





*“Christmas is not a time  
nor a season,  
but a state of mind.  
To cherish peace  
and goodwill,  
to be plenteous in mercy,  
is to have the real spirit  
of Christmas.”*

*—Calvin Coolidge*



**Employment Opportunity in Washington, DC: Staff Assistant/Legislative Correspondent.** San Diego Congresswoman Susan Davis seeks organized, friendly, detail-oriented person with strong interpersonal and writing skills for an entry-level position. Duties include administrative tasks such as answering phones, greeting visitors, opening/sorting the mail, supervising interns, drafting constituent correspondence and assisting senior staff with research projects. This is a demanding, high-excitement and fun job, and a great way to start a career in government. Strong ties to California’s new 53rd district are a must (check your address here: <http://swdb.berkeley.edu/gis/gis2011/>). Please e-mail a resume and writing sample to: [employment.davis@mail.house.gov](mailto:employment.davis@mail.house.gov). The application deadline is December 5th. Start date is early January. No calls or drop-bys please. †

**Teaching Opportunity with the Institute of Reading Development.** The Institute is an educational service provider with available teaching positions for graduate students and graduating seniors. These full-time positions are available locally and in most major metropolitan areas throughout the U.S. during students’ summer break. Applicants from any field of study are welcome to apply. More info at: <http://readingprograms.org> or contact Roda Malco at (800) 964-9090 ex. 8179 or [rmalco@readingprograms.org](mailto:rmalco@readingprograms.org). †

 **FACULTY NEWS**

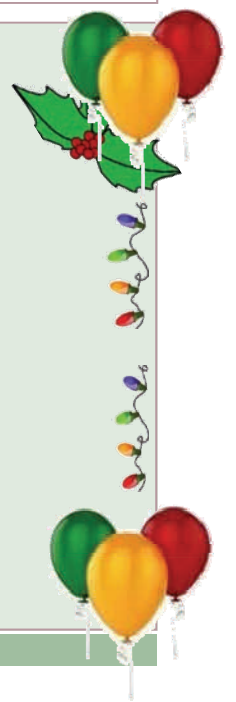
*Come Celebrate the Joy of the Season at the  
College of Arts and Sciences Holiday Party  
Hosted by the Dean’s Office  
Friday December 7, 3 to 5pm  
Founders French Parlor/Foyer*



**Fri, Dec 14, 1:30-3:30pm in UC Forums A/B/C USD President’s Employee Holiday Party.** Enjoy holiday-inspired refreshments & festive entertainment. Program to begin at 2:15pm. Be sure to bring your whole family for a visit & photo opportunity with Santa!

*Bart Thurber Retirement  
& English Dept. Holiday Party  
Date: Tuesday, December 18, 2012  
Time: 4:00-7:30pm  
Open House style, drop in anytime!  
Place: O’Tooles, University Center  
Complimentary Beer, Wine,  
& Heavy Appetizers*

*21 & up only*





“Maybe Christmas,  
the Grinch thought,  
doesn't come  
from a store.”

—Dr. Seuss



## FACULTY NEWS



**Halina Duraj, PhD**, Department of English, has an excerpt of her novel, *Fatherland*, forthcoming in *The Harvard Review*, Winter 2012, Issue 43, and a poem forthcoming in *Bat City Review*, Spring 2013.

**Maura Giles-Watson, PhD**, Department of English, is editing John Heywood's *The Four PP*—an important early Tudor play (Broadview Press, 2014). This will be the first stand-alone edition of *The Four PP*; it is being prepared with the needs of teachers, students, and scholars in mind. And Maura's article, "Playing as Literate Practice: Humanism and the Exclusion of Women Performers by the London Professional Stages" will appear in *New Directions in Manuscript Studies and Reading Practices, A Festschrift for Derek Pearsall*, eds. Kathryn Kerby-Fulton and John Thompson (University of Notre Dame Press, 2013).

**Deniz Perin's**, adjunct faculty in the English Dept., collaborative translations, from the Turkish, of the poetry of Gökçenur Ç., with Kurt Heinzelman, and the poetry of Gonca Özmen, with Arzu Eker Roditakis, are due to be published in the anthology, *Aeolian Visions/Versions: Modern and Contemporary Poetry and Fiction from The Cunda International Workshop for Translators of Turkish Literature, 2006-2012*, edited by Mel Kenne, Saliha Paker, and Amy Spangler for Milet Publishing.

**Piotr Florczyk**, adjunct faculty in the English Dept., has been named Visiting Fellow at the Gould Center for Humanistic Studies at Claremont McKenna College. <http://cmc.edu/gould/> Congrats, Piotr!

USD's chapter of Mortar Board, an honors society that fosters student scholarship, leadership and service, recently singled out three English department faculty for recognition at their annual Faculty Appreciation Dinner. **Cynthia Caywood** was honored by Anna Halligan, **Brad Melekian** by Ryan Shuman, and **Abe Stoll** by Sarah Jorgensen. Congratulations!

**Thur, Nov 29, 5:00–7:30pm in Degheri Alumni Center Lounge: Faculty/Staff Twilight Retreat.** All faculty and staff are invited to a Faculty/Staff Twilight Retreat sponsored by Office for Mission & Ministry. The retreat, entitled "Path of Waiting," will be presented by Sr. Mary Louise Flick, RSCJ, who teaches in the Christian Spirituality Program at Creighton University in the summers and is currently on the staff at the Spiritual Ministry Center in Ocean Beach. Sr. Flick has selected the Advent theme of waiting, which she calls a "pathway to life in the Spirit." She will explore waiting with openness and trust as a significant and radical attitude of the spiritual life. A light supper will be provided. RSVP by Nov 26<sup>th</sup> to [rburns@sandiego.edu](mailto:rburns@sandiego.edu) or ext. 4656.



**Fri, Dec 7, 12:00-12:55pm in Missions Fitness Center: Free Yoga for Employees.** Need a pre-holiday, near-end-of-the-semester de-stressor? CHR@USD in collaboration with Campus Recreation presents free yoga sessions for USD employees.

**Tue, Dec 11, 12:00–1:00pm in Maher Hall 268: Knitting Club.** Come and knit with fellow USD employees. You can be at a beginner level or advanced level. Come when you can. No RSVPs are required. Future meeting date: Tue, Dec 18.



**Wed, Dec 12, 12:00-1:00pm in Salomon Hall (Maher): Employee Bingo.** Great stress-releaser! Come enjoy an hour (or just come for a game or two) of bingo fun with fellow employees. All faculty/staff/administrators welcome. Feel free to bring your sack lunch.

† **DISCLAIMER:** Paid and unpaid internship opportunities, and other information are posted for informational purposes only. The postings do not constitute an endorsement by the University of the opinions or activities of the internship provider.



## ALUMNI NEWS

Kelly McAndrew, USD 1994, English major and Theater minor, is featured in the film "In The Family" that screened at the San Diego Film Festival last year and it is now opening in a variety of cities. The San Diego opening is December 7. More info on "In The Family:" <http://www.inthefamilythemovie.com/>. Previous CAS story on Kelly: [http://www.sandiego.edu/cas/news\\_events/feature\\_stories/kelly\\_mcandrew.php](http://www.sandiego.edu/cas/news_events/feature_stories/kelly_mcandrew.php).



## BE BLUE, GO GREEN



**Tue, Dec 4, 12:00-1:30pm in O'Tooles, UC: Sustainability Green Gathering.** Join us for our first ever Sustainability Green Gathering event! Everyone is invited to meet other students, faculty and staff to learn more about sustainability at USD. Join in the effort to make our campus more eco--friendly. Enjoy a free lunch and some green treats while we come together as a community committed to sustainability.



## COMMUNITY



### Toys for Tots Toy Drive

CHR@USD in collaboration with USD Athletics Presents this annual toy drive. Stop by Human Resources anytime in December to drop off your toys in our collection box there. Thank you!



### Teddy Bear Drive



USD's Public Safety Office is participating with other San Diego law enforcement groups in the 20th annual San Diego Regional Law Enforcement **Teddy Bear Drive**. Degheri Alumni Center front lobby, and also the Main Gate Kiosk (drop off a bear as you drive in!) are the drop-off box locations for those wanting to donate a new, unwrapped teddy bear (with tag still attached) for kids at Rady's Children's Hospital in San Diego. Teddy Bear donations will be accepted through December 14.



## DID YOU KNOW?

**Did you know that the winter solstice is the shortest day of the year?** The winter solstice is the time at which the Sun is appearing at noon at its lowest altitude above the horizon in winter. In the Northern Hemisphere this is the Southern solstice, the time at which the Sun is at its southernmost point in the sky, which usually occurs on December 21 to 22 each year (Dec 21 in 2012). More evident from high latitudes, a hemisphere's winter solstice occurs on the shortest day and longest night of the year, when the sun's daily maximum elevation in the sky is the lowest. Since the winter solstice lasts only a moment in time, other terms are often used for the day on which it occurs, such as "midwinter", "the longest night", "the shortest day" or ""the first day of winter". The seasonal significance of the winter solstice is in the reversal of the gradual lengthening of nights and shortening of days. Worldwide, interpretation of the event has varied from culture to culture, but most Northern Hemisphere cultures have held a recognition of rebirth, involving holidays, festivals, gatherings, rituals or other celebrations around that time. Source: [www.wikipedia.com](http://www.wikipedia.com)



*“Every gift which is given, even though it be small, is in reality great, if it is given with affection.”*

*—Pindar*





## THE NIGHT BEFORE CHRISTMAS

*by Clement Clarke Moore*

'Twas the night before Christmas, when all through the house  
Not a creature was stirring, not even a mouse;  
The stockings were hung by the chimney with care,  
In hopes that St. Nicholas soon would be there;  
The children were nestled all snug in their beds,  
While visions of sugar-plums danced in their heads;  
And mamma in her 'kerchief, and I in my cap,  
Had just settled down for a long winter's nap,  
When out on the lawn there arose such a clatter,  
I sprang from the bed to see what was the matter.  
Away to the window I flew like a flash,  
Tore open the shutters and threw up the sash.  
The moon on the breast of the new-fallen snow  
Gave the lustre of mid-day to objects below,  
When, what to my wondering eyes should appear,  
But a miniature sleigh, and eight tiny reindeer,  
With a little old driver, so lively and quick,  
I knew in a moment it must be St. Nick.  
More rapid than eagles his coursers they came,  
And he whistled, and shouted, and called them by name;  
"Now, Dasher! now, Dancer! now, Prancer and Vixen!  
On, Comet! on Cupid! on, Donder and Blitzen!  
To the top of the porch! to the top of the wall!  
Now dash away! dash away! dash away all!"  
As dry leaves that before the wild hurricane fly,  
When they meet with an obstacle, mount to the sky,  
So up to the house-top the coursers they flew,  
With the sleigh full of toys, and St. Nicholas too.  
And then, in a twinkling, I heard on the roof  
The prancing and pawing of each little hoof.  
As I drew in my head, and was turning around,  
Down the chimney St. Nicholas came with a bound.  
He was dressed all in fur, from his head to his foot,  
And his clothes were all tarnished with ashes and soot;  
A bundle of toys he had flung on his back,  
And he looked like a peddler just opening his pack.  
His eyes -- how they twinkled! his dimples how merry!  
His cheeks were like roses, his nose like a cherry!  
His droll little mouth was drawn up like a bow,  
And the beard of his chin was as white as the snow;  
The stump of a pipe he held tight in his teeth,  
And the smoke it encircled his head like a wreath;  
He had a broad face and a little round belly,  
That shook, when he laughed like a bowlful of jelly.  
He was chubby and plump, a right jolly old elf,  
And I laughed when I saw him, in spite of myself;  
A wink of his eye and a twist of his head,  
Soon gave me to know I had nothing to dread;  
He spoke not a word, but went straight to his work,  
And filled all the stockings; then turned with a jerk,  
And laying his finger aside of his nose,  
And giving a nod, up the chimney he rose;  
He sprang to his sleigh, to his team gave a whistle,  
And away they all flew like the down of a thistle.  
But I heard him exclaim, ere he drove out of sight,

**"Happy Christmas to all, and to all a good-night."**