

Thirty years ago, a new University of San Diego emerged from the unification of separate men's and women's colleges. Driven by changes in students, society and education, the merger was complex and controversial, yet vital to the university's future.



Sister Nancy Morris, College for Women president, got the merger process moving.

Shipley's marathon signing session was the point of no return on the path to creating today's University of San Diego, which was forged through unification of two independent schools — the San Diego College for Women, founded by the nuns of the Society of the Sacred Heart, and the University of San Diego College for Men and School

single-sex education, especially on the West Coast, eventually would have caused both institutions to close. But since the merger, a thriving, nationally recognized university has emerged.

Like all major changes, however, this one wasn't easy.

### The Kids Are Alright

Typical of radical transformations on college campuses in the 1960s, the merger creating USD started with the students. Despite the historical separation between the two colleges, their physical proximity led to mingling among the students, who met up for lunch, basketball games, dances and, of course, dates.

Not that it was always easy to get together. The nuns kept their female charges under lock and key. Prior to 1968, freshmen had to be in their dorms no later than 6 p.m. on weeknights, midnight on weekends. Upper-classmen had until 11 p.m. on weeknights before they were considered AWOL. When

busy social lives. Guys stopping by to pick up a date endured the nuns' scrutiny as they waited downstairs, and males weren't allowed in the buildings without an escort.

"I was a resident assistant as a junior and a senior, so I'd have to bust the girls if they had a guy in their room, which probably happened about four or five times a year," says Terry (Hanten) Sattler '71. "It was a pretty big deal, because you got hauled in front of the nuns and had to explain yourself. As punishment, you'd get grounded, which meant you couldn't leave the dorm."

From a student perspective, the Sacred Heart nuns ran a tight ship on all fronts. In the dining room, housed in what is now Sacred Heart Hall, the women dressed for a formal dinner once a week. If the nuns, who still wore habits, didn't approve of an ensemble, the offending student was sent back to her room to change. Dresses had to be worn to class, where professors sometimes paused the academic lessons to comment on proper behavior for young ladies.

# SO HAPPY TOGETHER

by Michael R. Haskins

*"Not having available for its use any clear or generally approved plan for combining two colleges, the University of San Diego was forced to devise its own plan as it went along."*

—Western Association of Schools and Colleges report on USD, 1973.

On a fall day in 1970, the Rev. William Shipley sat in his Alcalá Park office and considered the job before him. More than 2,700 letters were stacked in piles around his desk, each addressed to one of the nation's college or university presidents. Every letter asked for the same thing — help in finding a new president capable of completing a merger and creating a new University of San Diego.

With a small sigh, the philosophy professor picked up his pen and began to sign the letters. It took more than 13 hours.

of Law, founded by the Roman Catholic Diocese of San Diego. For two decades the schools had existed shoulder-to-shoulder on the Alcalá Park campus, but shared little more than the Linda Vista hilltop. Academics, admissions, administration, financial operations — all were conducted independently.

"There was, in essence, an invisible wall down the middle of Marian Way," says Shipley, who still teaches at USD. "For the most part, students and professors weren't encouraged to cross that line."

But in 1967, three years before Shipley was selected to chair the search for a new president, the College for Men and College for Women slowly began to reach out to each other. Swept along by changes in society, the Catholic Church and the campus itself, the institutions soon became so intertwined that within a few years a merger was inevitable.

The combination was vital for survival. Had the two institutions remained separate, it's likely that financial difficulties, limited academic offerings and dwindling interest in

they did leave the dormitories, the women had to sign out on "portry cards," which told the nuns at the front desk of Founders Hall where they were going and with whom.

As a College for Women freshman in 1968, Donna Arnold '72 had one of the most popular rooms on campus. But while many of her classmates dropped by, few stayed for long.

"Because of a housing mixup, for one semester I ended up with my own room on the first floor of Camino Hall," Arnold recalls, "so the other girls would sneak in through my window if they got back too late from a date."

That deception and others like it — skinny girls, for example, often squeezed through the locked gates between Camino Hall and Founders Hall — were critical to women with

"In a way it was kind of funny," Sattler says, "because in the late 1960s the dresses were so short that they defeated the idea of modesty."

At the other end of Marian Way, the situation was in some ways just the opposite. Other than the seminary students, who lived in Desales (now Maher) Hall, the men resided across Linda Vista Road in what are now the University Terrace Apartments.

| DATE | DESTINATION | ACCOMPANIED BY:               | LEFT | RETURN | SIGNED |
|------|-------------|-------------------------------|------|--------|--------|
| 5/14 | CM Library  |                               | 9:00 | 11:00  |        |
| 5/15 | Out         | Carol & John                  | 8:00 | 11:00  |        |
| 5/17 | Home        |                               | 6:30 | 9:00   |        |
| 5/21 | Home        |                               |      |        |        |
| 5/23 | 3/19/69     |                               |      |        |        |
| 5/25 | 3/21        | Steve Johnson & Janet & Betty | 8:30 | 11:00  |        |
| 5/26 | 3/22        | Harry & Sam's                 | 9:00 | 2:00   |        |
| 5/29 | 3/26        | Wanda                         | 8:00 | 2:00   |        |
| 5/31 | 3/29        | Wanda & Betty                 | 8:30 | 11:00  |        |
| 5/31 | 3/31        | Low Library                   | 6:00 | 9:00   |        |
| 4/1  | 4/1         | U4 & Betty                    | 6:00 | 11:00  |        |
| 4/2  | Home        |                               | 7:00 | 11:00  |        |
| 4/15 | Home        |                               | 2:00 | 11:00  |        |
| 4/16 | CM Library  |                               | 8:00 | 11:00  |        |
| 4/17 | Home        |                               | 9:00 | 11:00  |        |
| 4/17 | Home        |                               | 9:00 | 11:00  |        |

Nuns at the College for Women always knew where to find their students, who signed out of the dorms on "portry cards."



Although they also were expected to dress properly — jeans and casual shoes weren't allowed in class — they had no curfew, few restrictions on visitation in the dorms and relatively freewheeling social lives.

The men hosted almost all campus dances and parties, either at the concrete band shell where Guadalupe Hall now stands, or at The Lark, a basement cafeteria and coffee-house in Serra Hall. For a time, the men even made USD a hot spot for locals, hosting dances at the Sports Center gym and putting the profits into student government coffers. The practice ended, though, after fights broke out at several events and damage lawsuits were filed against the university.

In addition to parties and dances, the men constantly brought students from both colleges together for an array of social events.

"We were more prepared for the merger than the school itself was, because among the students, everyone knew everyone," Sattler says. "Between the film forum, the speakers series and the sports events, there were so many organized activities that the separation wasn't apparent to students."

In March 1969, while official talk of a merger was still in the early stages, students took the lead and voted to combine the college's student governments, and in May 1969 published their first joint yearbook. That same month, the *Vista* student newspaper summed up student sentiment in a story that said: "The CW and CM appear to be a single unit in the minds of many Catholics in the San Diego area."

## We Can Work It Out

Although the process of joining the two colleges started on campus in the fall of 1967, the seeds of the merger were sown halfway around the world, in 1965. Among the documents generated at that year's Second Vatican Council, held in Rome, was a Declaration on Christian Education that called on Catholic colleges and universities to "unite in a mutual sharing of effort."

In the United States, the Vatican directive dovetailed with the atmosphere of the late 1960s, when society began to break down barriers among races, classes and genders. Coeducation quickly became the norm for colleges and universities, even those that traditionally served only one gender.

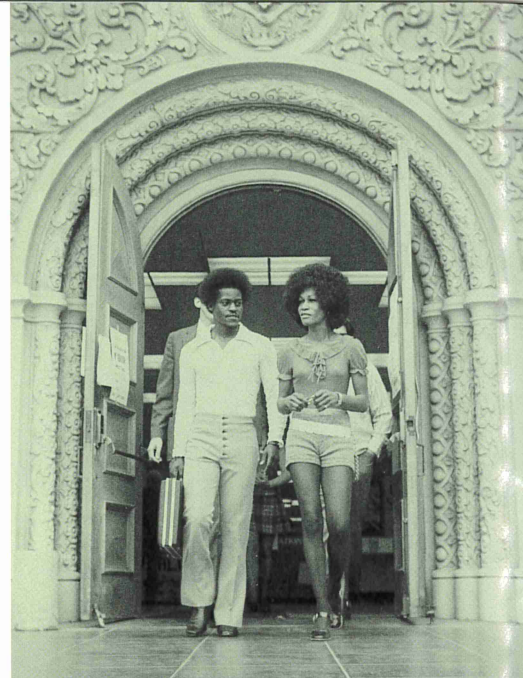
"I thought right away that we should be one school, because we shared so much — right down to the architecture — and because each college had unique academic strengths," says Sister Nancy Morris, College for Women president from 1966 to 1971. "But the main point was, we had to change with the times."

The biggest problem facing the separate colleges was finite teaching resources. Each had areas of top-notch academics — the women's college was particularly strong in languages and fine arts, while the men's college excelled in math and physics — but neither had the ability to provide the full array of courses desired by students. The issue became critical in the late 1960s, when both colleges began to lose significant numbers of students, who transferred to coeducational universities with greater academic offerings.

The need to go coed in the classroom was very apparent to Morris and the Rev. John Baer, College for Men president, who in 1967 signed a document that formally launched the colleges on the path to the merger. Called the "Reciprocal Course Agreement," it allowed, on a limited basis, male and female students to register for classes at either college.

The blending was an immediate hit. More than 200 students took advantage of the cross-registration in the fall of 1967. By the following year, the practice was made permanent and nearly half the student body participated.

"It was a big success," says history Professor Iris Engstrand, who came to the College for Men in 1968. "The guys, of course, wanted to have the girls in their classes, but almost all the students looked forward to being together. A lot of details



Students expressed the spirit of the times through fashion.

had to be worked out, but everyone saw right away that it was better."

Many of those details involved redrawing the lines of control — who would be in charge of the various departments, who had authority over specific administrative areas. The law school, which to that point had existed independently, was incorporated into an overall university structure, and university-wide appointments were made in previously separate areas such as business affairs, admissions and financial aid.

The students, however, were only peripherally aware of the behind-the-scenes maneuvering. Their desire to remain together pushed faculty and administrators to move the process forward.

"We let the kids mix in classes before all the academics and the politics were hammered out," Morris says. "The whole structure had to be changed, but because it already had begun to happen, most of the changes came from the grass roots, not from above."

Morris attributes the success of the structural changes to careful planning and pain-

staking negotiations on the part of Sister Sally Furay, the academic dean of the College for Women and later USD's provost, and Henry Martin, academic dean of the College for Men. As academic departments began to combine and eliminate duplicate class offerings, the duo worked endlessly with faculty to decide department chairs, classroom locations and academic requirements.

There were some growing pains. Professors in the philosophy department, the last academic area to merge, waged a major battle over teaching methods and course content until they literally were sent into a room and told not to come out until they had an agreement. In another department, faculty waited to merge until one particularly vehement opponent was on sabbatical.

Through the negotiations, the students weren't totally unaffected.

"One of the nuns continued to begin her lectures by saying, good morning ladies," says Bill Hall '73. "It took her about a year to acknowledge that there were men in the room."

By all accounts, though, those situations were the exception, and most issues were much less serious. For the first few months of blended classes, there were no men's bathrooms in Camino or Founders halls, so particularly long classes sometimes presented an uncomfortable problem for men. And women who looked forward to a classroom full of eligible men sometimes were in for a surprise.

"I'll never forget walking into an ethics class at the College for Men," says Rosemary (Masterson) Johnston '70. "Sure enough, I was the only girl in the class. But I also was the only non-seminarian."

But the complications and disagreements never stopped the drive toward merger. By the end of the 1967-68 school year, coed classes seemed quite normal, and in June, for the first time, the colleges held joint graduation ceremonies at the San Diego Civic

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## USD Then and Now

|                            | 1972  | 2002  |
|----------------------------|---|---|
| Number of Students         | 2,074   | 7,062   |
| Fraternities               | 2   | 5   |
| Sororities                 | 0   | 5   |
| Academic Majors            | 21  | 60-plus   |
| Number of Faculty          | 150   | 630   |
| Newest Building            | Casa de Alcalá (President's Residence)  | Donald P. Shiley Center for Science and Technology                                    |
| Honor Societies            | Five national honor societies   | More than 20 national academic honor societies, including Mortar Board                |
| National Recognition       | Received first joint accreditation from Western Association of Schools and Colleges               | Ranked among top 150 universities in nation by <i>U.S. News &amp; World Report</i>    |
| Libraries                  | Camino Hall and Knights of Columbus collections totaled 150,000 books                             | Copley Library and Pardee Legal Research Center house 900,000 volumes                 |
| Fiscal Outlook             | Operating deficit of \$415,962  | Endowment of more than \$100 million  |
| Yearly Tuition             | \$1,570   | \$21,880  |
| Yearly Room and Board      | \$1,200 for men, \$1,400 for women  | \$8,800   |
| Dorms                      | 379 students lived in Camino-Founders Hall and University Terrace Apartments                      | More than 2,300 residents living in a dozen dorms                                     |
| Campus Speakers            | Dick Gregory, Ralph Nader, Sen. John Tunney   | Tibetan activist Monk Palden Gyatso, author/activist Angela Davis                     |
| Sports                     | Basketball, Baseball, Tennis, Golf and Club Football  | 16 NCAA Division I teams  |
| Critical Off-Campus Issues | Vietnam; Munich Olympics; Nixon in China  | Terrorism; Iraq   |
| Critical On-Campus Issue   | Dorm Room Visitation  | Ethnic Studies  |
| On the Pop Charts          | "Lean on Me," Bill Withers; "Brandy," Looking Glass; "Alone Again, Naturally," Gilbert O'Sullivan | "Hot In Herre," Nelly; "Complicated," Avril Lavigne; "Cleanin' Out My Closet," Eminem |
| At the Box Office          | "The Godfather"   | "Austin Powers III"   |
| Best Selling Book          | "Jonathan Livingston Seagull"   | "The Nanny Diaries"   |
| On the Tube                | "All in the Family," "M.A.S.H."   | "American Idol"   |
| Party Time                 | Keggers in the canyon   | Bars at the beach   |

## A Date with Destiny

**March 1967** — Talks on academic cooperation between the College for Men and College for Women begin.

**April 1967** — Women's president and men's president sign a "Reciprocal Course Agreement" allowing students to take classes at either college.

**March 1968** — Study recommends merger. Faculty in psychology, biology and math first to develop joint curricula.

**June 1968** — First joint commencement. School of Theology moves to Menlo Park, Calif.

**August 1968** — Identical academic calendar and class times established.

**September 1968** — Bookstore and food services departments combined; men and women take meals in College for Women dining room. Mathematics is first department to combine faculties and curricula under one chair.

**January 1969** — Despite differences in grading policies, the registrar's offices are combined.

**February 1969** — Joint admissions policies established. Creation of first all-university academic department, Department of Religious Studies.

**March 1969** — Students vote to merge student governments. First joint yearbook published.

**May 1969** — Management study commissioned by Society of the Sacred Heart, recommends society endorse unification.

**July 1969** — Contract services, maintenance and security combined. Admissions and financial aid offices combined. Creation of second all-university department in education.

**January 1970** — First joint meeting of men's and women's boards of trustees, who agree to search for one president.

**April 1970** — Philosophy department is last academic department to combine curriculum.

**May 1970** — Diocese of San Diego ceases financial subsidies to College for Men, except for contributed services of priests as professors.

**September 1970** — First combined academic catalog published.

**May 1971** — Author E. Hughes selected as new president of the College for Women and the University of San Diego. All administrative areas, except business affairs, have merged.



Author Hughes

**September 1971** — New University Faculty Senate created; academic requirements unified. Sister Sally Furay, academic dean for the College for Women, named vice president for curricular development and student affairs. Henry Martin, College for Men academic dean, named vice president for academic affairs.

**December 1971** — Trustees meet to negotiate merger. To legally retain name "University of San Diego," merger takes form of an acquisition.

**February 1972** — Inter-visitation policies changed, allowing men and women to visit each other's dorm rooms.

**May 18, 1972** — Merger documents unanimously approved by both boards of trustees.

**July 21, 1972** — Documents recorded by the California Secretary of State, and the merged University of San Diego is born.



## Merger, continued from page 17

Center. For students, the event solidified the bond between the two schools.

"I came to campus as a College for Women student," says Johnston, "but I knew then that I would graduate as a USD student."

### Everybody Get Together

As with most mergers, the final sticking point, one that might have dragged on the process for years, was money. From a financial standpoint, the College for Women didn't need the merger as much as the College for Men. The nuns kept tidy ledgers, and in most years had managed to finish the fiscal year with balanced books.

The College for Men, on the other hand, supported the seminary students and allowed many other students to

pay tuition and fees whenever they were able. In most years, the financial picture was unclear, because transactions and ownership of the facilities were intermingled between the Diocese of San Diego and the college, making a complete audit impossible.

The relaxed bookkeeping made the college increasingly dependent on subsidies from the diocese, which by the late 1960s

was covering losses to the tune of more than a half-million dollars per year. In 1969-70, the college ended the year with a \$693,000 loss, and the situation looked so bad that San Diego Bishop Leo T. Maher publicly wondered how much longer the college could stay open. In 1970, the diocese announced it could no longer offer financial support, except for the donated salaries of the priests who were professors.

"(The bishop's statement) really worried the men, who were scared the college would close and their degrees would end up being worthless," says Tom Scharf '72 (M.A. '73). "We thought the merger could save the school, so it really needed to happen."

It was clear to both sides that a combined university would attract more students and thus more tuition dollars, and administrators knew the campus could accommodate the greater numbers with minimal rearranging of facilities. College for Women trustees, however, were concerned that should the merged university fail, the Society for the Sacred Heart would lose everything — the grounds, the buildings and everything in them.

In addition to fiscal concerns, the College for Women faculty worried about losing the Sacred Heart identity they had worked so hard to create. As an inducement, it was decided early on that the merger would be exactly that — a combina-

tion of two entities to form a new university, with neither taking over the other. With that understanding, the boards of trustees of the two colleges agreed in January 1970 to search for a new president to oversee both colleges and bring the merger to conclusion. Out of fairness to both, the new president would be neither a nun nor a priest.

"It may have been true that the College for Women didn't need the merger quite as much as the College for Men," says Shipley. "But it was clear to both colleges that neither, on its own, was going to be viable forever. We needed each other."

By the fall of 1970, the University of San Diego College for Men and the San Diego College for Women were united in almost every way — the only remaining differences were the name, the two separate boards of trustees, and the two presidents. As the committee chaired

by Shipley sifted through the candidates for president, in early 1971 the name Author E. Hughes rose to the top of the list.

Although the trustees of the two colleges disagreed on other matters, they united in the decision that Hughes, vice president and provost of Northern Arizona University and a man schooled in business affairs, was the right choice. When he arrived on campus in mid-

1971, Hughes was charged with putting the final pieces of the merger together.

Negotiations were delicate, but the new president's evenhanded style strengthened the bonds of trust and cooperation. Early on, Hughes drafted a plan showing how the merger would be a new joint venture in higher education, which put to rest concerns about the university's assets and the composition of a single board of trustees. He outlined a new structure for the university — arranged in separate schools for arts and sciences, education, business and law — and planned a strict budgeting process designed to lead the new university out of debt.

"It took about three years for the university to get its own line of credit, without the backing of the diocese," says Hughes, who retired in 1995. "But by 1975, we had the first balanced budget. We worked out our own model, and it truly was a merger that created something new."

In the summer of 1972, it came to be. Students returned that September to a profoundly changed campus, although they hardly knew it. Everything looked the same, everyone acted the same, the schedules of classes and activities were much as they had been for several years. But underneath was a solid foundation that, 30 years later, produced one of the nation's leading private, Catholic universities — the University of San Diego. ♣



After initial awkwardness, combined classes became routine.