



THE Portal

SPRING 2005 VOLUME 5 ISSUE 1

Never Stop Learning

Dean's Message

Greetings from a soggy San Diego, I can't tell you how many emails and phone calls I've received from friends and relatives who are not fortunate enough to live in San Diego, expressing tongue in cheek condolences for the weather we have had to endure. I suppose the playoff game between the Chargers and Jets, which was televised to a national audience, had something to do with it. My response is always the same, "Yes, the weather is always quite dreadful, I wouldn't visit if I were you!"

But visit is just what we would like you to do. Our new facilities are up and running and we are very pleased with the overwhelmingly positive response we have had from all who have offered and taken classes. This spring, in addition to our normal lineup of quality offerings, we are presenting a full schedule of Osher Lifelong Learning Institute classes. Ranging from the *Wines of the World*, which I shall be offering, to tours of Buddhist Temples and backstage visits at the theater, we shall be offering programs that are as fun to take as they are informative. We have a feature on these courses in this issue along with a complete calendar.

Also in this edition you can read about our new certificate program in *Maritime Careers*. This exciting new offering taps into the rich potential that our unique physical location in San Diego provides. And if a career in the Maritime industry doesn't thrill you, how about spending

the night at SeaWorld studying marine mammal science? If you have never been up close and personal with an Orca, dolphin, or sea lion, you don't know what you are missing.

Several years ago we began a program that allows native English speakers the opportunity to study the very best methods of teaching English as a second language. The program is run through our acclaimed American Language Institute and is called amTEFL. In this issue you'll be introduced to Rob Shaffer and some of the more than 60 amTEFL graduates that have gone worldwide to ply their trade. And speaking of worldwide, you'll be interested to read about the award we have received to work with the Fred J. Hansen Institute to provide educational services in Afghanistan.

There is something here at the College of Extended Studies that is of interest to anyone with a keen desire to improve interpersonal skills, sharpen professional knowledge or has decided that they must, Never Stop Learning.

With best wishes,

William E. Byxbee, Dean



Sycuan Donates \$50,000 for Conference Room in Extended Studies Center

The Sycuan Band of the Kumeyaay Nation has donated \$50,000 for naming rights to the conference room in the new Extended Studies Center.

Payments in the amount of \$10,000 per year over the next five years will be made from Sycuan to the College of Extended Studies.

[See Sycuan Donates on page 2](#)



Dean William E. Byxbee, left, of CES accepts a check from Sycuan General Manager Steve Penhall.

Sycuan Donates

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"This partnership is great for both parties," Sycuan Chairman Daniel Tucker said. "Sycuan is a firm believer in continuing education for all people throughout the greater San Diego community. The SDSU College of Extended Studies helps reach that goal through its mission of providing self-support education and training to enhance careers and transform lives and organizations."

Sycuan has been a key player in the *Professional Certificate in Casino Gaming* program offered since April 2004 by CES. The program curriculum is designed to provide students with the opportunity to begin or further their careers in the casino and gaming industry. Participants obtain a strong basic background in Indian gaming history, regulations, gaming law, supervision, customer service, and leadership.

"Sycuan is a firm believer in continuing education for all people throughout the greater San Diego community."

- Sycuan chairman
Daniel Tucker

"We are quite honored to name our new conference room after the Sycuan Band of the Kumeyaay Nation," said William E. Byxbee, CES dean. "Now, in addition to all of the beauty of the specially designed conference room, we shall have a suitable display area for Sycuan artifacts and historic photos that trace the culture and tradition of the Sycuan Band of the Kumeyaay Nation. Our partnership grows on a daily basis." ■

San Diego State University College of Extended Studies

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Courses Reach Out to the 50 and Better Population

Are you 50 years of age and better and looking for learning opportunities that challenge you, but without tests, grades or papers?

The Osher Lifelong Learning Institute through CES offers instructor led university inspired courses for retired or semi-retired people who are interested in meaningful intellectual and social engagement. Classes are held on the SDSU campus during the day, with convenient parking right next to the new Extended Studies Center where the classes take place.

Spring courses start Feb. 28 and include:

- The Impolite Subjects: Sex, Religion, and Politics
- The Italian Renaissance
- Current Events
- Criminal Justice in California: The Inside Story
- Politics: A Dramatic Interpretation
- The World of Wine
- Tales and Trails of Mission Trails: Natural History Talks and Walks
- Secrets of Longevity
- And much more!



Here's what participants are already saying about this first-year program:

"Being recently retired, I am seeking out things to stimulate me."

"I enjoy the camaraderie and companionship – people that like learning are interesting."

"This is a course I want to take, not have to take."

For more information call (619) 594-2863, e-mail osher@mail.sdsu.edu or visit www.neverstoplearning.net/osher. ■

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Vision

To be recognized as the portal of opportunity at SDSU for collaboration with business, education, government and civil society.



SAN DIEGO STATE
UNIVERSITY

College of
Extended Studies
never stop learningsm

Mission

The mission of the College of Extended Studies is to provide self-support education and training to enhance careers and transform lives and organizations.

Sellout Crowd Has 'The Write Stuff' at Conference

It happened to Erin Grady and Maria Ritter last year.

Could it also happen that someone among the more than 350 people at last month's sold out 21st Annual SDSU Writers' Conference also writes a book that gets published?

Grady, who first became involved with the Writers' Conference in 1989 while working for the College of Extended Studies, had her second book *Echoes* published last year.

"Two years ago I met one of our writer speakers (Bonnie Hearn Hill) who referred me to her agent," Grady said. "From there the rest is history. The SDSU Writers' Conference has been instrumental in getting a lot of people published – either directly as with my first book, or indirectly as with my second."

Ritter has written a book *Return to Dresden* containing the story of her family during and after World War II.

"It has been a wonderful experience to get something published," Ritter said. "It all started at the Writers' Conference."

Aspiring writers attended this year's conference at the Doubletree Hotel in Mission Valley with similar hope of making connections with publishers, or even selling their book.

The SDSU Writers' Conference is one of the largest of its kind on the West Coast. It includes one-on-one consultations and hands-on editing

assistance. Participants learn ways to sharpen their writing skills and make connections with editors and agents of fiction, nonfiction, screenwriting, and children's books.

Dean William E. Byxbee of CES welcomed the capacity crowd in the ballroom of the Doubletree Hotel. Introductions were made by conference coordinator Diane Dunaway, who was a founding co-organizer of the highly-successful annual event along with Jan Wahl, current assistant dean for CES. Keynote speaker Gerry Braun of the San Diego Union-Tribune discussed "How to be Your Own Writing Coach."

Among this year's seminars were:

- "Telling the Truth On the Road to Lying"
- "A Look at the Real Weapons of Tomorrow for Sci-Fi and Techno-Thriller Writers"
- "The 60-Minute Police Ride-Along for Writers"

The conference offered participants workshops on fiction and nonfiction. Industry experts were on hand to discuss how to produce screenplays from inception to finished product and how to attract the necessary attention to get them produced.



"The SDSU Writers' Conference has been instrumental in getting a lot of people published – either directly as with my first book, or indirectly as with my second."

- author Erin Grady

Plans are already underway for the 22nd annual SDSU Writers' Conference, scheduled for Jan. 27-29, 2006. ■

We are Pleased to Recognize our Preferred Partners

BAE Systems
Barona Valley Ranch Resort and Casino
Cardinal Health
Carpenter Special Products
City of San Diego
Cox Communications
Fleet and Industrial Supply Center (FISC)
Goodrich Aerostructures Group
Hamilton Sundstrand
Helix Water District
KPBS
L-3 Communications
Life Cycle Services

Marine Corps Base Camp Pendleton, AC/S, Logistics
Marine Corps Base Camp Pendleton, Civilian Leadership Development
Melles Griot
Mission Federal Credit Union
Naval Air Depot, Quality Assurance
Naval Surface Warfare Center (NAVSEA)
Neighborhood House Association
North Island Credit Union
Northrop Grumman
Port of San Diego
ProfitLine

San Diego County Office of Education
SDSU Associated Students
Sanford North America
Sharp HealthCare
Smith & Nephew
Southwest Division, Naval Facilities Engineering Command (NAVFAC)
Southwest Region Maintenance Center (SWRMC)
Sycuan Casino
Tyco Healthcare
Veterans Medical Research Foundation
Wardell Builders, Inc.

CES Offers Interactive Behind the Scenes Courses at SeaWorld

Want to participate in caring for the marine animals at SeaWorld? Want to stay overnight at the San Diego adventure park?



opportunity to get up close with marine animals,” said Judith Coats, manager of the SeaWorld Education Department. “We will get up early Saturday with the animal care staff preparing for the park opening. Students will become an integral part of caring for animals at SeaWorld. This course goes beyond observation, it’s interactive participation.”

In the *Marine Animal Husbandry and Training* class, students will help the trainers feed the dolphins, seals, and sea lions Saturday morning. The course covers basic concepts in biology and modern scientific methods in veterinary care, behavioral enrichment, genetics, biological rhythms, and microbiology which lead to successful marine animal display and breeding programs.

The College of Extended Studies is offering two courses during the spring semester where students will enjoy both experiences.

The *Marine Animal Husbandry and Training* class is Friday-Saturday, Feb. 4-5, and the *Biology of Whales* course takes place Friday-Saturday, Feb. 25-26. Both classes are from 2-10 pm Friday and 6:30 am-2:30 pm Saturday, with participants allowed to stay the remainder of each Saturday at SeaWorld.

Each class offers students the chance to meet trainers, animal specialists, lab technologists, and other staff during their time at SeaWorld.

“These courses give students the

Students will gain insight into the work done by aquarists, aviculturists, and animal care specialists.

The Biology of Whales course also offers students the chance to help with food preparation and feeding of the animals on Saturday morning. Students will discover



the unique biology and natural history of these incredible creatures as they go below the surface, above the waves, and beyond expectations during this opportunity to learn much more about several different species and meet experts in charge of their care.

Participants get to find out how whales are trained for veterinary



procedures including physical measurements, blood samples, and dental exams. Furthermore, students will learn about the most endangered species of whales and what is being done to help protect them from extinction. Discussion topics will include diving physiology, sound production, and predator/prey relationships.

“This class is typical of the CES style,” said William E. Byxbee, CES dean. “There is no better way to really understand the complexity of the biology of sea mammals without getting a little wet, a little cold, and very tired. I can guarantee you that these lucky students will truly come away with a unique learning experience!”

“This course goes beyond observation, it’s interactive participation.”

- Judith Coats, manager, SeaWorld Education Department

Fees are \$270 for each class. One unit of optional credit is available for an additional \$60.

For more information or to register, call (619) 594-2517 or visit www.neverstoplearning.net. ■

CES Sets Sail on New Maritime Careers Certificate Program

With a growing workforce need for the 35,000 people employed in jobs on the San Diego waterfront, the College of Extended Studies is launching a *Professional Certificate in Maritime Careers* program beginning March 1.

“A certificate such as the one offered by San Diego State’s College of Extended Studies clearly prepares people to advance their career in the booming maritime industry.”

- Michael Bixler, Board of Port Commissioners, Unified Port of San Diego

The curriculum is designed to prepare students with the knowledge and skills necessary to achieve success in the shoreside/waterfront and/or oceangoing maritime industry. Some classes will be held off-site, and a hands-on approach will be incorporated.

Among those expected to attend are entry-level workers, deckhands, navigators, estimators, waterfront security guards, planners/schedulers, project managers, facilities managers, and contract administrators.

“There is good reason for San Diego being called America’s Finest City,” said William E. Byxbee, CES dean. “The first thing most people see when they arrive here is our magnificent bay. Sailing vessels, pleasure boats, working cargo ships, and major cruise liners, not to mention the U.S. Coast Guard and Navy ply the waters in and around our protected harbor. As one of the largest growing sectors of our economy, the maritime industry has a constant need for highly qualified and well trained professionals, in both the shoreside and oceangoing aspects of the business. The College of Extended Studies is uniquely qualified to design, test, and offer our certificate program as part of our ever growing commitment to Workforce Development Certificates.”

The maritime industry is vitally important for San Diego. More than 25 percent of San Diego’s gross regional product (\$16 billion annual economic output) stems from United States Government and Unified Port District waterfront activities, according to the Port of San Diego’s statistics.

San Diego comprises 27 miles of shoreline, 1,600 acres of industrial and commercial land use, and 6,000 acres of military land, the Port of San Diego further reports. Port cities are Chula Vista, Coronado, Imperial Beach, National City, and San Diego.

These facts and figures led to the College’s development of a Professional Certificate in Maritime Careers.



“A certificate such as the one offered by San Diego State’s College of Extended Studies clearly prepares people to advance their career in the booming maritime industry,” said Michael Bixler, commissioner, Board of Port Commissioners for the Unified Port of San Diego. “A certificate is a very important qualification to help people toward this exciting career opportunity.”

Said Capt. Jeff Bentley, founder/ executive director for Coordinated

Maritime Services of San Diego: “Each one of the many facets of the maritime industry is looking for people to fill positions that are either being created due to expansion, or because of vacancies due to an aging workforce. Learning about the industry is the first step to making educated career choices.”

Students in the *Maritime Studies Certificate* can follow two paths: Shoreside or Oceangoing. The core courses for either path consist of: *Introduction to Maritime Careers, Introduction to Marine Engineering, Nautical Terminology, and Regulations and Safety.*

Shoreside/Waterfront electives include *Maritime Security, Engineering II, Vessel Restoration, and Project Management.* Oceangoing electives are *Deck Seamanship, Navigation I, and Charter Boat Operations.* Each course is four weeks long, one night a week.

Students must take the four core courses and three electives from Shoreside or Oceangoing areas to complete the certificate program.

Highlights of the program include:

- Going “behind the scenes” to understand the complexities of maritime occupations
- Benefiting from courses for both big and small boat and ship yards
- Protecting and increasing business revenue through a better understanding of maritime issues
- Discussing the critical issues facing the maritime industry today with key experts and hearing their strategies and solutions
- Learning what security, safety, and key business issues are facing the industry, and what steps are being taken to prepare for them
- Engaging in both classroom and off-site location training to maximize learning
- Learning how to build a career, not just a job!

For more information on the *Professional Certificate in Maritime Careers* program, please call (619) 594-6255 or visit www.neverstoplearning.net. ■

College Receives Grant for Helping Promote World Peace

The College of Extended Studies, in conjunction with the Interwork Institute of San Diego State University, has been awarded a grant from the Fred J. Hansen Institute for World Peace in the amount of \$50,362.

The purpose of this award is to explore development opportunities in the area of the Hansen Institute's interest in promoting international understanding and world peace among traditional adversary nations or population groups.

This project specifically focuses on "Promoting World Peace and International Understanding by Examining the Feasibility of a Long-Term English Language Development Program Supported by Technology."

Cooperation on the project is primarily between the American Language Institute,

a division of CES, and the Interwork Institute at SDSU.

"Our ALI program has been providing superior service to SDSU for 30 years," Dean William E. Byxbee said. "Their unique set of professional faculty and administrative staff combined with innovative programs makes them well suited to provide the curriculum and delivery services for this project."

This award is designed to promote peace and international understanding by expanding efforts initiated by the La Jolla Golden Triangle Rotary Club and SDSU's Interwork Institute to collaborate with Nangarhar University in Jalalabad, Afghanistan in promoting English language training with full integration of technology resources. ■



College of Extended Studies Upcoming Programs and Classes

Below you'll find some of the upcoming courses at the College of Extended Studies. For a complete schedule, please visit our web site at www.neverstoplearning.net.

Grammar for Journalists,
Begins Feb. 14

Secrets of the Caterer (online),
Begins Feb. 16

Speed Spanish (online),
Begins Feb. 16

Starting a Consulting Practice (online), Begins Feb. 16

Scammon's Lagoon Whale Watching Tour, Feb. 24-27, March 3-6 or March 10-13

GRE (Graduate Record Examination) Prep Sessions, Begins Feb. 26

The Biology of Whales,
Feb. 25-26

Travel Photography for Fun and Profit, Feb. 26

Intermediate Sculpture,
Begins Feb. 28

Professional Certificate in Maritime Careers, Begins March 1

Professional Certificate in Project Management, Begins March 1

Professional Certificate in Advanced Meeting Management, Begins March 8

Getting Happily Published,
March 19

Writing and Selling Successful Nonfiction, March 19

Best Practices of Leadership,
Begins April 5

Saturday Seminars, April 16

Russian Criminal Justice Program,
May 28-June 18

CES Co-sponsors Leadership Awards Gala for Japan Society

Dean William E. Byxbee from the College of Extended Studies delivered a five-minute speech on technology, international business, and educational partnerships during the 11th annual Leadership Awards Gala for the Japan Society of San Diego and Tijuana.

CES and Kyocera International Inc. were primary sponsors for the event, which took place at The Prado at Balboa Park.

In addition, the Japan Society of San Diego and Tijuana hosted a seminar in Japanese on Radio Frequency Identification at the new Extended Studies Center.

Rodney Lanthorne, director of Kyocera, earned the 2004 Business Leadership Award from the local Japan Society. ■



Rodney Lanthorne, left, winner of the local Japan Society's 2004 Business Leadership Award, socializes with CES Dean William E. Byxbee at the society's awards banquet in Balboa Park.

ALI Program Draws Praise From Teachers Worldwide



Alicia Wszelaki longed for an opportunity to spend some quality time with her relatives in Poland.

She has been afforded that chance by the amTEFL (Americans Teaching English as a Foreign Language) program through the American

Language Institute at the College of Extended Studies.

Wszelaki, a former program coordinator for CES, began teaching four months ago in Myslenice, Poland.

"Taking the amTEFL program at the American Language Institute prepared me above and beyond for my teaching experiences here in Myslenice," Wszelaki said. "The students here are energetic and enthusiastic to learn, and the school is professional in every regard. This experience so far, as well as the program at SDSU, exceeded all of my expectations."

Program coordinator Rob Shaffer said amTEFL is a 120-hour graduate-level TEFL certification course specifically designed for inexperienced, novice North American teachers who want to live and teach abroad.

The purpose of the program is to provide participants with challenging opportunities to assess and develop their knowledge and practical skills in the teaching of English as a foreign language. The overall emphasis is on practical classroom teaching, on assisting the participants in the preparation of materials and lessons, and on presenting techniques that the participants can use in their own classrooms and share with their colleagues.

"One of the 'hidden gems' of our ALI programming is the amTEFL program," said William E. Byxbee, dean of CES. "Taught by some of the finest instructors in the USA, this program allows dedicated native English speakers the opportunity to train for exciting professional positions throughout the world. Rob has done a great job in placement and still maintains an active dialogue with most of the 60-plus students who have successfully completed our program. It is yet another way that CES has contributed

"This experience so far, as well as the program at SDSU, exceeded all of my expectations."

- Alicia Wszelaki,
amTEFL teacher in
Myslenice, Poland

to internationalizing the curriculum at SDSU."

Program graduates are working in 29 countries. Brien Schmuck teaches English for Wall Street International in Cuenca, Ecuador.

"My experience at amTEFL in San Diego has been invaluable for numerous reasons," he said. "The class gave me the confidence and experience necessary to be a successful teacher. Rob and the staff were responsible for finding me my job and making me feel great about living abroad for the first time in my life. I also made many friends in my class, and keeping in contact with them has helped me feel close to home."

See *ALI Teachers Worldwide* on page 8

ALI Teachers Worldwide

continued from page 7

Carolyn Crolotte graduated with a B.S. in computer science from UCLA, but she was not happy working as a software engineer. She discovered amTEFL online and began the certification program 15 months ago.



Crolotte, who credits the ALI for much of her success, said she went to Niteroi, Brazil to visit her mother's side of the family and to teach English as a second language for six months at a local English school.

"These six months were some of the best of my life," Crolotte said. "I can truly say that I have grown so much not only as an English teacher, but as an individual, due to all of the experiences I encountered during this time. The experience was also very valuable for my graduate school career, as UC Davis offered me a teaching assistantship and fellowship that will essentially allow me to attend graduate school at no cost."

Darren Russell has been teaching for the past eight months in Xingtai, China. He teaches 20 high school classes per week and said that although he feels wiped out from teaching each weekend, he's ready to do it all over again starting each Monday.

"During the summer holiday, the school tried to switch me over to junior high which I strongly refused because I came to the realization that I love my former students, and all of them collectively agreed that I must return for another semester," he said. "On my first day back, all of my students began clapping and shouting that they were so happy to see me again, which immediately brought tears to my eyes. Without the continued support of ALI, I never would have thought that I could handle such a different culture of students which often range from 65 to 75

per class. I want to say thank you to all of those who have held my hand through this great experience. If I could, I would reward everyone with a purple heart."

Joseph Camunas has been teaching in Chile for nine months, following short stints in Ecuador, Peru, and Bolivia. He said "SDSU has been a big brother everywhere I have gone."

"The lifelong placement that they offer is the best part of the program," Camunas said. "I have kept in touch with Rob Shaffer since the day I left San Diego, and that was one year ago. I speak to him more than I do my parents. He truly cares about us and makes sure that we are happy and are getting the most out of our experiences."

Robert Powers currently teaches near Beijing, China. He had teaching experience in computers and the technical field before tackling amTEFL.

"The amTEFL course helped me with English grammar and gave me ideas to use in the classroom," he said. "Some schools will provide you with a strict curriculum to follow but some will not even have a book for you to use. For teachers that have never had experience teaching English as a foreign language, it is very important to have an idea of how to approach a new class. The amTEFL program will lay a foundation."

Barbra Drizin teaches in Cuernavaca, Mexico, the capitol of the state of Morelos. She even shares her adventures on an impressive web site www.barbrainmexico.com.

"This is the best, information-packed, well-planned, hands-on program that prepared me for the next adventure of my life," Drizin said. "As promised, the ALI staff has stayed in touch, motivated me and supported me throughout my first year abroad."

Requirements to enroll in the amTEFL course include a bachelor's degree and interview. There is an option to earn three units of ED X997.

"These six months were some of the best of my life – I can truly say that I have grown so much not only as an English teacher, but as an individual, due to all of the experiences I encountered during this time."

- Carolyn Crolotte,
amTEFL teacher in
Niteroi, Brazil

For additional information and an online application, please visit www.americanlanguage.org/amtefl.html or contact Rob Shaffer via email at shaffer@mail.sdsu.edu. ■

