KCSB Radio Volunteers Provide Critical Service to the Community

KCSB, serving the University and surrounding communities, is the only non-commercial radio station in Santa Barbara. In addition to broadcasting independent music of all varieties, news, and university sports coverage, the station serves as an important public affairs outlet. This role was especially critical during recent fires that struck our community—the Zaca Fire, the Gap Fire, and the Tea Fire.

During all three fires, KCSB volunteers carried three or more reports an hour, including reports on evacuation, during the height of the crisis. Career staff and students spent many extra hours at the station to ensure that announcements were up-to-date and regularly made. Ten- and twelve-hour days were not unusual. The news director and station advisor (to a lesser degree) gathered information from the city and county and attended press conferences. That information was relayed to programmers who are all student volunteers. During the Gap Fire, KCSB’s coverage was particularly important because of the power outages that interrupted both television and Internet reception. The chief engineer and his student assistant arranged emergency power and kept KCSB on the air even when university power failed—especially important since KCSB is the only local radio station that is not automated at least part of the day.

During most of the Gap Fire and part of the Tea Fire, Santa Barbara County and City officials were not providing Spanish translations of critical information. To fill this need, bilingual students and the executive director of Associated Students translated information into Spanish. Later when Spanish press releases were available, programmers regularly read the Spanish versions over the air along with the English versions.

As a consequence of the Gap Fire, KCSB formed a partnership with the Santa Barbara Independent, a weekly news magazine. Their reporters called KCSB programmers or were called by them to give frequent reports from the field. This exchange allowed the Independent reporters to get their news out and allowed KCSB to give broader coverage than its small staff could manage. When the Tea Fire broke out, the Independent lost power. Several of its reporters and its editor-in-chief came to KCSB to report and post stories on the Web. That experience served to strengthen the relationship.

The Tea Fire occurred on the second day of KCSB’s annual on-air fundraiser. Regular programming was scrapped in order to keep up-to-the-minute reports available to listeners late into the night. The following morning, staff met with the student governing group, the Executive Committee, to discuss what should be done about the fund drive. After very little discussion, everyone agreed that it should be suspended indefinitely. This was a big decision as the station normally raises between $25,000 and $30,000 from listeners during a ten day period, and it also represents months of preparation by students and staff. The Executive Committee also decided to resume the fundraiser in February.

Since the fires, KCSB staff members have met with city and county emergency representatives to debrief about communications problems. Despite relatively limited resources, KCSB often provided accurate information ahead of local officials. That is substantially a consequence of UCSB students recognizing the seriousness of the situations and acting out of a civic responsibility to provide information to the community.

In December the Executive Committee decided to do a direct-mail fundraising campaign. One element of that decision was the intention to donate twenty-five percent of all funds raised to Carla and Lance Hoffman, a couple who were severely burned during the Tea Fire. Through this direct-mail campaign as well as the rescheduled on-air drives, approximately $22,000 was raised, allowing at least $5,000 to go to Carla and Lance. Also, the county is providing the station with a $12,000 piece of satellite equipment to allow the station to receive and disseminate information in even the most serious local crises. At a time when optimistic news is in short supply, it is important to recognize UCSB students who’ve acted proactively and selflessly to contribute to their community during difficult times.
FAQs: Financial Aid Information

If a student has not yet applied for financial aid for the 2009-2010 academic year, is it too late?
No, although the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) priority filing deadline for 2009-2010 financial aid was March 2, 2009, students can still apply for financial aid for the 2009-2010 academic year to be considered for the Pell Grant, Direct Loans (subsidized and unsubsidized), and the Parent Loan for Undergraduate Students (PLUS). The FAFSA application is available online at www.fafsa.ed.gov. UCSC's school code number is 001320.

If a student has already applied for financial aid for 2009-2010, when will or should they receive an offer of financial aid?
If additional documentation is required to verify the accuracy of the FAFSA information, the student will be sent an e-mail in April or May with instructions on how to check his or her “Aid Status” on the Financial Aid Office Web site (www.finaid.ucsb.edu). When all documents requested are received, these will be reviewed and an offer of financial aid will be created. At that point another e-mail will be sent to the student directing him or her to view the Financial Aid Award Letter on the Web site.

What scholarships are available?
UCSC awards its limited allocation of scholarship aid primarily to continuing UCSC students who filed the FAFSA by the March 2, 2009, priority deadline and who meet the dual criteria of financial need and academic merit. Additionally, there are links to free scholarship search engines on the scholarship section of the Financial Aid Office Web site.

How does a student receive financial aid?
Most of the types of aid that a student has accepted will be credited to the student’s account with the UCSC Billing Office (BARC). If the aid placed on the student’s BARC account does not cover all of the institutional charges, he or she will be expected to pay the difference by the fall quarter fee deadline of September 15, 2009.

What is the PLUS Loan?
Parents may borrow a PLUS Loan on behalf of their dependent undergraduate student to help fund educational expenses. A PLUS Loan may be a type of loan offered on the student’s Financial Aid Award Letter. The interest rate is fixed at 7.9%. Repayment begins 60 days after the last disbursement of the loan. Parent PLUS loan borrowers may choose to have repayment deferred while the student is enrolled and for an additional six months after the student is no longer enrolled. Interest that accrues during these periods will be capitalized if not paid by the borrower. All PLUS Loan applicants must pass a credit check to have their loan approved.

Is financial aid available for Summer Session 2009?
Summer Session financial aid (grants and loans) will be available only to eligible incoming freshmen, transfer and continuing UCSC undergraduate students who are in academic good standing and who have a complete 2008–2009 FAFSA on file with the UCSC Financial Aid Office. To apply, a student must submit a Summer Session 2009 Financial Aid Application (which will be available on the Financial Aid Office Web site on April 15, 2009). The priority filing deadline for the Summer Session 2009 Financial Aid Application is May 30, 2009.

Parent Support—Making a Difference

Parent support comes in so many forms—a gift package in the mail, a phone call or text message at just the right time, the ability to give advice when sought and to listen when needed.

But parents also are supporting their students through gifts made to the Division of Student Affairs. This year, many parents are giving in response to some important milestones that UCSC is celebrating. For example, this is the 20th anniversary of UCSC’s MultiCultural Center. For more than two decades the MultiCultural Center (MCC) has presented cutting-edge programs such as the Race Matters series, fostered diversity of expression through its Cup of Culture lectures and art exhibits, and provided a public forum and safe space for students advocating for social change. Parent gifts to the MCC will help to ensure its continued vibrance in the campus community.

Also, UCSC is celebrating its largest ever entering classes of African American and Latino students. Currently, 42% of undergraduates are students of color—this milestone is evidence of UCSC’s commitment to enrolling the most academically excellent and richly diverse student body possible. Parents can help us celebrate this achievement with a gift to our Admissions and Outreach Office or to our Educational Opportunity Program, which provides guidance and support to low-income and first-generation college students.

And as is always the case, many parents like to support Campus Learning Assistance Services (CLAS) because it is crucial to their student’s academic success. Through CLAS, more than 8,000 students a year have access to no-cost group tutoring, academic skills workshops, writing assistance, drop-in centers, exam preparation, and review sessions.

Finally, as more and more families face financial difficulties, UCSC students are in need of scholarships and emergency loans. A gift to financial aid/scholarships gives UCSC maximum flexibility in providing a need-based scholarship for a student who otherwise might not be able to attend college. And a gift to the Unfundid Endowment’s emergency loan fund provides small, but critical, loans to students who need assistance with the basics—making the month’s rent, buying food, repairing their car so that they can get to work, or getting medical attention.

These are just a few of the giving opportunities within the Division of Student Affairs. To learn more and to make a gift, contact the Student Affairs Grants and Development Office at (805) 893-7713 and ask for either Diane Duncan, director of development, or Laurie Hoyle, executive director of grants and development. Thank you for your support!
Alcohol and Drug Counseling Services Available on Campus

On-call alcohol and drug counseling services are available on a daily basis at Student Health Service and campus-wide through the UCSB Alcohol & Drug Program. When a student comes into Student Health Service with an illness or injury that is alcohol- or drug-related or the student mentions any alcohol or drug use, an on-call alcohol and drug counselor is available to meet with the student immediately. Also, when a UCSB staff or faculty member is concerned about a student’s use, he or she can call for immediate help, and a counselor will meet with that student anywhere on campus.

If appropriate, the counselor will screen the student using a short, ten-question assessment tool and provide feedback based on the results. Research from the World Health Organization’s Department of Mental Health and Substance Dependence found that “drinkers receiving a brief intervention are twice as likely to reduce their drinking over six to twelve months than those who receive no intervention.” With a non-judgmental approach, counselors use the opportunity to explore with the student how alcohol or drugs are impacting his or her life. Counselors emphasize reducing risks of injury, illness, or other emergencies, and provide education and support as needed.

Referrals to appropriate services within Student Health may include individual counseling with an alcohol and drug counselor, a stress management counselor, an eating disorders counselor, a psychiatrist, or a social worker. Student Health also sponsors recovery groups (including AA), the “Kick Butt” Tobacco Cessation Program, and the Wellness Program. Referrals are also made to other on-campus services including Counseling Services, the Hosford Clinic, the Women’s Center, Disabled Students Program, college-specific academic advising, and Campus Learning Assistance Services. Often, the on-call counselor will follow up with the student by e-mail or phone to offer additional support.

If you have questions or would like more information about the UCSB Alcohol & Drug Program, please visit alcohol.sa.ucsb.edu or call (805) 893-5013.

Insuring Continuous Health Care Coverage

If your son or daughter will be graduating from UCSB this year, the next few months will no doubt be filled with anticipation of both the opportunities and challenges of life after college. With the excitement of graduation, it may not occur to either of you to think about continuation of health insurance coverage. Each year Student Health encounters some students who have serious problems getting the health care they need because of changes in health insurance status. If your son or daughter is covered by the Undergraduate Student Health Insurance Program (USHIP), the coverage and the rules regarding use continue until September 20, 2009, (for June 2009 graduates). If your son or daughter is covered by private insurance, be sure to contact your insurance carrier for information about terms of coverage following graduation from college. While several options are available for temporary coverage post graduation, none of them allow enrollment while you are still covered by other insurance. This means that students on the USHIP plan should wait until September 18, 2009, before activating temporary insurance. No conversion plan (COBRA) is available with USHIP.

Temporary insurance to cover students in the period between the ending of university or private coverage and the beginning of coverage through employment or other means is important for two reasons. First, preexisting conditions continue to be covered only if new insurance is purchased within sixty-three days of the expiration of the previous insurance. Second, a new condition that develops while your son or daughter has no insurance may not be covered by a new insurance policy or, at best, only after a several-month waiting period.

Though it may not be as interesting as talking about other aspects of life after graduation, post-graduation health care and health insurance should be a consideration for every student who is leaving the university. Information on temporary coverage is available through UCSB’s Alumni Association at www.ucsbalum.com/membership/benefits.html. If you have questions, UCSB’s Student Health insurance advisors will be happy to assist you at (805) 893-2592.

Office of the Ombuds: Confidential Conflict Resolution

Is your student having difficulty with a professor? Is a bureaucratic process at a standstill? Are you frustrated by not having your questions answered?

The Office of the Ombuds provides confidential and informal conflict management services to the entire UCSB community—students, staff, faculty, visitors, and parents. Assistance is provided to the campus community with informal resolution of any university-related complaint or conflict. Ombuds staff adhere to professional standards of practice to create a safe and confidential environment where members of the UCSB community can discuss interpersonal conflict, academic concerns, bureaucratic runarounds, and many other problems. Sometimes all that is needed is a place to think out loud as options are considered and before decisions are made; the Office of the Ombuds is that place.

Get in touch with the Ombuds Office as a first step or a last resort—or at any point along the way. More information is available on their Web site at www.ombuds.ucsb.edu. Parents and students who wish to schedule an appointment, can call (805) 893-3285 or stop by the office in Girvetz Hall 1205-K.
Commencement Planning Begins Now

Schedule of Ceremonies:

Sunday, June 7, 2009 – 11:00 a.m. College of Creative Studies, Campbell Hall
All Saturday (June 13) and Sunday (June 14) ceremonies take place on the Faculty Club Green
Saturday, June 13 – 9:00 a.m. Science and Mathematics
Saturday, June 13 – 1:00 p.m. Engineering and Science
Saturday, June 13 – 4:00 p.m. Social Sciences I
Saturday, June 14 – 9:00 a.m. Social Sciences II
Sunday, June 14 – 1:00 p.m. Humanities and Fine Arts
Sunday, June 14 – 4:00 p.m. Graduate Division

Students must make a commencement reservation for an open and available ceremony in order to participate in commencement. Special note: Parents, please remind your student that declaring candidacy for an official degree and making a commencement reservation are two separate actions on the GOLD system.

Please keep in mind that thousands of graduating seniors will be inviting family and friends to the commencement ceremonies. Students should limit their number of guests to a maximum of six to help maintain a high level of comfort and decorum.

For more information, call the Commencement Hotline at (805) 893-8289, send an e-mail to commencement@sa.ucsb.edu, or visit the Web site at www.instadv.ucsb.edu/commencement. For accommodations information, visit www.santabarbara.com. Book hotel rooms soon; space is limited!

Grad Fair 2008

A Grad Fair will be held April 29-30 from 9:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. in the University Center lobby. Various campus department representatives and vendors will be available to answer commencement questions. Check out the Graduate Center on the Bookstore Web site at www.bookstore.ucsb.edu/graduation/graduation.html.

Grad Gift: Gaucho for Life

Need a special graduation gift idea for your son or daughter? Consider giving the gift that will last a lifetime—a life membership in the UCSB Alumni Association. Benefits include career connections, job postings, networking, Coastlines publication, travel tours, alumni directory, and locator service. More information can be found on the Alumni Association’s Web site at www.ucsbalum.com.

Staying Connected

UCSB Campus Calendar: http://events.sa.ucsb.edu/calendar/
UCSB Home: http://www.ucsb.edu or call (805) 893-8000
Campus Connection Newsletter: http://www.sa.ucsb.edu/parentnewsletter; e-mail: Newsletter@sa.ucsb.edu
Campus Learning Assistance Services: http://www.clas.ucsb.edu or call (805) 893-3269
Associated Students: http://www.as.ucsb.edu or call (805) 893-2566
Counseling Services: http://counseling.sa.ucsb.edu/ or call 4411
Career Services: http://careers.ucsb.edu or call (805) 893-4412
Division of Student Affairs: http://www.sa.ucsb.edu or call (805) 893-3651
Educational Opportunity Program: http://www.sa.ucsb.edu/eop or call (805) 893-3235
Financial Aid Office: http://www.finaid.ucsb.edu/ or call (805) 893-2432
Gaucho Parents: http://www.sa.ucsb.edu/parents
Housing & Residential Services: http://www.housing.ucsb.edu or call (805) 893-2760
Office of the Registrar: http://www.registrar.ucsb.edu/ or call (805) 893-3592
Office of Student Life: http://www.sa.ucsb.edu/osl/ or call (805) 893-4569
Orientation Programs: http://www.sa.ucsb.edu/orientation/ or call (805) 893-3443
Student Health Service: http://www.sa.ucsb.edu/studenthealth/ or call (805) 893-3371
UCSB Bookstore: http://www.bookstore.ucsb.edu/ or call (805) 893-3271
UCSB Wellness Program: http://wellness.sa.ucsb.edu/