

Viewpoints

Students Need Debt Relief

College students and graduates are counting on Biden to stand up the GOP and pass meaningful relief.

Story Page 5



Sports

RECORDS TUMBLE

A resurgent swim team smashed 11 school records and won four conference championships in a meet hosted at the new aquatic center.

Read the full story, Page 10



Arts

Wondrous Wings

SC alum who studied dance at Julliard returns to choreograph stunning performance of "The Winged."

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THE SUN

SOUTHWESTERN COLLEGE

AN ACP HALL OF FAME NEWSPAPER

MAY 2023 ISSUE 5

A NATIONAL PACEMAKER AWARD NEWSPAPER

MEChA FIGHTS ON FOR CHICANO STUDIES

BY EWAN TOLEDO

El Plan de Southwestern College has not gone as planned. Time for *El Plan B*.

MEChA's 10-point proposal to create a Chicano Studies department got the "once over lightly" from college administrators and faculty leaders, according to MEChista Julia Woock, one of the student leaders who advocated for the plan.

Based on the seminal *El Plan de Santa Barbara*, the Southwestern College proposal outlines a vision for a modern Chicano Studies program for a *fronteriza* campus — America's closest college to Mexico. Student leaders have argued that colleges and universities around America already have modern Chicano Studies programs and curriculum, but not their own college that is between 65 and 70 percent Latino.

During the pandemic, SC student Myriam Ortiz collaborated with MEChA (*Movimiento Estudiantil Chicano de Aztlan*) on the plan. Ortiz said she was motivated when she discovered she had to take an additional class at Mesa College not offered at SC to fulfill her degree requirements as a Mexican American Studies major. She said she created *El Plan* as an assignment at Mesa College and presented her outline to former SC MEChA advisor Dr. Francisco Fuentes. With his support, MEChA finalized *El Plan de Southwestern College* and collected 1,347 signatures on a student petition.

In March 2021, members of MEChA presented the plan to

MEChA • PG 7



HONORARY DEGREE RECIPIENT

Sandra Scheller, the tireless Holocaust educator and human rights activist, was presented the Southwestern College Honorary Degree for her decades of service. Her mother, Holocaust survivor Ruth Goldschmiedova Sax, was the recipient in 2018. Scheller's latest exhibit will be hosted for one year at the Rancho San Diego Library in El Cajon.

CONGRATS GRADS!

Record numbers of students earn certificates or transfer

Southwestern College's new and greatly improved stadium still could not fit all the 2023 graduates and their cheering sections, so for the first time ever the college held two celebrations.

More than 800 students were split into morning and afternoon ceremonies, both of which drew near-capacity crowds to DeVore Stadium. Students were sorted by the schools their presenting professors belonged to.

Among the special guests were Latin Grammy-winning guitarist and Spanish knight Pepe Romero (a friend of honorary degree recipient Sandra Scheller) and Chula Vista Mayor John McCann, a former student and adjunct instructor.

ASO Vice President Imani Drew gave an inspiring commencement address that encouraged her classmates to be persistent and to use their educations for the betterment of the nation.

— Sun Staff



PHOTOS BY CHERI-ANN INOUE

CROSSING THE STAGE — Ngoc Phu Xinh Nguyen, who goes by Sally, was one of about 800 students to participate in commencement. For the first time ever SC split the event into morning and afternoon sessions.

A LARGE RETIREE COHORT DEPARTS

BY CHERI-ANN INOUE

Fueled by an early retirement offer from the college, more than two dozen senior faculty and staff will retire at the end of this academic year on June 30. It is one of the larger retirement cohorts in recent years.

Beverly DeLara is the longest-serving of the group at 37 years, followed by Mary Jo Horvath and Margarita Andrade-Robledo with 33 years. Diane Edwards and Julieta Hatz both compiled 30 years of service.

Diana Avila, Sylvia Banda-Ramirez, Adam Cato, George Essex, Michael Gargano and Edmund Guerrero all completed 26 years of service.

Serving 20 years or more are Pila Aleman-Taijeron, Bruce Boman, Carmen Cortez, Josefina Flores, Al Garrett, Nora Guido and Richard Hettich.

RETIREES • PG 2

Fueled by an early retirement offer from the college, more than two dozen senior faculty and staff will retire at the end of this academic year on June 30. It is one of the larger retirement cohorts in recent years.

REMEMBERING DAVID LYNCH

HUMANITARIAN FOUNDED SCHOOLS IN TIJUANA DUMPS

BY CAMILA A. GONZALEZ

COLONIA PAN AMERICANO, TIJUANA

When David Lynch told a friend that the Tijuana school he taught in was a dump, his friend assumed it was a rhetorical flourish.

No, Lynch literally taught in the dump.

A humble humanitarian



DAVID LYNCH

LYNCH • PG 2

MISER OF MEXICO RICHLY FUNNY

Director Sandra Cortez deftly leads a talented cast through Carlos Morton's tragi-comic tale of lust and greed. Page 8

Image Courtesy of Daren Scott