

Building our Campus Community

Updates on Undergraduate Admission and Financial Aid

By Jim Rawlins

Associate Vice Chancellor of Enrollment Management

I am excited that we can now share final and official information on the composition of the incoming class of new first-year and transfer Tritons. In leading the work of UC San Diego's Enrollment Management unit, this is my first fall at the helm on this campus, even though it's my 29th in the profession. I have been excited to see things materialize, and for the chance to share that news here.

As has been true for many consecutive years, the 2022 first-year applicant pool saw yet another increase in students putting themselves forward for consideration at UC San Diego — this time reaching over 131,000 applicants for an incoming class of roughly 6,600. Meanwhile, we experienced a decline in applications from transfer students, which is a trend across most UCs and other institutions throughout California. Even then, that process saw 19,000 applicants competing to join a class of 3,100 new transfers, with the vast majority of these applicants coming from California Community Colleges (CCC)—mindful that nearly all the spaces were set aside for them.



AVC Jim Rawlins

First-year/Freshman admissions

Without a doubt, one of the most impactful things happening in first-year admission at the UC and beyond is the recent rethinking around the use of standardized tests. This past year marked the second review cycle in which each campus across our system used a “test-free” approach, which meant that U.S. students not only weren't required to submit ACT/SAT scores to be considered for admission, but that the scores would not be considered even if provided. (Scores from



these tests remained an option for international students showing their English proficiency as one of the options at those students' disposal.)

Elsewhere across the U.S., many other institutions large and small, public and private, prominent and not, have similarly been examining their testing policies. The experiment might have been hurried along by the necessities of the pandemic, but many institutions were already pondering the move prior to that time. Here on the West Coast, the UCs, CSUs, and all public institutions in Oregon and Washington have all gone to either test-free or test-optional approaches. These patterns are not so uniform in other parts of the country, and in at least some states in the Southeast, governing boards, legislators, and other decision makers

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have forbidden institutions from trying a test-optional approach since the tests became available again.

Whether the absence of these tests somehow lessens our ability to make good decisions around offers of admission is a question that will be worth examining for the next several years. For the moment, though, one clear impact of the policies is the blossoming of a larger, more diverse applicant pool. Students of backgrounds who have more often been disadvantaged by standardized tests — including low-income, first-generation, and under-represented minority (URM) students — would often decide that their relatively low scores were reason enough to not even try seeking admission at UC campuses and other highly selective institutions.

We have always considered many other factors besides test scores in our holistic review process. So, it was a loss year after year that so many talented students were hesitant to apply just because of this one thing. Now, though, our gains in applications reflect this thaw. In turn, our ongoing consideration of a student's

local context recognizes potential in the same comprehensive manner it has for the last many years, and this is contributing to the most diverse first-year class in the history of UC San Diego.

All of these areas of growth and improvement in access came in a year where our first-year admit rate was the lowest in our history, and in which we offered admission to nearly 10,000 fewer applicants than the previous year. This decrease was the result of two main factors: the increase in applications, and the need to become much more cautious and strategic in efforts not to overshoot our enrollment targets. Whereas 2021 and some other recent years found us significantly exceeding our targets — causing great strain on everything from our housing to advising and class availability — this fall's approach saw us return to the challenging but necessary process of waitlisting thousands of applicants at first, so that we could work our way up to our limits and capacity.

Transfer admission

As mentioned, applicants for transfer admission are on the decline compared to recent years, and there is much to analyze around this trend. While enrollment at CCCs has been decidedly down overall, it is

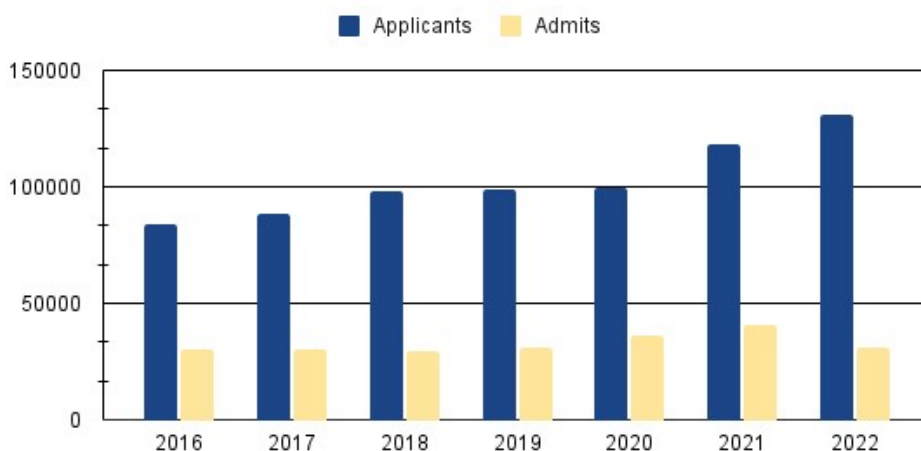
The 2022 applicant pool had enough strength that, despite our decline, the San Diego campus was glad to make offers of admission to more CCC applicants than any other campus in the system, all while adhering to requirements for "major prep" in relevant departments and achieving further gains in diversity.

important that we examine details within those data. The local community colleges, in particular, are our partners in shaping this portion of the UC San Diego pipeline and are eager to collaborate with us on this front. The 2022 applicant pool had enough strength that, despite our decline, the San Diego campus was glad to make offers of admission to more CCC applicants than any other campus in the system, all while adhering to requirements for "major prep" in relevant departments and achieving further gains in diversity. Even then, our total number of incoming new transfers declined purposefully, as the 2021 cohort had come in larger than targeted.

Learning from our analysis of that pool, and from discussions with community college leaders and their teams around the state, we see great value in increasing our early outreach to transfer students in the coming years. In 2023, pilot efforts are already underway through

- funding from the UCOP Student Academic Preparation and Educational Partnerships (SAPEP) grant programs to embed advising staff in targeted local campuses;
- earlier identification of potential transfers with the goal of

UC San Diego Freshman Applicants and Admits (2016-2022)



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- beginning advising earlier; and
- improved data sharing with CCC leadership, paired with increased availability to them for analysis and innovation.

Through these and other efforts, UC San Diego had one of the strongest showings of any UC campus for 2023 transfer applicant numbers, and we will be especially focused on seeing whether next year’s applicants (starting fall 2024) show higher levels of preparation for their major and overall progress.

The role of financial aid in enrollment outcomes

Last, I am excited to share that multiple new initiatives around aid and affordability are looking to have impact on our enrollment efforts, whether in large or small ways. It has never been truer that even a talented student offered admission may not come to UC San Diego if they and their family cannot see it as feasible and affordable.

The Tuition Stability Program (also called “cohort tuition”) went into effect with incoming Fall 2022 students and ensures incoming students will now have their tuition remain stable for their entire degree, up to six years, instead of increasing each year. This makes budgeting long-term easier for families, for whom the annual increase is often one of the more challenging factors in college retention and success. Meanwhile,

the UCOP Debt-Free Initiative represents increased aid to all UC campuses for their in-state students and lowers the amount of “self-help” our lower-income families are expected to contribute toward annual costs. The term “debt-free” is complicated, and these improved aid packages do not guarantee an absence of student debt over the course of their degree. It will reduce it, though, and more funding is looking possible over the coming years to further our work to this goal.

Combining these two efforts with a focused increase in email and print communication to the families of admitted students (not just the students themselves) has shown promise in overcoming parents’ lack of familiarity or comfort with the aid process, and further efforts in 2023 will hopefully let us have even more success on this front.

The road ahead – 2023 and beyond

As we review the applicant pool for our next incoming class, Enrollment Management is purposeful in establishing and refreshing a culture of heightened communication with colleges, schools, and departments. If you talk with colleagues in leadership positions around campus, they’ll tell you that our new approach is to give them more insight and perspective sooner in each cycle so that they know not only these overall trends and patterns, but how those patterns play out in their individual areas. Even with a goal of modest and consistent growth in

new student enrollments for the next several years, student demographics and preferences change, and the various academic units of campus need to prepare for their share of that change.

We are helping each area by sharing multi-year trends in applicant and enrollment data, parsed out into California residents, out-of-state, and international applicants. We are also compiling data to show where students go if they do not choose UC San Diego. This will help shed light on the choice process for students, while also helping understand our place among our peers for planning potential updates to curriculum or the marketing around it.

All of this potential for the future builds from the work done over the many years by those who have come before us. I am fortunate to have recently been joined

Did you know?

More than **55%**

of UC’s California undergrads pay no tuition

That’s because UC has one of the strongest financial aid programs in the country. The Tuition Stability Plan will generate even more financial aid resources to help students.

by Executive Director of Admissions **Blia Yang** (most recently of UC Santa Cruz) and Executive Director of Financial Aid and Scholarships **Silvia Marquez** (most recently of UC Berkeley), and I know they will lead the work of these two pivotal areas in strategic, thoughtful ways that benefit campus while putting our students and potential students at the center of our efforts.



The Design Lab @ UC San Diego Post-pandemic Resurgence

THE
DESIGN
LAB

By Mai Nguyen, Director
The Design Lab

The Design Lab’s space in the Design and Innovation Building (DIB) officially opened in November 2021, and since then, there has been a resurgence in activity on campus. The DIB is a new state-of-the-art collaborative workspace where interdisciplinary designers are performing groundbreaking research and tackling urgent design challenges. The DIB allows designers on campus to connect with communities across the region. This is facilitated by the addition of the Blue Line Trolley that connects the DIB to the new downtown UCSD Park & Market building, a space that is considered a civic collaboratory.

As a result of its new capabilities, Design Lab faculty, researchers, and students have been grappling with challenges in important topics, including climate change, equitable healthcare access, health monitoring, the affordable housing



The Design Lab is located at the Trolley Entrance to Campus

crisis, data security, and privacy, AI and surveillance ethics, and Indigenous peoples’ sovereignty. To create new ideas that solve these societal problems, it continues pushing the boundaries of design education and research to create a more equitable and just future for all.

Education

The Design Lab offers a wide range of opportunities for learning humanity-centered design. They

have successfully structured a life-changing multidisciplinary education in an undergraduate Design minor. The emerging Design Graduate Specialization provides a minor for doctoral and master’s students, and the entire community has access to online courses in Interaction Design and Human-Centered Design. The development of a Design undergraduate major and master’s program is also underway and expected in the near future.



*Dr. Mai Thi Nguyen, Director
The Design Lab*



Leaders are currently in the planning process of adding faculty to the ranks by 2025. These exciting expansions increase the breadth and depth of research topics and respond to the ever-growing diversification of the faculty. To this end, the [Designing Just Futures Cluster Hire](#) seeks to recruit up to 12 talented and diverse faculty engaging in innovative and interdisciplinary research at the intersections of design and social justice that prioritizes Indigenous, Black, and migrant futures.

Research

Membership in the Lab is held by faculty, researchers, and students across every school on campus, including the School of Medicine. The common thread across the research areas is the focus on humanity-centered design, the type of design that tackles the root causes of complex societal problems. Two research groups within the Lab exemplify the type of significant ongoing work conducted. The Just Transitions Initiative (JTI), led by **Professors Lilli Irani and Manuel Shvartzberg-Carrio**, supports innovation in design and organization toward more just and democratic futures, tackling geopolitics from below. Members work toward just transitions by integrating analyses of labor, ecology, and social systems, including racial capitalism and settler colonialism. This approach addresses transition as a social and ecological process, and design as a means of transforming collective conditions of living. JTI considers global warming, infrastructure, housing, policing, food, and livelihoods as within its ambit.

The DigiHealth Lab, founded by **Professor Edward J. Wang**, seeks to democratize health monitoring and healthcare access. Dr. Wang was honored with the Google Health Equity Research Award for his work on Artificial Intelligence for at-home breastfeeding support. This project

proposes applying machine learning to improve breastfeeding duration and its incredible potential to ease infant care, furthering its research on developing new sensing techniques with a goal of ultimately bringing clinical sensing out of the clinic.

Design Lab Studios

The Design Lab Residency Programs train undergraduate and graduate students to support our staff that delivers knowledge, programs, and services in the field of Human-Centered Design. Residents are trained to work with students, groups, faculty, and cross-disciplinary teams to identify problems, ideate potential solutions, and develop prototypes. After training, residents learn how to present on the topic of design thinking, lead a group of people in a workshop, support a team through a project, and serve as a consultant on design projects.

There are currently two cohorts of residents totaling 20 students, with another cohort being prepared for onboarding. Upon the successful completion of this one-year program, Residents will receive a recommendation commensurate with their work, and one year of experience as a consultant to complement their UCSD degree. Successful residents will be able to continue to build their experiences and become ongoing resources for client projects, both on and off campus.

The UC San Diego Design Lab is home to globally recognized faculty and principal designers at the forefront of advancing design research, education, and application of humanity-centered design. The Agency Services Program helps clients solve the right problems by providing world-class professional services to university, industry, civic, and community

partners based on our deep expertise and knowledge of human-centered design and guided by our novel research at the frontiers of the design field. Our students supporting this program are undergraduate and graduate students from all schools, making us truly a transdisciplinary place for design. All students are supported by Designers-in-Residence, cross-sector leaders, and practitioners from all areas of design.

Other News

The Frontier Design Prize (FDP) is a visionary, innovative, world-class design award established with the aims of encouraging design innovation, enhancing the impact of design in driving industrial transformation, and promoting the role of design in shaping a better world. A central program of the World Design Cities Conference (WDCC), it is undertaken by Design Innovation Institute Shanghai (DIIS) with guidance from the Shanghai Municipal Government.

Don Norman, the founding director of the Lab, was awarded the FDP for his pioneering contribution to the design field and his far-reaching international influence. Norman is widely recognized as the father of user-centered and human-centered design. He is currently a thought leader in the emerging humanity-centered design. Don has shaped a number of fields by combining design with social science and engineering and making pioneering contributions to the fields of cognitive science, human factors engineering, and interaction design.

World Design Capital 2024

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The World Design Organization (WDO)® designated the cities of San Diego (USA) and Tijuana (Mexico) as the World Design Capital® (WDC) 2024 as a result of their commitment to human-centered design and legacy of cross-border collaboration to transform the region’s natural and built environments. The Design Lab is a founding partner of the World Design Capital 2024 program and is leading the Legacy Program, which involves the curation of legacy projects. As part of the WDC 2024 legacy programming strategy, we intend to identify, assess, select, and resource multinational legacy programs ensuring that the designation catalyzes and accelerates meaningful design transformation in our transborder, multinational region.

These are just the highlights of the education, research, studi-

os, and activities with which the Design Lab is currently engaged. We encourage our community members, both past and present, to get involved with us in “design as a way of thinking, of focusing upon how people interact with complex systems

and technology, and of ensuring that we solve the right problem, the root issues that define the true needs of the people and groups that work with us and whom we serve.”



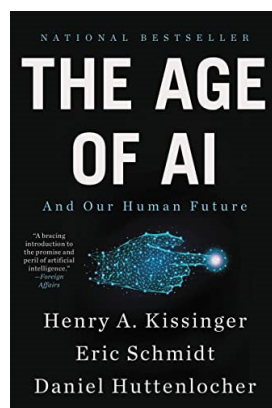
Emeriti Association Book Club

Until further notice, all Emeriti Association Book Club meetings will be held via Zoom. Please [RSVP](#) at least 24 hours prior to the event to receive the Zoom link via email. Event date and time: Fourth Monday of each month, 11:45 AM - 1:15 PM
Be sure to [RSVP online](#) to attend.

Monday, February 27th

***The Age of AI: And Our Human Future*, by Henry Kissinger, Eric Schmidt and Daniel Huttenlocher**

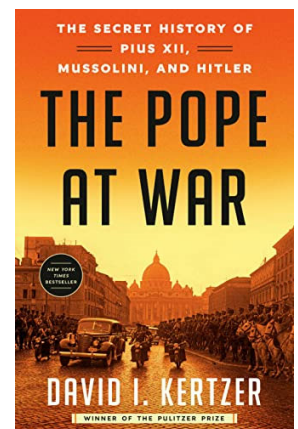
We invite you to join us in a discussion of the book, *The Age of AI, and our Human Future* by Henry Kissinger. We look forward to learning from this thought-provoking book and exploring the potential implications of AI on our lives and future. This book examines the implications of artificial intelligence and its potential to shape society, governments, and the economy. We'll consider topics such as ethical considerations around AI development, overcoming biases, and harnessing AI innovations for global progress. Our discussion will provide an opportunity to reflect on and consider the possibilities of AI for improving our lives and future.



Monday, March 27th

***The Pope at War: The Secret History of Pius XII, Mussolini, and Hitler*, by David I. Kertzer**

We invite you to join us in an enlightening discussion of David I. Kertzer’s book, *The Pope at War*. This enthralling book examines how Pope Pius XI, through his actions, managed to influence a global conflict of unprecedented magnitude during the early 20th century. We shall explore his policies and the strategies employed, to gain an understanding of his vision and gain insight into the potential implications for future events. Through our engaging book discussion, we will consider issues such as geopolitical matters and the struggle between powerful forces at work on the world stage.



A Heartfelt Thanks to Sandy Lakoff

By Steven Adler and Ann Craig

Sandy Lakoff has been the editor of *Chronicles* for eighteen years, during which time the newsletter has become a quarterly staple at emeriti breakfast tables (or computer screens). He has solicited articles, gently cajoled writers to meet their deadlines, and shepherded the entire process with infinite grace and a jeweler's eye for precision. And now, in the Winter of 2023, Sandy has decided to close that chapter and pass the reins to a new editor. Of course, we will miss his wisdom, his vision, and his clarity as the Emeriti Association does its best to continue to generate informative and entertaining stories and observations. Sandy's decision, we hope, will serve him well, and we also hope it does not augur a bump in the road, since the roadmap that he developed has proved durable and eminently accurate. I (Steven) had volunteered to pitch in and help out last year, and now I find in my slightly quavering hands the torch/baton/red pen that Sandy bequeathed to me. My first call in this august role was to sing Sandy's praises and let him and the entire community know how much of an impact he has made at UCSD and in the Emeriti Association.

For those of you who don't know Sandy (and we suspect you are in the minority), what follows is a brief overview of his character and his accomplishments here at UCSD.

Enormous and catholic curiosity. Ambition. Vision and strategic thinking. Institutional savvy. Department chairs are well served to have some of these qualities. Creating a new department on a young campus requires them all in abundance. UC San Diego has been exceedingly fortunate that Sandy Lakoff brought those qualities to the task of establishing the Department of Political Science in 1974. Retiring in 1992, he continues to apply those skills on campus

and in the community.

As founding Chair, Sandy has brought vast curiosity and breadth in the discipline. That facilitated recruiting superb new faculty and building an outstanding department with dynamic strengths across core fields. A scholar of American political theory and public policy, his interests have extended into International Relations, particularly strategic defense and science policy. That same curiosity has been reflected in the articles he has solicited for *Chronicles*, which he has masterfully edited since he took the editor's reins from Leonard Newmark in 2004.

Sandy's avid curiosity and strategic vision have fueled an interest in interdisciplinary research. His ambition — fully realized — was to build a Top 10 department that excelled in scholarship and public engagement. On international security issues, he found willing partners in Roger Revelle and Herbert York. With them, he built a program in Science Technology and Public Affairs, linking the new department to founding STEM faculty. The Systemwide Institute on Global Conflict and Cooperation owes much to both Sandy Lakoff and Herb York.

Sandy has applied institutional savvy to promoting programs anchored in the distinctive geographic location of the campus, establishing a leadership role for UC San Diego in Latin American and Pacific Rim studies. He advocated for the Center for U.S.-Mexican Studies, hiring senior faculty with regional specializations, and more indirectly for the Graduate School of International Relations and Pacific Studies (now Global Policy Studies). Each one has greatly enhanced and broadened the campus' international profile, as did his scholarly output. Even in retirement, Sandy wrote more books and articles than many professors generate in a lifetime. His achievements and contributions were of such magnitude that Sandy received more accolades than a

four-star general. He was the recipient of the Dickson Award in 2008, the Revelle Medal in 2014, and the Panunzio Award in 2018.

Once a Head Tutor in Government at Harvard, Sandy has insisted on strong written work from students in his theory classes and from his fellow faculty. His red pen has marked and enhanced numerous manuscripts for books and articles. As writers for *Chronicle* can attest, that passion has not lessened with time. Early in his tenure, the Department of Political Science built a demanding undergraduate Honors Seminar. As testimonial to Sandy's influence on crafting well-written and powerful arguments, the best prize for a senior honors thesis is the Lakoff Award — which Sandy has generously funded.

Long committed to educating the public, during both active duty and in retirement, Sandy has been a widely popular speaker in the community. As the first UCSD faculty member to write opinion pieces for the *San Diego Union Tribune*, he has been interviewed frequently on radio and television. Throughout retirement, he has been a rock star at Osher Lifelong Learning and in nearby retirement communities, where no one misses a "Lakoff lecture."

As longtime editor of *Chronicles*, Sandy has brought immense curiosity, ambition, vision, and diligent institutional perspective to the publication. He has solicited richly varied articles for the general campus, capturing cutting-edge research across disciplines and in his careful recording of institutional history. We will miss his fine leadership as he retires from the Editor's position. He will continue to be a passionate advocate for *Chronicles* as the printing presses continue to roll.



Retiree & Emeriti YouTube Channel

Members of the UCSD Emeriti Association have a tremendous resources at their disposal. That is the Retiree & Emeriti YouTube Channel, which you can find by clicking here: [https://www.youtube.com/@Retiree and Emeriti YouTube/featured](https://www.youtube.com/@Retiree_and_Emeriti_YouTube/featured)

EA members are encouraged to subscribe to [REYT](#) in order to receive notices when new programs are posted there. It is free.

REYT includes the following playlists:

- [Emeriti Assn. Faculty Lectures](#)
- [Retirement Assn. Faculty Lectures](#)
- [Senior Seminars](#) (SS, Medicare, & more)
- [Financial Seminars](#)
- [Discovering UCSD](#)
- [Gardening](#)
- [Arts & Culture](#)
- [Food Demos](#)
- [Virtual Museum Tours](#)

And more. Check it out today!

Chronicles

Newsletter of the UCSD Emeriti Association



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*Forward queries, changes in mailing/email address to:
Vania Bailon, Interim Director, UCSD Retirement Resource Center,
UCSD, 9500 Gilman Drive, #0020, La Jolla, CA 92093-0020*

Mark your calendar for Spring 2023 events!

Emeriti Association Meetings & Lectures

Please RSVP [here](#) to receive the Zoom event link



Wednesday, March 8, 2023

3:45 PM—5:00 PM

via Zoom

"You Are What You Eat: How the Microbiome Transforms Your Food into You"
presented by **Professor Rob Knight**



Wednesday, April 12, 2023

3:45 PM—5:00 PM

via Zoom

"Should I or Shouldn't I? Genetic Testing for Health, Ancestry, and Curiosity"
Presented by **Professor Lisa Madlensky, PhD, CGC**