



Revelle Newsletters

OFFICIAL REVELLE COLLEGE NEWSLETTER, UCSAN DIEGO

2011 Fall
Quarter
Issue 2

THE END OF THE ROAD

**WORLDWIDE
THANKSGIVING**

7 NEW
natural
wonders
of the World

BANG
FOR YOUR
BUCKSHOT

PRE-MED?
Have no fear!
Helpful advice is here

letter for
INDIGO

THEME CONTEST: THE BEATLES

Submit your entry by February 1st, 2011

Worldwide Thanksgiving

By: Megan Ouyang



With our annual “Turkey Day” just around the corner one can’t help but think of mashed potatoes, gravy, stuffing, and all the other decadent meal items associated with the holiday. More importantly, Thanksgiving is a day for appreciating the good things in life, family, and being grateful we live in such a bountiful country. But one can’t help but wonder what “Thanksgiving” is like in other countries. Sure enough, there are holidays across the world dedicated to giving thanks for the fruits of a plentiful harvest.

Canada—Thanksgiving

Thanksgiving Day takes place in Canada on the second Monday of October each year, usually coinciding with Columbus Day in the U.S. It is a celebration to give thanks for the bounty of the harvest season. Thanksgiving corresponds with the English and European Harvest festivals, and decorations such as pumpkins, cornucopias, and corn are common. Since the holiday is officially on a Monday, Canadian families may eat their Thanksgiving meal on any of the days of the three-day weekend, although it usually is on Sunday. Thanksgiving is also a popular time for Canadians to vacation for the long weekend. Also similar to the USA, there are traditional parades and football games that take place, such as the Kitchener-Waterloo Oktoberfest parade and Thanksgiving Day Classic.

China—Mid-Autumn Moon Festival

In China the Mid-Autumn Moon Festival, or the August Moon Festival, takes place on the 15th day of the 8th month of the lunar calendar, when the moon is believed to be at its biggest and brightest. The festival celebrates the end of the harvest season with a feast. Instead of our typical pumpkin pie though, the Chinese have mooncakes. Mooncakes may be sent between friends and family as a means of giving thanks. Additionally, the holiday has a romantic aspect to it. Lovers may reveal their feelings to each other under the heavenly moonlight and friendships are made or renewed. The legend of the Lady in the Moon is also associated with the August Moon Festival. It is said that children who see the Lady in the Moon on this night may make a wish, and their dreams may come true.

Brazil—Thanksgiving

Thanksgiving in Brazil is a relatively new holiday, which started in the 1940s when the Brazilian Ambassador was invited to a celebration in the U.S. at the National Cathedral in Washington, D.C. He liked the concept so much he brought it back to Brazil. Ever since, the national holiday has been celebrated on the fourth Thursday of November. It is a time of giving thanks for a good harvest bounty, although the festivities are much more low-key than the acclaimed Carnival celebrations.

Ghana/Nigeria—Yam Festival

The African people have numerous harvest festivals throughout the year, but the Yam Festival is particularly important because of the cultural significance of yams. Yams are a staple, especially in rural communities, so the Yam Festival is the time when people give thanks to the nature spirits for a good year. In Ghana the festival is called “Homowo”, or “To Hoot at Hunger” festival; during this time people hope for a bountiful harvest in the coming year. “Iriji”, as it is known in Nigeria, means “New Yams”, and the festival begins with a ceremony to honor deceased family members. Yams are taken from the ground and brought to the village to be blessed. Once blessed, various dishes are created from the yams and the festival ends with a large feast. Different communities celebrate the harvest in different ways, but they all include singing, dancing, parades, and drumming.

Despite the different dates and customs of Thanksgiving celebrations around the world they all share a common underlying principle. Thanksgiving is a time to give thanks for the harvest of the year, and celebrate the joy of spending time with friends and family.



A Letter for INDIGO

By: Konto Southisombath

We were only seven when we first met. I was sitting outside in my front yard when out of nowhere; a rock came flying by and hit me on the side of the head. I remember looking over and seeing you, a pudgy little boy with cheeks the color of roses. You were pointing and laughing, as if my being hurt were the funniest thing in the world and then abruptly stopping when you realized I was crying. You climbed over the fence that separated our houses and scampered over to me. I remember you kneeling down and placing a kiss on my forehead. "I'm sorry. Don't cry. It's gonna be okay," you said. There was so much reassurance in that little seven-year-old voice of yours, that I couldn't help but believe you.

Fast-forward six years, when we were thirteen. The year we were finally considered teenagers. Puberty was kicking in and man, was it apparent. Boys were starting to notice girls; girls were starting to notice boys. It was terrible. I was weird, awkward, and had braces. I also loved to read and had this unusual obsession with POGs. Needless to say, there were no boys knocking on my door asking me if I wanted accompany them to Charley's Milkshakes. You however, were no longer that pudgy little boy with rosy cheeks anymore. You were tall, funny and played soccer on the school team. No, you were doing just fine. The eighth grade spring dance was in two days and Jonathon Luna, my date, had called and told me that he would no longer be taking me to the dance but instead be taking Stacey Summers. My thirteen-year-old heart was broken. The night of the dance, you caught me sitting in our tree house alone, crying and cursing anything and everything that had to do with Jonathon Luna. You came over and sat next to me, both our legs were dangling over the edge. I remember looking over at you and asking you why you weren't at the dance, all the while trying to hide my tears. With the silliest face you can muster, you looked right back at me and said, "I don't dance." You were so kind and trying your hardest to keep my mind off of Jonathon; I was really touched. I ended up crying again. You smiled, put your arm around my shoulder and told me that Jonathon Luna was a tool for choosing Stacey Summers over me and that I was beautiful. You then whispered, in that reassuring voice of yours, "Don't cry, you're going to be okay."

Fast-forward another four years, when we were seventeen. It was our senior year of high school. College applications were taking over our lives and while I was always stressing about grades and financial aid, you were always the calm one. You reassured me that everything was going to be fine. It was March 16, 2009 and we were sitting alone in my room. You asked me which college I was planning to go to, and I told you it was a toss-up between UCSD and UCLA. I asked which college you were planning on going to and you said that you weren't going. You told me that you had talked to a recruiter and was going to enlist in the Army right after graduation. Needless to say, I was hysterical. I was screaming at you, throwing things, yelling and crying. Even though we both understood that fighting for our country was something to be proud of, I was still begging you not to go; saying that it was dangerous and then proceeding to list all the bad things that could happen. All the while you just listened and remained calm. Once I got quiet again, you casually walked over, wrapped your arms around me and said, "Don't worry. I'll be fine. Everything's going to be okay."

Fast forward two years, it is now the present and we are nineteen. I am in San Diego and you're somewhere in the Middle East. I walk over to my desk and take a seat. My pen opens fire to the piece of paper that I have placed in front of me, and I start to write like a madman. Words and questions that seem to carry the weight of everything that's been dying to come out, spill over onto the white paper in front of me. Splashes of dark ink erupt onto the page until there's no more room to write; until there's nothing left to say. I stop and take a deep breath. *This is it.* Enclosed in this letter, is our history. The words and phrases that have been written on this sheet of paper are of thoughts and emotions that can only be for you. With trembling hands, I fold the note straight down the center and place a kiss at the very top. As I drop the letter into the mailbox, I can't help but hope that every thought, every expression, every adoring declaration that this 6x10 piece of stationary contains, is delivered to you in one piece; and that ultimately, everything's okay.



*"Everything's
going
to
be
okay."*

THE NEW SEVEN NATURAL WONDERS OF THE WORLD

BY: CULTURAL AWARENESS NETWORK

Founded in 2001, the Switzerland-based New7Wonders Foundation has been creating lists that detail the new seven wonders of the world. From the new seven ancient wonders in 2007 to the new seven natural wonders today, New7Wonders has been striving to achieve its goal of creating a Global Memory, a list of seven things that everyone can remember, by garnering participation worldwide.

Starting in December 2007, the world-wide poll, in which anyone in the world could vote via telephone, text message, internet polls and social networks, started from a list of more than 440 sites in over 220 countries.

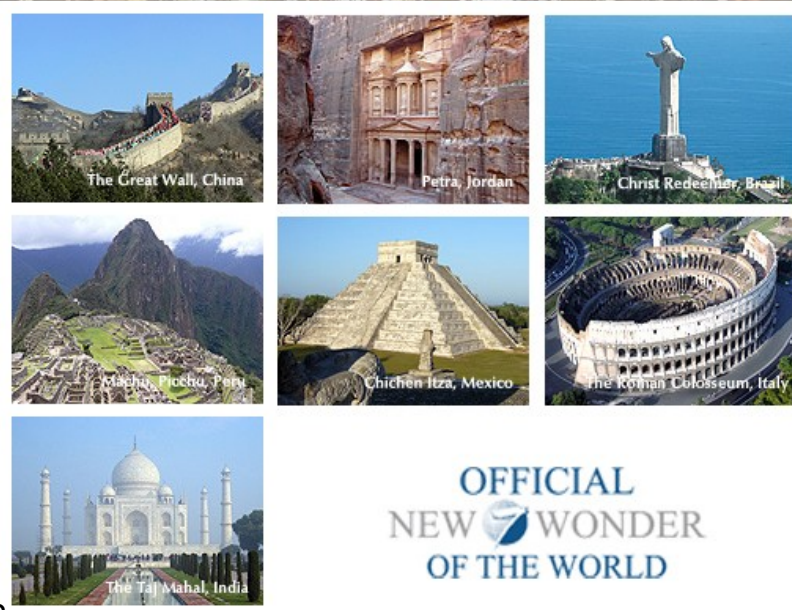
The poll attracted great interest from people of every continent. Celebrities including Argentinian football star Lionel Messi called on fans to vote for the Iguazu Falls.

In July 2009, more than one million votes were cast to shorten the list to 77 sites. From those sites, the list of natural wonders was slowly narrowed down to 28 finalists by a panel of experts.

Five days before voting ended, the 10 sites leading the polls were: Dead Sea in the Middle East, Grand Canyon in the United States, Great Barrier Reef in Australia, Halong Bay in Vietnam, Jeita Grotto in Lebanon, Jeju Island in South Korea, Komodo Island in Indonesia, Puerto Princesa Subterranean River in the Philippines, Sundarbans mangrove forest in Bangladesh, and Mount Vesuvius in Italy.

However, the website shows that voting online accelerated in the last few polling days. As the polls came to a close on 11/11/11, the votes were tallied. The provisional new seven natural wonders of the world are: Amazon Rainforest in South America, Halong Bay in Vietnam, Iguaza Falls in between Argentina and Brazil, Jeju Island in South Korea, Komodo Island in Indonesia, Puerto Princesa Subterranean River in the Philippines, and Table Mountain in South Africa.

The official winners are set to be announced early 2012 during the Official Inauguration ceremonies. As the natural wonders poll comes to a close, the New7Wonders Foundation is considering a new survey -- the top seven cities of the world. Participating cities are set to be announced on January 1, 2012.



Pre-Med? Have NO FEAR! Help is HERE!

By: Mozelle Armijo

Are you a pre-med student? Do you ever wonder if entering the medical field is just too stressful? Don't worry! Here is some advice from someone who has walked in your shoes and survived to tell the tale!

"If it truly is your passion, don't give up!" These are the words of Dipika Gopal, Revelle alumni and current second year med student at UCSD Medical School. Gopal chose the medical pathway because in addition to her "strong science background" from high school, she became intrigued by the "challenge that human life presents [one] with." She found herself identifying with the moral principles of medicine: trust, compassion, and hope. Gopal stated that she values these "three qualities...in life and to be able to use those values everyday in [her] work seems...like a perfect way to live."

Gopal used her undergrad years at UC San Diego as a way to not only delve deeper into science, but to also grow "intellectually and emotionally." She recalled that as an Orientation Leader for Revelle, she was given the opportunity to "explore how to be a role model and...to encourage the formation of community in just the thirteen students in [her] group." Through conducting research in a neuroscience lab, shadowing at Rady's Children Hospital, and lending a hand at the UCSD Free Clinic, Gopal was not only able to see the promise medicine held, but she was also able to "[form] educated opinions on matters that affect [her] and [her] community now and in the future."

Although Gopal dedicated her time and effort to pursuing her passion for medicine, she was also involved in the music department at UCSD since she double majored in Physiology & Neuroscience and Music Performance. She stated that by "completing a clarinet performance major" and immersing herself in music, she was able to "view and experience the world" through a lens decorated with the sounds of music. In addition to the creative outlet music provided her with, she was able to express herself by being involved with the Revellations committee.

Gopal also offered advice to those who wish to pursue medicine as a career. She advised getting clinical experience early to determine if medicine is truly one's passion. This advice is especially helpful since most students at UCSD are on the pre-med pathway. Gopal wisely stated to "not... shape your college experience solely on the fact that you want to pursue medicine as a career." She recommends "exploring as many passions as you can or have time for."

So, if you are ever discouraged about the difficulty of your classes or scared about how things are going to turn out, just remember Dipika Gopal's story and how much hard work and perseverance can achieve.



COD MW3 VS. BATTLEFIELD 3. THE MOST BANG FOR YOUR BUCKSHOT

By: Lucas Eberle

With the second set of midterms and finals quickly approaching, students search for a temporary escape from the over-burdensome and all too stressful reality of their studies. That escape for many students is found through videogames. A quick warning before you read this: as you can see by the title, this article will discuss two of the most publicized and hyped-up games of the year, so if you are not a gamer this may not be the article for you. With that said, allow me the chance to share some of my findings. As a college student who likes to deflate after a long day with the help of first person shooters and who has a limited budget, I understand the questions that might come to mind when considering Call of Duty Modern Warfare 3 and Battlefield 3. But have no fear; a first person shooter nerd is here to alleviate the difficulty of your purchase.

So, let's start with some broad themes of the two games. Both offer updates for a smoother game play that will accommodate the gamer's needs, while avoiding repetitive complaints of the past. But I must highlight first that Modern Warfare 3's makers at Activision generally made a game that offers interesting revisions and updates to past gameplay, such as perk changes and dogtags, but feels more like an expansion pack to MW2. Call of Duty follows its general formula for making fun filled-games and thus hasn't changed much for its release. And although Battlefield 3 may not offer the same type of trigger happy, fast paced gameplay that the Call of Duty series exemplifies, Battlefield 3 does makes notable breakthroughs in graphics and gives players a wide range of vehicle selection that you won't find in almost any first person shooter.

But keep in mind that the gamer buys the game; each game matches its unique gamer counterpart. These games offer their own distinct style of gameplay that may work for some and not for others. Call of Duty: Modern Warfare 3's fast paced, small team assault may not be everyone's cup of tea. Likewise, Battlefield 3's spacious maps and discreet character classes- recon, assault, medic, and specialist- may favor the more strategic first person shooters.



On more specific terms, MW3 has been making major adjustments since their last games that may attract or distract you from this new addition to Activision's blockbuster series. As aforementioned, much of the desired multiplayer gameplay reflects Modern Warfare 2 if not for a few changes here and there. Gratuitous perks, dependency on kill-streaks, and overpowering certain weapons of choice have all been edited; however, the game does flaunt some updates with its much anticipated dogtag feature, along with new assault weapons such as the typ-95. Although it may seem that MW3 lacks improvements, this is CoD, a game which never fails to catch much attention and satisfy almost all users.

Battlefield 3, unlike MW3, exhibits an unprecedented focus on graphics, class specificity, and updated vehicle options. Battlefield 3, as it loves to tell you in all of its televised promotions, is the most life like looking first person shooter on the market. Everything about this game revolves around realistic gameplay. The game also features an array of vehicles like tanks, jets, and helicopters (some easier to handle than others). But what really makes Battlefield 3 into a game that requires more brain than brawn comes from its class selection. A player can choose whether he (or in some rare cases she) wants to earn points as a supportive medic, pick up strategic kills with the recon class' sniper unit, or simply go all out with the assault class.

As an informer, I can only tell you what may suit your preferences as a game aficionado. Personally, I lean heavily in favor of Battlefield 3 in part because of its sundry of innovative multiplayer game options, but also because I've grown blasé in CoD's inability to adapt. But don't let me stop you from buying MW3 if you are the type of gamer who revels in the heightened senses from smaller maps and the glory of personal awards and killstreaks. I leave you the responsibility of choosing the right game. If you are more into teamwork and variety in multiplayer, then I recommend you give Battlefield 3 a shot. Hopefully you will find the game that suits you best, just please don't forget to study for finals.



A comparison of gameplay of CoD MW3 (left) and Battlefield 3 (right)

The End of the Road

By: Ryann Vasquez

It is fast approaching four years since I first stepped foot onto this vast campus, terrified that someone so directionally challenged as myself would never find any of her classes, terrified that I would never find my way around and end up at Center Hall when I needed to be in Pepper Canyon Hall. While in the first weeks I was often lost physically, I found myself lost as a student and resident as well. I didn't know anyone. I was far out of my comfort zone and I thought I was way "too cool for school." As is often true for new students I found my grades plummeting, far from the A's I had been used to seeing on my high school grade reports. I was lost, but despite the setbacks, I found my way. I met friends with similar goals who pushed me to excel academically, friends who expanded my social arena. I got involved in organizations that made me question my personal barriers by having me speak publicly and even dance in front of hundreds of other students.

College is often referred to as that defining moment in your life; the period of transition from your former child-like self to the responsible adult who begins to detach themselves from their parents. In some ways, I have to agree. Being away from home for almost four years has taught me valuable life lessons as well as practical knowledge such as cooking, cleaning, and budgeting. In a way, this last year as an undergraduate is much like my first, filled with feelings of excitement mixed with terrifying moments of what the future holds. Yet as I look ahead I'm inclined to look back and reflect on the memories made here at UCSD, the experiences that like a mosaic came together to form the person I am today. Memories such as getting the opportunity to go on stage with rapper The Game during Fall Fest, going to Honduras on a Dental Brigade, and even spending the summer in D.C. I will also remember contributing to Revelle's Spirit Night win in 2010 and being an Orientation Leader. Additionally, I'd be remiss to not reflect on all the late night study sessions, coffee runs, and the privileges of being able to attend classes where I can learn about various topics from experts in their respective fields. As the beginning of the end sets upon me, my only hope is that in these past couple of years I've become a better thinker, a better friend, and an overall better person who has learned her way and found herself despite once being lost. I am confident that the knowledge and experience I have accumulated here at UCSD will serve me in the future as I embark on my journey of ultimately becoming a dentist and a becoming an advocate for higher education and public health.

PHOTO AT A GLANCE



Photographed By: JJ Magallon

Theme
Contest
Winner!

Stephanie Saavath



The photo is actually called, *New Beginning* and shows that, no matter how many scars our daily struggles give us, we have a chance every single day to continue growing.

Up-close and Personal

A closer look at the Revelations staff

KONTO SOUTHISOMBATH



Khanthong Southisombath aka 'Konto' is a Second year Revelle student who is majoring in Economics. She spends way too much of her time 'stumbling' on the internet and almost always has headphones in her ears while walking to class. She loves The Strokes and truly believes that Ringo Starr is the perfect being. When she graduates, she intends to road trip across the country and collect state t-shirts along the way.

KONTO'S *Did you know that Roger Revelle...?*



Roger Revelle was a mentor to Al Gore the former Vice President of the United States.

EVENTS

UCSD Wind Ensemble Performance

Free on 12/1 @ 8pm at
Mandeville Auditorium

Bob Zelickman will be directing a Latin American and Mexican themed concert showcasing a clarinet soloist.

Starting November 14th, **I Heart Revelle Stocking Stuffers** will be sold for \$1

All proceeds made from these stocking stuffers will be going towards student scholarships.

RCC's Final Prep from your Freshman Reps:

11/30 @ 1 pm on Revelle Plaza: come get a free blue book, pencil, and study tips from your Freshman Reps JJ and Andre.



Mozelle



Konto



Megan



Jinky

MEET THE STAFF!

JJ



ZZ



Ryann



Whitney



Luke



Revellations is advised by Liora Kian-Gutierrez, Assistant Dean of Student Affairs. Sponsored by RCC.

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