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THE CRADLE OF PROFESSORS

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MEET THE STAFF
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SDSU ACKNOWLEDGES THE LEGACY OF THE KUMEYAAY NATION

For millennia, the Kumeyaay people have been a part of this land. This land has nourished, healed, protected, and embraced them for many generations in a relationship of balance and harmony. As members of the San Diego State community, we acknowledge this legacy. We promote this balance and harmony. We find inspiration from this land; the land of the Kumeyaay.

- Kumeyaay Land Acknowledgement created by Michael Connolly Miskwish

ENS NEWSLETTER
TEAM

DR. MATTHEW MAHAR
DIRECTOR, SCHOOL OF EXERCISE AND NUTRITIONAL SCIENCES

WENDY SANDOVAL
THRIVE! EDITOR-IN-CHIEF/ENS STAFF
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Director’s Message

Resilience is the ability to bounce back after facing adversity and is one of the most important traits students can develop during their tenure at SDSU. We have all faced unexpected challenges during this past year of the pandemic. Our students, faculty, and staff have stepped up to meet the unique challenges they have faced with great effort, grace, and gratitude. I stand in awe and congratulate you all. In this issue of Thrive!, we start a new feature called the ‘Cradle of Professors,’ where we recognize numerous graduates of the School of Exercise and Nutritional Sciences who went on to become professors in colleges and universities across the nation. You will also be able to read about many of the accomplishments of our students and alumni. We extend our appreciation to recent faculty and staff retirees and continue to tell you about current faculty and staff.

Linda Copp and Sharon Martin Retire

After a 16-year career with the School of Exercise and Nutritional Sciences, Foods and Nutrition lecturer Linda Copp retired last Fall. Linda was passionate about the Foods and Nutrition program and helping her students understand and love food science. She taught many courses, including Introduction to the Science of Food, Nutrition Throughout the Life Span, Nutrition for Athletes, Advanced Science of Food, Experimental Food Science Laboratory, and Child Nutrition. As the dietitian for Meals on Wheels, she provided volunteer opportunities for students to acquire knowledge in nutrition for older adults. Moreover, she designed and implemented the Sports Nutrition Cooperative (SNC) student organization. The SNC provides opportunities for students to deliver sports nutrition presentations to Division I athletes and advise athletes on healthy eating habits specific to their sport. After Linda transitioned from SDSU, she began working more hours for Meals on Wheels and accepts interns from the various dietetic internship programs to teach senior nutrition. Additionally, she checked an item off her bucket list – to participate in a therapy dog program. Linda received her Bernedoodle puppy, Oliver, and both are currently training. Hopefully, in a year, they will receive licensing and begin going to hospitals, campuses, and any other place where warm hugs and snuggles are needed.

ENS Staff member, Sharon Martin, also retired last semester. Sharon served as an Instructional Support Technician for foods and nutrition laboratory courses for 18 years. She is appreciated for always helping faculty and students with whatever they needed. Sharon prepared laboratory equipment for food science courses, maintained inventory, purchased necessary items, procured and organized foods and specialty supplies, and maintained nutrition laboratory and stockroom facilities. As for her life after SDSU, she is enjoying time with her family.

Join us as we thank Linda and Sharon for their contributions to ENS and SDSU and congratulate them on their retirements!
School of Exercise and Nutritional Sciences - The Cradle of Professors

The School of Exercise and Nutritional Sciences is known for graduating students who then go on to become professors at colleges and universities across the nation. In this section, we will highlight some of our graduates that helped us become the Cradle of Professors. Our first entry tells the story of one of America’s most important sport historians, Dr. David Wiggins.

Dr. David Wiggins

David K. Wiggins received both his A.B. (1974) and M.A. (1975) in physical education from San Diego State University. As a fun fact, Dr. Wiggins ended up at San Diego State after playing summer baseball in 1971 for Coach Jim Dietz with the well known Alaska Goldpanners in Fairbanks, Alaska. Dr. Wiggins completed two years at Oregon State University, where he played baseball both years. He liked Coach Dietz so much, he decided to transfer to San Diego State after Coach Dietz was announced as the new Aztec baseball coach. Dr. Wiggins played a year with Coach Dietz and helped him as an assistant coach while completing his master’s degree under Lyle Olsen, Reet Howell, and her husband Max (then Dean of Professional Studies). They nurtured in him a love of sports history, encouraging him to pursue his doctorate. He earned a Ph.D. degree (1979) in Physical Education with a specialization in Sports History and a minor in the Philosophy of Sport and Physical Activity at the University of Maryland.

Dr. Wiggins spent the first 10 years of his academic career at Kansas State University and the next 28 years at George Mason University. He was the Director of the School of Recreation, Sport, and Tourism and was affiliated faculty in the Department of History and Art History. Primarily interested in studying the interconnection among sport, race, and American culture, Dr. Wiggins, now professor emeritus of sport studies at George Mason University after his retirement in 2018, has published 30 essays in scholarly journals, several book chapters, and authored or edited 19 anthologies and monographs. Included among his books are Glory Bound: Black Athletes in a White America (1997); The Unlevel Playing Field: A Documentary History of the African American Experience in Sport (2003); Out of the Shadows: A Biographical History of African American Athletes (2006); Rivals: Legendary Matchups that made Sports History (2010); Separate Games: African American Sport behind the Walls of Segregation (2016); and More than a Game: A History of the African American Experience in Sport (2018).

Dr. Wiggins complimented his scholarship with several editorial and administrative positions and has been acknowledged for his professional contributions with numerous awards. He served as Editor of the academic journal Quest (2007-2010) and the Journal of Sport History (1996-2001) and is currently Editor-in-Chief of Kinesiology Review. Dr. Wiggins’ leadership positions include serving as President of the National Collegiate Athletic Association Scholarly Colloquium (2011-2012) and the North American Society for Sport History (2019-2021). He has been an academic consultant for the United States Holocaust Museum, National Archives, and National Museum of African American History and Culture. He is a three-time recipient of the research writing award from the Research Quarterly for Exercise and Sport, a five-time recipient of the outstanding article award from the Journal of Sport History, and two of his anthologies have been selected as the best of the year by the North American Society for Sport History. Dr. Wiggins has also given many invited lectures, including the 2010 Seward C. Staley address at the annual conference of the North American Society for Sport History and the 2021 keynote address at the American Kinesiology Association Annual Meeting. He is an Active Fellow (#483) in the National Academy of Kinesiology.
Students Represent ENS at SDSU Student Research Symposium

The Student Research Symposium (SRS) is an annual symposium that was held virtually on March 19-20, 2021, where students had the opportunity to present their research to the public. It is a university-wide event that recognizes the research and scholarly accomplishments of SDSU students. This year several undergraduate and graduate students represented the School of Exercise and Nutritional Sciences. Presenters are listed below.

**Student: Lani Morales**
Title: You Sort of Fit Together Like a Puzzle: Across-Agency Partnership Attributes for Combating Food Insecurity in San Diego County
Mentor: Dr. Amanda McClain

**Student: Remy Sprague**
Title: Coordination of Sensed State Body State and Foot Placement Related Muscle Activation
Mentor: Dr. Shawn O’Connor

**Students: Lani Morales & Lauren Yowell**
Title: We Work Really Hard to...Give Them That Disneyland Experience: Within-Agency Capacities to Address Food Insecurity in San Diego County
Mentor: Dr. Amanda McClain

**Students: Tania Dutra & Khoa Vo**
Title: Factors Affecting Adapted Sport Participation: A Survey for Parents of Children with Disabilities
Mentor: Dr. Antoinette Domingo

**Student: Joel Kopcow**
Title: Pre-conditioning hES-MSC for Osteochondral3E -Bioprinting
Mentor: Dr. Ralph Feuer, Biology Department

**Student: Daniel Pentico**
Title: Indoor Hydroponic Strawberry Production
Mentor: Dr. Changqii Liu

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2021 American Kinesiology Association Student Scholar Award Recipient

We are pleased to announce the local winner of the 2021 American Kinesiology Association Undergraduate Scholar Award. Rebecca Pierce was recognized for her excellence in academic accomplishments and leadership.

Rebecca’s research experience began in her second year of college when she contributed more than 100 hours as a volunteer in Dr. Sara Gombatto’s Rehabilitation Biomechanics Laboratory. Rebecca assisted with the Sports Biomechanics Injury Prevention Program in collaboration with the SDSU Athletics Department.

"It’s an incredible honor to receive this award and I’m so thankful for the amazing ENS faculty and staff who made it possible!"
- Rebecca Pierce, B.S. Kinesiology/Pre-Physical Therapy
2021 American Kinesiology Association Undergraduate Scholar Award Recipient

As an outcome of this work, Rebecca co-authored an abstract presented at the American Physical Therapy Association (APTA) national conference and a manuscript published in the academic journal *Physical Therapy in Sport*. She currently works as a research assistant to Dr. Gombatto and Dr. Katrina Maluf on a National Institutes of Health-funded study testing the efficacy of a culturally adapted cognitive behavioral, physical therapy intervention for Latinos with chronic spine pain. She has worked more than 580 hours actively involved in data collection and has led data processing and analysis efforts.

Rebecca takes incredible initiative to work through challenging tasks. Also, she has conducted over 175 observation hours in unique settings such as the Naval Medical Center’s Comprehensive Combat and Complex Casualty Care (CS) Unit and Sharp’s Aquatic Physical Therapy. Rebecca has recently been accepted into the SDSU Doctor of Physical Therapy (DPT) program. She is incredibly thankful for the ENS faculty and staff who made it possible for her to receive this honor.
ENS Student Accomplishments Spring 2021

Through mentoring and support, faculty in the School of ENS ensure student success and prepare students for meaningful careers. Several ENS students contributed scholarly publications, made professional presentations, and were recognized for their accomplishments. We congratulate them for their efforts during the Spring semester.

Grants and Awards (ENS Student Names in bold)

South Carolina Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics Outstanding Dietetic Intern Award

Mackenzie Miller
Mackenzie graduated with a B.S. degree in Foods and Nutrition in 2020 and is currently a Clinical Pediatric Intern at the Medical University of South Carolina.

Student Success Fee Award

Student: Isabel Frazier and Student Nutrition Organization (SNO), received $3,200 from the SDSU Student Success Fee to support SNO members to attend the 2021 Southern California Food Industry Virtual Conference and Supplier’s Night Expo.

Student: Isabel Frazier and Student Nutrition Organization (SNO), received $900 from the SDSU Student Success Fee to support student enrollment in the ServSafe San Diego County Online Food Handlers Course.

Student: Morgan Hatch and Doctor of Physical Therapy Program (DPT), received $20,064 from the SDSU Student Success Fee to support student attendance at the 2021 American Physical Therapy Association Virtual Combined Sections Meeting.

Student: Annie Plumb and Future Athletic Trainers’ Society (FATS), received $14,400 from the SDSU Student Success Fee to support enrollment in the Functional Movement Screening Seminar Online Course.

Publications and Presentations (ENS Student Names in bold)

Publications


Student Highlight

Kevin Bravo
Undergraduate Student Athletic Training

Kevin will be graduating in May 2021 with a B.S. degree. He is now fulfilling his clinical rotation for the Athletic Training program at Bonita Vista High School, working with football, basketball, volleyball, and soccer.

Kevin recently accepted a position at Eastern Illinois University as an Athletic Training Graduate Assistant. He will be there for two years while he completes a Master’s degree in Sports Administration. He is currently serving as the Historian Officer for the Future Athletic Trainers’ Society (FATS). His latest FATS project involved putting together the Athletic Training Program’s video submission for the 2021 National Athletic Training Month (NATM) video contest. The SDSU Athletic Training students won first place last year. Thanks in part to Kevin’s hard work, the SDSU Athletic Training program defended its title for the second year in a row, winning the 2021 NATM Video Contest!

In his free time, Kevin spends time with his friends, flying his drone around San Diego, and making fun videos from time to time.
ENS Student Accomplishments Spring 2021

Continued from pg. 6....

Presentations


2021 Quest for the Best Vice Presidential Student Service Award Recipient

We congratulate Rebecca Rodriguez Casillas for receiving the Quest for the Best Vice Presidential Student Service Award. Rebecca is a junior majoring in Foods and Nutrition with a minor in Social Work. She was recognized for excellence in academics, service, and leadership. She was involved with the Adaptive Fitness Clinic Nutrition Committee, the Breast Cancer Awareness Club, and the Student Nutrition Organization. She has volunteered with the American Red Cross, Young Women’s Study Club, and Feeding San Diego. She was previously honored with the Joseph and Patricia Ferrero Endowed Scholarship and received the 100 Community Service Hours Lapel Pin. After graduation, Rebecca plans to become a registered dietitian and work in underserved communities. Her commitment, resilience, and determination are attributes that will give her a bright future.
Kinesiology

Sean Lynch
Physical Education Teacher at Lemon Grove School District

Sean Lynch received his B.S. Kinesiology Physical Education degree in 2007 and puts it to good use teaching elementary P.E. for the Lemon Grove School District. Sean is involved with California Association for Health, Physical Education, Recreation and Dance and has a continued mentorship with Dr. David Kahan in the School of ENS. Sean earned an M.S. in Kinesiology Sport Performance from Point Loma Nazarene University (PLNU) in 2020. His culminating project involved exploring how to train and support classroom teachers in thoughtfully implementing exercise principles into their lessons. Sean’s passion is teaching children to find ways to include activity in many areas of life, as he does by combining recreation and socializing with exercise. Sean likes to go mountain biking with his wife and friends. He lives in Ocean Beach, CA with his wife Heidi, an Associate Professor of Kinesiology at PLNU, their six-month-old daughter Sierra, and their two cats.

Athletic Training

Chase Claborn
Athletic Trainer at Industrial Athlete Pros

Chase Claborn, a certified Athletic Trainer (ATC), graduated from San Diego State University in 2020. During his time as a student in the SDSU Athletic Training Education Program, Chase had the opportunity to work with many sports, including rugby, ice hockey, lacrosse, ultimate frisbee, baseball, and football. Chase is currently a student at the Pacific College of Health and Sciences and is working towards his Doctorate in Acupuncture and Chinese Medicine. Chase landed a job as co-head ATC for Industrial Athlete Pros (IAP) and provides injury prevention and rehabilitation healthcare in the industrial setting. With his co-head Athletic Trainer, they built IAP’s athletic training room from the ground up and offer ergonomic assessments, sports medicine rehabilitation, work safety instruction, injury evaluations, EMS screenings, and 3-minute stretch breaks for athletes. He also publishes the monthly IAP Health and Fitness Newsletter and provides health and wellness education for his athletes. Through his IAP affiliations, Chase provides SDSU students with the unique opportunity of working clinical rotations in the industrial setting. Chase has been an Athletic Training preceptor for several semesters and has personally mentored several SDSU Athletic Training students in his industrial Athletic Training room. Chase still manages to find me for the things he loves: downhill mountain biking, surfing, music, and cooking Chinese dishes.

Foods & Nutrition

Amy Culp
Assistant Athletics Director in Performance Nutrition at the University of Texas at Austin

Amy Culp earned her B.S. degree in 1999 in Foods and Nutrition from San Diego State University and completed her clinical training at the VA San Diego Healthcare System. While at SDSU, she was Student Nutrition Organization (SNO) President and was chosen as the Outstanding California Dietetic Student of the Year for the State of California by the Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics. Amy is a registered and licensed dietitian. She is also board certified in sports dietetics. Amy is an active member of the national and local chapters of the Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics, Collegiate and Professional Sports Dietitians Association (CPSDA), Sports, Cardiovascular and Wellness Dietetic Practice Group, and serves on the board for CPSDA. In 2012, Amy began as Assistant Athletics Director at the University of Texas. She also served as a consultant sports dietitian for the University for five years. Amy developed what is usually considered one of the strongest collegiate sports nutrition programs in the country, with as many as six full time Registered Dietitians at a given time. Her passion for sharing her knowledge of nutrition with others allows her to feel she is doing her life’s work when advising athletes and teams on fueling strategies for optimal performance and health. In 2015 she was honored to be recognized by her colleagues in the CPSDA with their Service Award.

Doctorate of Physical Therapy

Megan Lytle
Pediatric Physical Therapist at County of San Diego California Children’s Services program

Dr. Megan Lytle graduated from the SDSU Doctor of Physical Therapy program in 2018. During her studies, she served as the treasurer for the California Physical Therapy Association Student Special Interest Group and was recognized with the Professional Leadership Award. After graduating, Dr. Lytle pursued her pediatric physical therapy passion by working for the County of San Diego Children’s Services program. She loves helping and connecting with her patients ranging from 1 year to 21 years of age and their families. She helps them achieve milestones such as sitting, walking, or pushing a wheelchair as independently as possible. Recently, she was temporarily reassigned to help the COVID 19 effort as a part of the testing and vaccination data team. This has been a fun challenge and allowed her to adapt and learn new data analysis skills and leadership development opportunities. She was awarded the “Unsung Hero” award in June 2020 to aid the community during the COVID 19 pandemic. She is excited to get back to in-person therapy with her pediatric patients and continue working toward their movement goals.
Dr. Roger Simmons grew up in southern England and completed his teaching credential at Dudley College of Education in 1968. Following his training, he taught Physical Education at a secondary level public school for two years and served as a substitute teacher in two elementary schools. His time at Dudley sparked an interest in research, which led to him attend the University of Wyoming and receive a Master of Science degree in 1971. He completed his graduate education by attending the University of Iowa, where he worked as a teaching assistant and research assistant for Dr. James Hay, Professor of Biomechanics. Dr. Simmons completed his Ph.D. in Motor Control in 1974. Upon leaving Iowa, Dr. Simmons was appointed Assistant Professor of Physical Education at Montclair State College, New Jersey (now Montclair State University) for two years before joining the faculty at SDSU in 1976.

During his 40-year tenure at SDSU, Dr. Simmons’ primary teaching responsibilities were motor learning/motor control, growth and development, and research methods. In recognition of his strong commitment to teaching and student learning, Dr. Simmons has received several awards, including Outstanding Faculty Member awards (1982, 1986, 1996), Meritorious Performance Awards (1986, 1990, 1996, 1999), the Mortar Board Outstanding Faculty Award (1991), the Aztec Outstanding Professor Award (2000), and the SDSU Distinguished Faculty Award (2013). In addition to serving in a leadership capacity on several key committees at the school, college, and university levels, he was Interim Director of the School of Exercise & Nutritional Sciences for the 2015-16 academic year.

Dr. Simmons has published over 55 peer reviewed scientific papers in journals associated with the disciplines of neuroscience, alcohol addiction, and exercise science. His early research focused on understanding the motor control processes of asymptomatic adults and individuals experiencing diabetes, cerebrovascular accident, and Huntington’s disease. For the past 25 years, Dr. Simmons has collaborated with Drs. Riley, Mattson, and Thomas of the SDSU Center of Behavioral Teratology and Dr. Ashkan Ashrafi of the Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering to examine motor control of children with Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder. This research was supported by two grants totaling $823,000 awarded by the National Institute of Alcohol and Alcohol Abuse, National Institutes of Health. The research program was among the first to systematically investigate motor deficits in this clinical group. The research findings were instrumental in motor issues being added to the criteria for a diagnosis of “Neurobehavioral disorder – alcohol exposed” proposed for the Diagnostic and Statistical Manual (DSM) of the American Psychiatric Association.

Dr. Simmons retired in 2016 and enjoys spending time with his wife, daughter, and son in law, exercising, hiking, exploring San Diego’s backcountry, and watching the Tottenham Hotspurs football team of the English Premier League. He also volunteers for a small UK based non-profit charity writing grants that help fund building classrooms and libraries for elementary and secondary schools located in rural Tanzania.
**Meet the Staff**

**Joe Banuelos**
Equipment Technician I

Joe is an Electro-Mechanical Technician providing equipment and instrument support for the School of ENS. As a former Aviation Electronics Technician in the Navy, he provided aircraft instrument support aboard the USS Midway during the Persian Gulf war and later aboard the USS Independence. After the military, Joe obtained an A.A.S. degree in Biomedical Equipment Technology and worked for six years maintaining and repairing medical equipment and devices in hospitals and clinical settings. In late 2001, Joe moved from Texas to San Diego to help his aunt manage a corn tortilla factory in City Heights. As a general manager for Tortilleria Lily, he guided the business through a storefront improvement program and a factory remodel that included upgrading ovens and mixers and installing a pneumatic silo discharge system.

In 2018, Joe supported a wide array of equipment and instruments used to provide instruction and conduct research within ENS. His goal is to have a comprehensive asset maintenance management program to allow the school to grow as a renowned research institution. In his spare time, Joe likes to tinker in his garage and spend time with his nine-year-old son, teaching him how to fix things. He also likes to travel and play billiards, something he attributes to his early years as a sailor.

### ENS BY THE NUMBERS 2020

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Denise Lebsack and Margo Greicar Receive the 2021 CATA Athletic Training Educator Award

Congratulations to SDSU Athletic Training Program’s Drs. Denise Lebsack & Margo Greicar for receiving the 2021 California Athletic Trainers’ Association (CATA) Athletic Training Educator Award! They were recognized as athletic training educators who demonstrated an extraordinary level of commitment to athletic training education, athletic training students, and promoting academic excellence.

![Drs. Margo Greicar and Denise Lebsack - Recipients of the 2021 CATA Athletic Training Educator Award](image)

**Connect with Us**

Interesting in Supporting ENS?
Support from alumni and the community makes a tremendous difference for students, faculty, and programs within the School of Exercise and Nutritional Sciences. To help enhance the impact ENS is able to make for students and the greater community; please visit [http://campaign.sdsu.edu/ENS](http://campaign.sdsu.edu/ENS). To learn about specific funding needs, naming opportunities, or including ENS in your estate plans, please contact Natasha Bliss, Director of Development, at nbliss@sdsu.edu or (619) 594-1569.