

Last year I wrote of SDSU's having risen to unprecedented levels of research achievement and recognition on the strengths of our faculty's public commitment to research, the accomplishments of our students as displayed at the annual Student Research Symposium, and the external endorsements of our scholarly productivity by Academic Analytics and others.

These gains were consolidated in 2010-11. The National Research Council, in its occasional evaluation of America's doctoral programs (1982, 1995, 2010), reaffirmed the lofty ranking of several of SDSU's joint Ph.D. programs, most notably those in clinical psychology (99th percentile) and in language and communicative disorders (90th). Our faculty completed competition for Stimulus Package funding by winning \$29.3 million, bringing extramural funding for the two-year period 2009-11 to \$296 million. The number of articles in the local media recognizing SDSU's scholarly contributions has risen commensurately.

Three of SDSU's most ardent advocates for research, President Stephen Weber, Research Foundation Executive Director Dan Gilbreath, and I are leaving our offices this summer, to be replaced by President Elliot Hirshman, Executive Director Bob Wolfson, and Vice President for Research Steve Welter. The commitment of energy and resources that has permitted SDSU's research agenda to thrive through this trying period remains strong in our successors, and we foresee a continuation of our progress in conducting the research that benefits society and our university.

That progress will not be without its challenges. The shortfall in state support, even mitigated by hefty tuition increases, has still cost SDSU some 85 tenure-track faculty positions in the past three years—a reduction in the ranks of those who conceive the research ideas and write the proposals, articles, and books. Stimulus Package funding has now ended, and we need to build on our successes in that competition to replace these resources. The federal budget is under unparalleled pressure, and it is foregone that the agencies and foundations most critical to our support will struggle even to maintain their present budgets. Against these concerns, we welcome a cohort of 40 faculty to our campus this year, each with a lively research agenda that will enrich SDSU's scholarly portfolio.

It has been my privilege to see SDSU's research flourish during this decade, and to recognize the impact this has had on our students, on the resources and reputation of the university, and on the citizens of San Diego whose welfare has been among our concerns. I will return to the satisfying prospect of more direct contact with our students as a faculty member in psychology, with appreciation for the contributions of our many colleagues who have made this a decade of progress.

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① 2011 Student Research Symposium programs, ② Ph.D. student at Computational Science Research Center's Annual ACCESS Research Forum (Dr. J. Castillo), ③ Ecology student Lee Reeve conducts research on California halibut (*Paralichthys californicus*) in the San Diego Bay (Dr. R. Lewison)