

FIRST IMPRESSIONS

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Taking a fresh look at Del Mar College

Jarod Cassidy Journalism Major

Upon arriving on my first day at Del Mar College, the first thing I noticed was the parking. My class was supposed to begin at 11 a.m. so the parking lot was full upon my arrival.

After circling the parking lot for 10 or 15 minutes, I was able to follow a student who was leaving to his car and take his parking space.

I had heard that the parking was fairly bad, but I did not understand how bad it actually was until I was part of the circus of cars looking for an empty space.

This day was also one with fairly bad weather, so I did

not have time to notice how well the outside of the campus is kept.

However, as I went to classes I found that, though small, the campus was fairly beautiful. The campus is taken care of very well, both inside and outside. I feel that this appearance does give something to the students.

If I had to wake up and deal with the traffic every day only to arrive at a campus with dead plants and trash, I would likely spend the rest of the day in a fairly depressed mood.

Fortunately that is not the case, so I am able to arrive to a much more welcoming and peaceful place. Also, it was encouraging to find that the amount of parking increased as the semester passed and students dropped.

The staff of professors also offers a great deal to the students. A majority of professors give a great deal of attention to individual students and

are concerned with providing them with an education.

Although this is possible due to the smaller class sizes, credit must still be given to the professors, especially those who are able to achieve this while teaching a number of 60-seat classes.

Another benefit at Del Mar, and one of the most important, is the low cost of tuition. While it is still hard to lose all that money that goes to books, tuition, and materials, I can normally accept the loss after looking at the bills of friends who are attending other colleges.

The overall impression that I have developed about Del Mar so far is that it is a good alternative to spending mass amounts of money for the first two years of what I plan to be a four-year college experience.

Kristin Kent Advertising/PR Major

My first impression of Del Mar College as a transfer student from a University was that it seemed like a typical junior college for the most part. To me, it looked old and like it could use some touching up.

One small thing I have noticed are the deep cracks in the sidewalks. I have seen so many students trip badly because the cracks have risen so high and I have also seen some students take pretty bad falls to the ground (books and papers scattering everywhere)

and you know they felt very embarrassed.

When I walked inside of the buildings and classrooms, it reminded me of my high school - regular-sized rooms, same set-up, not much of a difference.

I guess I thought it would be a little different from high school since the university was a nice size and had huge classrooms that could easily hold 300 students.

One thing I first noticed about the professors here at Del Mar compared to the professors at the University of Texas at San Antonio (UTSA) was that you have more one-on-one time with the professors.

Because of this, I seemed to learn more

and understand the subject a lot more clearly. At UTSA, if you talked to the professors, they always seemed to be in a rush and did not care as much; that made me feel more stressed and still confused about the topic.

I really feel I have learned more in my classes here at Del Mar than at the university.

Another thing that caught my eye was, as I walk through the Harvin Center, I see all different types of cliques sitting at the tables, like it was in high school.

At the university, it was different. There were still some small cliques, but it was more like everyone was one group.

Kristopher Garst Journalism Major

It is my third semester here at Del Mar and I still have the same impressions as I did when I first started here, but also have a new experience.

This semester started off with an arctic chill, so it made things complicated for those who are vulnerable to freezing, even though they are wearing gear for extreme cold

weather, such as myself.

Parking is still a mess and drivers are still pretending they are in NASCAR racing to get a spot.

There are good impressions though. Since there is cold weather, some people, rather than having their windows down to show off how "bass-ier" their speakers are, all the windows rolled up, which makes the environment somewhat peaceful.

I have yet to receive a bad professor as an instructor for my class, and most of them are friendly and down-to-earth. It's always a plus to have classes with 20

people maximum as well.

The atmosphere, though maybe not as friendly as College Station, is still comforting.

I am actually excited this time around because I changed my major to something more interesting than the last one.

It is the first time that I am nervous about going to school since I am in a newsgathering class and I have never written for a newspaper in my life.

Hopefully this will be an opportunity for me to socialize with interesting people and be more aware of what goes on around the world.

Leah Pezzi Journalism Major

My first impression of Del Mar was bleak to say the least. Perhaps it was my personal state of being at the time, nevertheless, I was not inspired by this place.

The college is a half an hour drive away from my new home and I was usually running late in a hurry to arrive in a classroom that resembled the classrooms I grew up in. They were small with the standard desks, chalkboard and white boards. I don't really know what I was expecting.

The campus is smaller than some, but larger than the campus I would have attended had I stayed in the small north-eastern California town I'm

from. I was incapable of finding a parking space anywhere near my classes. I noticed there must not be enough parking spaces surrounding the college to accommodate every student attending Del Mar.

However, I have legs and they are perfectly capable of walking the short distances. It seems the only thing that prevents me from easily giving up on the search for a closer space so quickly depends on the heat index and humidity that day.

I didn't appreciate the fact that I could not understand a professor I had in a class I absolutely needed to pass.

I'm really not a "Negative Nancy"; I have encountered a plethora of interesting people who have willingly helped me in my time of need.

There is a small handful of professors I admired for the peo-

ple they are and the wisdom they gained and shared through their life accomplishments.

They keep me motivated and help me strive to feed my ever-growing will to achieve a satisfying grade. That will may come and go, but what stays the same is the ability to return to these advisors for help and know they will be there.

Del Mar may look tired and dry on the outside, but I have many first impressions of it: the way it looks, what it provides and does not provide and the kind of people who have been here since I started.

I remember their friendliness and their patience. I try not to be too quick to judge and I know for a fact first impressions aren't everything, just by being here.

It's like the JC Penny slogan: "It's all inside."

WELCOME