

Media Advisory: 43rd Annual Watermelon Drop at University of California, San Diego

June 3, 2008

Jan Jennings

EVENT: 43rd Annual Watermelon Drop at University of California, San Diego

The Revelle College tradition marks the end of the school year at UC San Diego. The event begins at 11:30 a.m., and amidst much fanfare, a "Watermelon Queen" chosen by the students will toss the watermelon at 12:05 p.m. from the top (7th floor) of Urey Hall - to the countdown by the crowd below. The goal is to break velocity/splat records. Hundreds of UCSD students gather to witness this annual ritual and students try to predict where the farthest piece will land. Following the drop, Revelle College will host its traditional end of quarter BBQ, with plenty of free watermelon and entertainment. Admission is free to the public.

(The 2008 Watermelon Queen Pageant will be held at noon June 4 in the Price Center, when the title and crown will pass from last year's queen to this year's pageant winner.)

TIME/DATE: Drop Time: 12:05 p.m., Friday, June 6, 2008

LOCATION: Optimal viewing is from the sidewalk in front of Urey Hall, Revelle Campus.

BACKGROUND: The Watermelon Drop (or splat or toss) originated with UCSD's first undergraduate class in 1965. All Revelle freshmen took a physics class with professor Bob Swanson. As a physics problem, Swanson asked: "If a watermelon was dropped from a 7-story building, where would the farthest piece land?" and "What would be the velocity on impact of the watermelon?" Members of the class arranged the actual watermelon drop from Urey Hall, voted for a "Watermelon Queen" and the drop has been an annual challenge each year.

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