

Bargains abound in resale shop at UCSD's International Center

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Media Contact: Mary Dhooge, (619) 534-3730, mdhooge@ucsd.edu, or

Jan Jennings, (619) 822-1684, jnjennings@ucsd.edu

BARGAINS ABOUND IN RESALE SHOP AT UCSD'S INTERNATIONAL CENTER

A University of California, San Diego student was heading off to Minneapolis one winter day for a job interview. Oops, no suit. No coat. Little money.

For \$25 he was outfitted head to toe in the Resale Shop at the UCSD International Center. For a few more bucks, he had a warm winter jacket.

Another student with multi-colored, spiked hair popped into the shop with a similar dilemma. He was to meet with his major advisor for the first time and wanted, of course, "to make a good impression." For under \$25 he too was outfitted and "went off happy as a lark."

Bargains abound in the Resale Shop, operated by the Friends of the UCSD International Center and staffed by volunteers. All items are donated and proceeds from sales go toward scholarships for UCSD students going abroad or foreign students at UCSD.

This year the Friends awarded \$24,000 in scholarships, with the majority of the money (approximately \$20,000) coming from the Resale Shop.

"This is the beauty of the shop," International Center director Mary Dhooge said. "The items are donated by friends of the university and community who want to recycle them for a good cause. The donated items are bargains to the people who need and purchase them. Best of all, donated household items and clothes are recycled into scholarships for our students."

The Resale Shop is nestled into a corner of the campus's International Center along Library Walk and across from Center Hall. Shop hours are 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Monday through Friday throughout the school year, with limited hours in the summer. It is open to the public.

The shop is readily spotted by the colorful racks of clothing at its courtyard entrance. Each month there are special tag items at half price and tag items at 50 cents.

Inside the shop is a mini-department mart. Items range from five cents to 50 bucks. For a nickel you can buy a single earring if that's your pleasure. A man's sportcoat goes for \$5 to \$8, a Farberware rotisserie for \$20, and a color TV will set you back \$40. Women's purses and shoes are \$2, sweaters and jackets, \$3, \$4, and \$5. Books are 25 cents, tapes 50 cents, relatively current magazines 25 cents.

There also are household goods, posters, children's clothes, patterns, belts, toys, mugs, glasses, dishes, men's ties, women's scarves, jewelry, gloves, swimming suits, underwear, slippers, suitcases, sheets, towels, pictures, small appliances, knickknacks and what have you.

Any given day offers a different potpourri.

Shop manager Joyce Dunn said Halloween is a popular time when students come to select items to create their own costumes.

"At Christmas people come in for warm coats to go back East," Dunn said. "I don't think there is anything that hasn't been in the shop. We've had wedding dresses and bridesmaids dresses, boogie boards, wet suits and flippers, ice skates, ski gear, bowling balls."

Dunn said that students moving out of apartments and rooms often donate items to the Resale Shop, as do retailers with excess merchandise and individuals who are thinning their closets and cupboards.

All donations are gratefully accepted and tax deductible.

The Friends of the International Center was formed in 1973 and the Resale Shop one of the Friends many activities in support of the International Center opened in 1981. Each year money raised for scholarships grows, assisting more students with their international studies.

For more information on the Resale Shop at the UCSD International Center or on the center itself, contact the center at 534-3730.

Editor's Note: Interviews can be arranged with the International Center director, the Resale Shop manager, volunteers, and patrons. Excellent photo opportunities.

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