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# COMMUNITY BUZZ

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## GRADUATION EDITION



# CATCHING UP TO SPEED WITH SULLY

A.K.A. Dr. Sullivan

No, he isn't the U.S. Airways pilot who successfully navigated an emergency landing on the Hudson River. Sully is our Associate Professor, born in Massachusetts and raised in Connecticut and has been a faculty member since 1991. Here is an excerpt of his oral history as told to the **COMMUNITY BUZZ**...

I was a sports journalist working for a small newspaper in Meriden, Connecticut, and covering March Madness (the Big East Finals) when suddenly I had an epiphany. I wanted a Ph.D, even though I already had a BA in English and an MA in Journalism from the University of Hartford. But at that moment, I realized that days in print were numbered. We were moving towards a visual and electronic world and I needed a new direction. The next day, I applied to the PhD program at UMASS Amherst and the rest is history. I became interested in the critical paradigm and analysis of communication, which is the foundation of my research interest: the communication of sports and how the mediated sport provides the equipment (or baggage) from living in the "dramatic life world." I am endlessly fascinated by rules and regulations which connotes our need for formulaic patterns and yet we love for the upset—a raw human emotion.

1991. USD. Party school, segregated by gender in the dorms, and all the students were into Nirvana. That was my first teaching year. Coolest student? Without a doubt, Dave Fizdale, who is now the head coach of the Memphis Grizzlies. I digress.

2017. USD. Students are now more academically challenging, curious, engaging, and addicted to communication technology. They inspire me to continue my research on the intersection of sports and politics—as both share the drama and buildup of a race and campaign. So what would I be doing if I never had that epiphany? Perhaps sitting behind a desk at ESPN doing sports marketing.

Hero Moment. I was driving up in the mountains in NorCal, when I saw a Suzuki Jeep miss the curve and hit a pine tree head on. The jeep plunged down the embankment...I quickly got out of my car (as did another witness), ran over, and together we pulled the guy out of his car with moments to spare. The car literally blew up 30 seconds later. Unbelievable.

Favorite genre of music: 70s rock & blues

Obsessions: Home repair & mountain bike racing

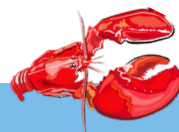
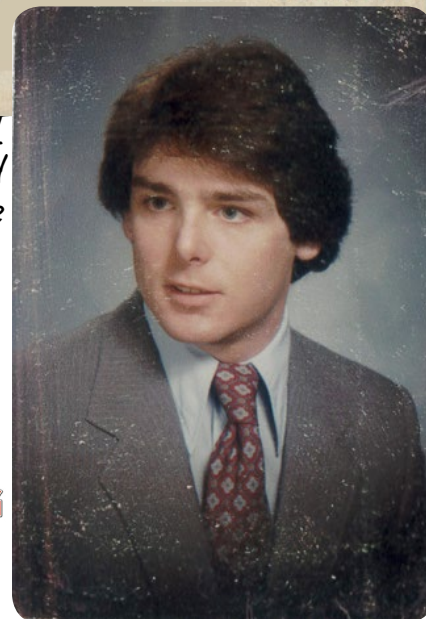
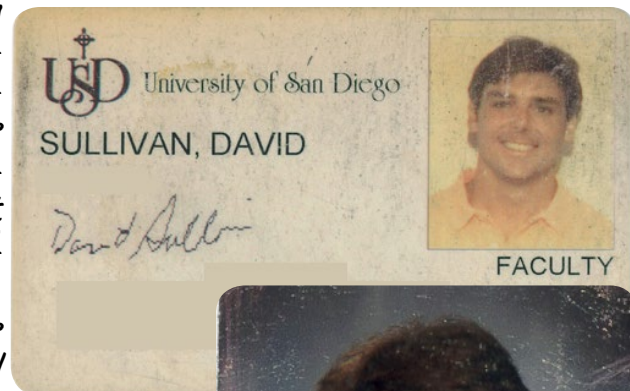
Favorite comfort food: Lobster

Big or little dogs: Medium

Favorite sports movie: **THE BIG LEBOWSKI**

Favorite band all time: **THE CLASH**

Most watched movie: **GROUNDHOG DAY**



# ALUMNI UPDATE

## MARY RICHARDSON '15

“I currently work at Pocock Rowing Foundation in Seattle, WA coordinating fundraising events and the corporate team building program. I am also currently earning a certificate in nonprofit management from the University of Washington.

I loved being a communication studies major at USD! It is a great community and I felt very supported. It allowed me to try out a range of different jobs post-grad such as public relations and advertising firms, consulting firms, and nonprofits.

One of the most important things my classes taught me was to be self sufficient and dive into projects and assignments that were uncomfortable. I will never forget the qualitative research project I did in Dr. Stern's class my senior year exploring social comparison on Facebook. Writing a research paper was new to me and I was totally intimidated. After countless literature reviews, drafts, and long nights, I produced a 20 page paper that received a great grade. Accomplishments like that stay with you for a long time. I am so grateful to my professors for pushing us to figure out concepts out on our own while also providing support. Additionally, throughout my professional career, it has become apparent how important it is to ask questions when you need something clarified. My comm classes really helped strengthen that muscle.”



## MATT HOSE '15



“In my first year as a professional journalist working for a weekly newspaper in the San Francisco Bay Area, I recently got word that I won three top statewide awards from the California Newspaper Publishers Association in Coverage of Breaking News, Coverage of Education, and Coverage of Local Government. I also won three honorable mentions awards for an Enterprise News Series, Sports Feature Story and Coverage of Local Government. This wouldn't have been possible without Gina Lew's mentorship through four amazing years, two journalism classes and two years I spent on the staff at The Vista, along with the support of a host of other teachers at USD.”

# COMM STUDIES TROPHY CASE



**Joshua and Filip**  
WCC Championships



**Cristina**  
Student Employee of the Year



**Kevin**  
Summer Research Opportunities Program



**Marguerite**  
WSCA Annual Conference

# LAMDA PI ETA INDUCTEES

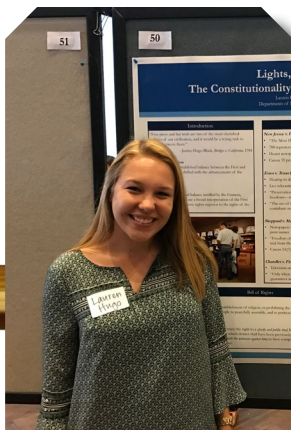


Spring '17

# CREATIVE COLLABORATIONS



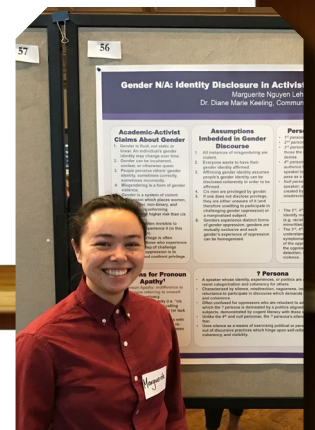
Tyler



Lauren



Allie

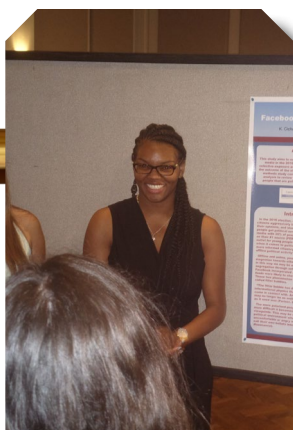


Marguerite

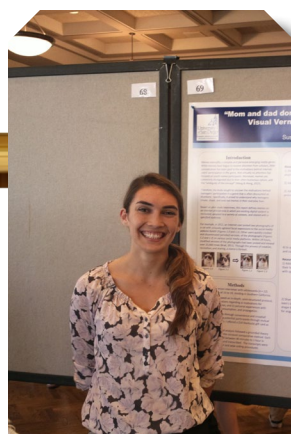
# CREATIVE COLLABORATIONS



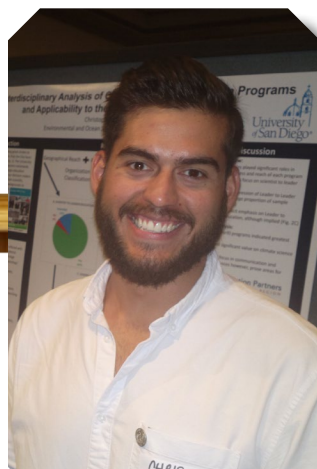
Fiona



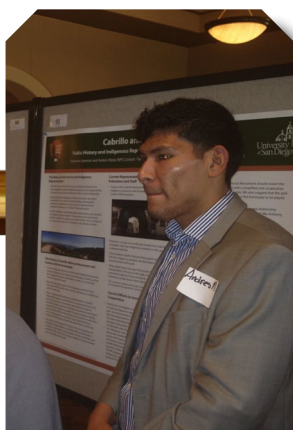
Dominique



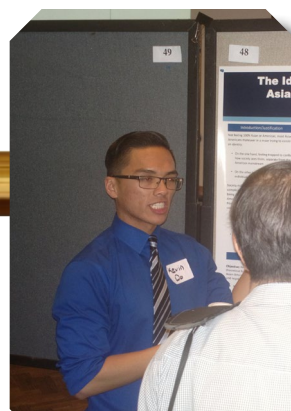
Olivia



Chris



Andres



Kevin

# TO THE CLASS OF 2017...

COMMUNICATION IS TRANSACTIONAL, CONSTITUTIVE, AND RELATIONSHIPS ARE CREATED THROUGH MUTUALLY CONSTRAINING INTERACTION. OUR PROFESSOR/STUDENT RELATIONSHIP HAS BEEN JOINTLY CONSTRUCTED OVER THE LAST FOUR YEARS. AS STUDENTS, YOU TURNED IN PAPERS. WE GRADED THEM. TOGETHER, WE COMMENTED AND HELD DISCUSSIONS IN CLASS. AS STUDENTS, YOU STUDIED FOR EXAMS. WE GRADED THEM. WE FOUND OURSELVES IN MULTIPLE PLACES AND MULTIPLE TIMES DISCUSSING THE COMMON AND UNCOMMON TOPICS.

THANK YOU.

ON THE BRINK OF YOUR GRADUATION, KNOW THAT WHEREVER YOU GO A PIECE OF US AND THE DEPARTMENT WILL GO WITH YOU. OUR HOPE FOR YOUR SUCCESS AND A MEANINGFUL LIFE WILL BE EVER PRESENT BECAUSE YOUR HAPPINESS IS OUR HAPPINESS. OUR PRIDE IN YOUR ACHIEVEMENTS WILL ALWAYS ACCOMPANY YOUR TRIUMPHS. LIKEWISE, A PART OF YOU WILL ALWAYS BE HERE AT USD. OUR RELATIONSHIP WITH YOU HAS MADE US BETTER TEACHERS, PROFESSORS AND PEOPLE. WE WILL THINK OF YOU OFTEN, AND HOPE TO CONTINUE OUR RELATIONSHIPS IN ACTIVE AND MEANINGFUL WAYS. WE WISH ALL GOOD THINGS FOR YOU. WE HAVE APPRECIATED THE OPPORTUNITY TO BE YOUR PROFESSORS.

- ROGER PACE, PHD, DEPT. CHAIR



loggin' off

# “DEAR CRISTINA... WE WILL MISS YOU! YOU HAVE ALWAYS BEEN SO \_\_\_\_\_!”



CREATIVE

BOWMAN



IRREPLACABLE

KEELING



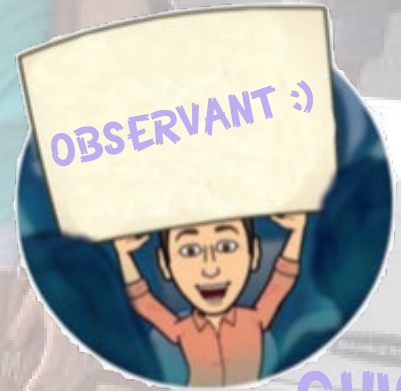
HERMAN

TERRIFIC



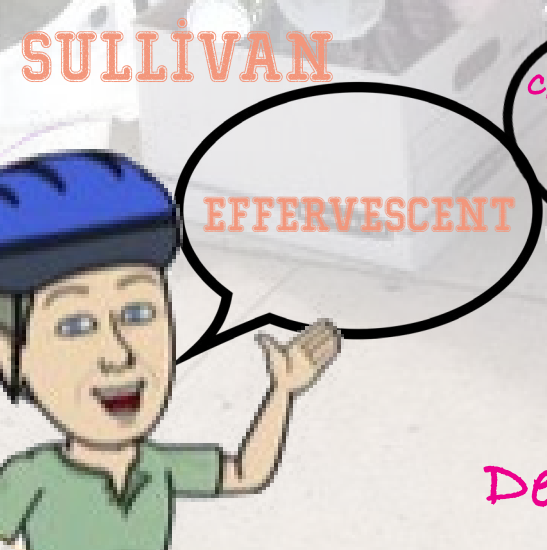
DEPENDABLE

MORAN



OBSERVANT :)

GHIO



EFFERVESCENT

SULLIVAN



compassionate

Del Río



RELIABLE

PIERSON





# “DEAR CRISTINA...”

WE WILL MISS YOU! YOU HAVE ALWAYS BEEN SO \_\_\_\_\_!”



DELIGHTFUL



AMAZING,  
GENEROUS

TULLIS



WELCOMING,  
KIND,  
ENGAGED

MERCADO

*huston*



*sincere*

STERN



TALENTED

BOND



EFFERVESCENT



POSITIVE

BARTHOLOME



CONGRADULATIONS CRISTINA!



WE WILL MISS YOU!

LOVE,  
THE DREAM TEAM