IN THE END, HUMANS LONG FOR ENLIGHTENMENT.
Participation

Your annual gift, no matter the size, is your vote toward an improved alumni participation rate for USD. Your gift not only directly supports today’s students, but also counts as your vote toward improved national rankings.

Show your support! Proudly display the decal included in your magazine.
WORK HARD AT WORK WORTH DOING.

16 / CREATIVITY 101
What if you woke up one day and decided to satisfy the hunger gnawing at your soul? And what if it turned out that what you really needed was a completely new kind of life? What if what you really needed was to make art? Meet three brave alumni who’ve built careers out of taking just that sort of flying leap: Mark Edward Adams ’97, Shirley Pierson ’06 and Erik Wahl ’93.

AROUND THE PARK
4 / New Era for Nursing
Seven million dollar gift announced by the School of Nursing to build the Betty and Bob Beyster Institute for Nursing Research, Advance Practice, and Simulation.

6 / Live and Learn
USD’s Living-Learning Communities put a new spin on the tradition of freshman residential living, offering up themed communities built around shared interests.

8 / Coming Home
Film screening mirrors the stories of many wounded veterans returning home from war by focusing on Explosive Ordnance Disposal technician/USD student Jesse Cottle.

10 / Something Ventured
On the TV show “Shark Tank,” Stephan Aarstol ’99 (MBA) won over his investors. Now, USD students follow his lead in a business competition dubbed Venture Vetting.

TORERO ATHLETICS
12 / Open the Gates
Plans are in place for a new baseball facility, Cunningham Field at Fowler Park, made possible by a gift from Board of Trustees Chair Ron Fowler.

22 / GEEK BECOMES HER
Getting young women excited about careers in science, technology, engineering and math isn’t easy, but it’s necessary. It helps to begin early, with a target group of eager and open-minded girls, and offer them accessible outlets to explore. That’s where national organization Expanding Your Horizons comes in.

26 / COMPASSION WITHOUT BORDERS
On the occasion of his first public visit to San Diego, His Holiness the 14th Dalai Lama, the spiritual leader of Tibet, visited the University of San Diego, the University of California, San Diego and San Diego State University. Excerpts from his remarks at USD include thoughts on nonviolence, inner peace and religious traditions.

ALUMNI UPDATE
30 / Enchanted Evening
This year’s Alumni Honors event celebrated nine extraordinary graduates who exemplify the Torero spirit.

CLASS NOTES
32 / Game Changer
Chargers CFO Jeanne Bonk says one thing brought her from Alcalá Park to the Chargers’ front office: hard work.

36 / Grace in Motion
At the age of 24, Vincent Padilla has achieved what many covet: a career in a demanding field that combines multiple passions.

40 / Burden of Proof
Deputy Assistant Attorney Claudine Ruiz is making the San Diego community safer, one bad guy at a time.

ON THE COVER:
Photograph of Erik Wahl by Tim Mantoani
Find our pages online at www.sandiego.edu/usdmag
NEW ERA FOR NURSING

Transformative gift of $7 million launches Beyster Institute for Nursing Research

by Barbara Deavenport

In May 2012, Hahn School of Nursing and Health Science Asian Tall Boy Beyster announced a gift of $7 million from the Beyster family of La Jolla to build the Betty and Bob Beyster Institute for Nursing Research, Advanced Practice, and Simulation. The new building, which will rise adjacent to the school’s present home in the Hahn Pavilion, will double the school’s research and teaching facilities.

Dean Hardin calls the Beysters’ gift transformative for the school. “There is no institute for nursing research of its kind in the U.S. I am so grateful to Mrs. Beyster and the whole Beyster family. They understand the importance of nursing research and advanced practice for the future of healthcare.”

Dr. Robert Beyster is a physicist and founder of SAIC, a Fortune 500 company and the largest employee-owned research and engineering company in the United States. Betty Beyster, an avid gardener, is known for her involvement on many local boards. Together, they have given generously to the fields of arts and culture, education, employee ownership, the environment and health and human services. The Beyster lead gift of $7 million covers nearly half the cost of the Beyster Institute for Nursing Research. The building’s total cost of $15 million must be fully secured, with construction started by 2017.

When the Hahn School of Nursing and Health Science building opened in 1978, it served approximately 100 students and faculty. Over time, enrollment and faculty size has grown steadily, along with the school’s influence. Graduates now account for up to 43 percent of faculty at nursing schools in San Diego. As its goals have expanded, so too has the school’s need for a physical facility that can support its mission.

The Beyster Institute for Nursing Research is that facility. Its three floors and central courtyard will provide new space and 21st century technological resources for students and faculty, as well as for practitioners throughout San Diego County. The building will be built to the LEED Gold Standard for environmentally sound design.

The third floor will house the research center, the heart of the school’s research efforts, as well as several classrooms and spaces suitable for collaboration, conferencing and presentations for faculty, doctoral students and doctoral alumni to conduct research and mentor the next generation of nurse scientists. The dedicated research space will continue to foster a cadre of ambitious researchers whom Dean Hardin calls “idea brokers.”

The second floor will be devoted to doctoral student education, centered around the doctoral library, which provides dedicated space for faculty, students and alumni to access literature and nursing knowledge. The floor provides classroom and seminar rooms, including classroom rooms with movable glass walls that allow for spaces to be combined as needed.

The first floor will house the Simulation and Standardized Patient Nursing Laboratory (Sim Lab), the keystone of the school’s clinical skills teaching, and a national model for nursing labs. The simulated care settings — including primary care examination rooms, acute care hospital rooms, and a home care room — will feature two-way mirrors and observation spaces and will be wired for audio and video observation, and a system to record and retrieve data related to students’ clinical reasoning, judgment and interpersonal skills.

The Beysters’ gift opens a new era of growth for the school, and an expansion of its contribution to healthcare. Betty Beyster hopes the gift that she and her husband have been making inspires others. “It makes you feel good,” she says with a smile. “It feels good to know you’re helping people.”

Portrait of Betty (left) and Bob Beyster by Hilde Stephan Photography.
that the theater, this trip to see "Las Mariposas," is much more than a cultural excursion. It marks the beginning of a year in which their passion for social justice and their first-year experience at USD mesh with their intellectual awakening.

For many students at "Las Mariposas," a new understanding dawned about the universal struggle for justice, beginning with a faculty-led conversation on the bus ride back to school, and continuing among the students themselves back at the residence hall. "I had never heard anything about these atrocities (of the Trujillo dictatorship)," says Bre Burgos, a freshman English major from San Francisco Bay Area. "It really put on my radar something I had never thought about before."

That's the idea behind the LLC program, launched by a task force led partly by Nicole Norton, associate dean, College of Arts and Sciences; and Margaret Leary, associate dean of students to build a bridge between academics and student life, as well as connections between students, faculty and staff, creating a salon of sorts that isn't constrained by time or place. At the core of the program are the freshman preceptorial classes — small, core-curriculum courses taught by faculty/mentors — that tie the LLC theme.

"My hope is that this program [changes] the students' introduction to the intellectual community," says Leary, "that they realize it doesn't have to be bound by the classroom and they can carry their intellectual discourse into the residence hall."

"Not only have I been given a community of people who have similar interests and goals as I do, but the LLC has expanded my view of how I see the world," Burgos says. "It's inspired me to get more involved in social justice issues that I hadn't considered before."

Discourse at USD includes access to a full staff of mentors for every LLC resident, including their preceptor, preceptorial assistant, resident assistant and resident minister, who work together as a team to ensure that the students — and the larger university community — are well served.

"What the students are seeing is RSA and faculty who are integrated and care about them together, so they are getting that true holistic experience," adds Davayne Izmirian, associate dean of residential life. Excursions and events in the last year have included dinner with an Irish priest and social justice worker from Pakistan, a rock-climbing session with a focus on environmental justice, a trip to the Califorma Wolf Center in Julian, Calif., and an exploration of art exhibits in Los Angeles to learn about the birth of the L.A. art scene.

"My goal the first semester is to get the students connected to each other, and then the second semester, to use those connections to broaden their experience beyond the LLC and help engage them with the wider campus," says Jonathan Bowman, faculty director of the Social Justice LLC.

"The group experiences we've had have been a good way to start my four years here," affirms Connor Self, a freshman international relations major from Maryland and member of the Honors LLC. From swimming with sharks in La Jolla and paddle boarding in Mission Bay to sharing classes with his housemates, Connor says living in an LLC has eased his transition to college.

For freshmen, settling in is a huge adjustment, agrees Del Dickson, faculty director of the Honors LLC. "The students really do see that they are not alone and that there are places for them to fit in, and they do it quickly," he says.

Next year, organizers anticipate that about 50 percent of freshmen will participate in five themed communities: sustainability, social justice, the natural world, honors, and space, place and sound. The program is expected to grow to 100 percent participation by 2014.

As Burgos transitions to her sophomore year, she says the effects of her first year in an LLC will be lasting. "Coming to college your freshman year, you're a little nervous that you're not going to find a group of people that you'll really get along with, or that they'll be superficial friendships," she says. "I've made some really great friends. I've loved college so far and I don't know if my experience would have been the same without my Social Justice LLC. I couldn't have asked for a better first year of college."

I am in my senior year here, majoring in biochemistry and political science. I have lived in the BEST dorm on campus (Mahar Hall), found three combinations for a perfect La Paloma sandwich, lived on the beach and cheered at every home football game. I love USD so much, I am confident I could write a commercial for it. All of the things I have mentioned, however, have nothing to do with why I love it here. I come from a very close-knit family, my father being the closest to me. He had been at USD at least a dozen times and knew my teachers, my classes and my friends; he was an integral part of my life here. A month before I had to come back to school, he had a sudden heart attack and died. I thought my life was over. I thought I would have to leave everyone and come back home to stay with my family. But once the news started to get out, I immediately got text messages, emails and phone calls from my friends at USD. I received flowers and cards and little gifts meant to help through the tough time. This was all wonderful, but what followed was astonishing.

I began to receive emails from my advisors. I had a personal videocast from the dean of students, Dr. Godwin, as well as daily check-ins with the Greek advisor, Mandy Womack. I then received a hand-written letter from Chemistry Department Chair Dr. Tahmassebi on behalf of the entire department. I received messages from 11 of my upper-division professors, and even four from core classes I had as a freshman. If this wasn't enough, Director of Financial Aid Judy Lewis Logue called and spoke with me while she was on vacation. She assured me that she would do everything in her power to help and that my first priority was to be with my family. The tipping point came on the day of my father's funeral. As people arrived at our house for a reception after the funeral, I was completely dumbfounded when I turned to see one of my professors in my kitchen. He had traveled to Arizona to personally offer his condolences. This support and sense of family is why I love USD.

What an incredible gift to receive during such a difficult time. I have been to three graduation ceremonies, and my only critique is that I don't believe our seniors are left with a message about remembering the gift USD has given them. Throughout this entire process, I have been left with the notion that you always have something to be thankful for. I had to try to express my gratitude and let you know what a wonderful institution the University of San Diego is.

— Ashley Torkelson '12

Dear Dr. Lyons:
COMING HOME

Marine veteran Jesse Cottle wants the world to know he’s no victim

by Liz Neely

The documentary, “Coming Home: The True Story of Jesse Cottle,” focuses on July 19, 2009, when Cottle, his family and friends, as well as powerful on-the-ground footage of Cottle, as a staff sergeant, team leader Gunner Sgt. Kevin Brown, hospital corpsman Woody Ender and Staff Sgt. Patrick Hilty, all of it captured that day. More than 45,000 U.S. military service members have been wounded in Iraq and Afghanistan since the wars began. About 200 veterans are enrolled in USD’s undergraduates and. The screening included a post-film discussion with Cottle and friends, says Scott Handley, assistant professor of communication studies. “You never know what people in the military go through, not just Jesse Cottle,” Handley says. “Maybe the longest lasting impact of this screening is that everyone who missed the screening, we say, ‘Look at me. I’m a hero,’ ” says Handley, who served in the U.S. Navy since 1996 to 2002 as a hospital corpsman. The idea for USD’s SVO was born in 2008 as more wounded veterans returned home from war and the federal government increased benefits for veterans seeking college degrees. It was officially established in September 2011 and has about 50 active members. Handley and the SVO are in discussions with the administration to establish a permanent on-campus Veterans Center this summer, which he hopes will bring more visibility. Currently, it’s likely that fellow students may not even realize some of their classmates are recipients of medals like the Purple Heart, the Bronze Star and the Silver Star. “I don’t think the USD community really knows they’re here, and they’re not going to say, ‘Look at me. I’m a hero,’” Handley says.

Showing the documentary is a creative way to give these veterans more of the attention they deserve. Cottle has fielded inquiries from professors who missed the screening, but who want to see the film. Handley says the USD hopes to show it again later this year. “I really do think this helps people learn about us, the realities of war and what we’re really like,” says SVO President Travis Weger, a senior communications major who served eight years in the U.S. Navy. Cottle enlisted in the U.S. Marines in 2003, partly spurred by the 9/11 terrorist attacks. His father was a Marine in the Vietnam War. His maternal grandfather served in the U.S. Army during World War II. Cottle served three tours in Iraq as a field operator before he was deployed to Afghanistan as an EOD technician.

Less than three years after the explosion, he walks with prosthetics. A biology major, he’s on track to graduate in 2014. Already a certified medical assistant, he’s considering physician’s assistant school after USD. He and his fiancee, Kelly Forrester, will marry in August 2012. Even with all that under his belt, Cottle still sometimes has to convince himself to try new things. “Maybe the longest lasting battle is the fear that I can’t do something I want to do,” Cottle said during the post-film discussion. He described relying on his wheelchair during his first year navigating USD’s hilly campus. He talked about the thrill of horseback riding in Arizona with his fiancee and future sister-in-law, after initially dismissing the idea for fear of what could go wrong. His faith and the support of his family and friends have helped him stay positive and succeed. “He simply chooses not to be a victim,” says his mother, Peggy Cottle. She encourages him to share his experiences because she believes it helps him, and could help other veterans. “It’s such a gift when they can turn it around and help strengthen someone else.”

For 27-year-old Jesse Cottle ‘14, raising awareness of what people in the military go through is just one. About 200 veterans of military service are currently enrolled at USD.
**F**or a while there, it looked like an entrepreneur's dream had turned into a nightmare. It started off well enough: Stephan Aarstol, '99 (MBA), the founder and CEO of Tower Paddle Boards, a bikini-clad blonde, and Aarstol, ‘99 (MBA), the founder of Endeka Group, a wireless Internet provider, and a member of Tech Coast Angels, a well-known San Diego-based investors group. Although most V2 entrants are either undergraduate business majors or MBA candidates, this year's event was open to all USD students.

“Before, this competition was very limited and focused,” Lawless says. “But we obviously recognize that not all business ideas come from business students, so we decided to throw it open to the whole campus. Our vision is to establish a market and have anyone who wants to participate give it a shot.” Students responded. In fact, an international relations major came up with the Bottle Talk concept. Finalist and prize winner Max Ball of the Approach Mobile team found the V2 competition “a lot of fun.” It helped that Ball, who graduated in May, went in with an advantage. While others brought concepts to the table, he and a friend had already launched their business and achieved early success.

So far, their company story is the stuff of Internet start-up legend. “First we built a website in my friend’s dorm room,” Ball says. “Then we started advertising on Google. A company in Los Angeles saw us and loved what we were doing. We hit it off and set up a partnership. In the first couple of months, we provided them about $1,000 in new client business, and they were hooked.” By offshoring the software development to a second partner firm in India, Ball says, Approach Mobile can offer low prices and high value in a flourishing market. No doubt about it, the future for this newly minted USD alum looks bright. Perhaps Mark Cuban would be interested.

**USD has been named the Outstanding Sustainable Organizational of the Year by the California Center for Sustainable Energy, which called the university a “leader in sustainable facilities and programs through the integration of green transportation, progressive energy management and community leadership in waste reduction.”**

Former USD coach Jim Harbaugh will be reunited with his former USD quarterback, Josh Johnson, ‘98. “After the latter signed a two-year deal with the NFL’s San Francisco 49ers in late March, when Harbaugh was first hired by USD in 2003, the first player he recruited to the Toreros was Johnson.” Upon leaving the university four years later, the quarterback was the all-time NCAA pass efficiency leader and a Walter Payton Award Watch finalist.

Auditing a USD course is the perfect option for those who are interested in learning, but don’t necessarily need college credit. It’s an affordable way to keep skills honed as well, especially since the university’s Board of Trustees recently determined that the cost to audit a course would be just $160 per credit hour. To learn more, call (619) 260-4658.

**Thirteen winners were declared in USD’s recent Dalai Lama Essay Contest, which was open exclusively to students. Winners demonstrated a clear understanding of the Dalai Lama’s historic visit to San Diego. The winners, who each received one complimentary ticket to the Dalai Lama’s on-campus talk, were: Nathaniel Dunigan, Sara Fetinca, Carina Hinton, Jacob Holley, Natalie Larraga, Natasha Mahapatro, Cira Mariscal, Rocío López Ramos, Alyssa Rodríguez, Kriean Samávido, Clara Skarzynski, Alicia Vallejos and Joshua Wheeler.**

This year marks a number of USD milestones: 60 years since the start of classes for the inaugural 33 students of the San Diego College for Women. 2012 also marks the 40th anniversary of both the School of Business and the School of Leadership and Education Sciences. Both schools take pride in the fact that over the past four decades, thousands of students have been provided with the tools to become world-class leaders in their chosen professions.

Father William Headley will step down as the inaugural Dean of the Joan B. Kroc School of Peace Studies (KSPS) on the University of San Diego campus at the end of June 2012. This year’s focus will include teaching courses on religion, conflict and peace, and leading workshops focused on practical peace-building skills and developing resilience in peacebuilders.

**The Toreros are going to the Olympics! A new institution-al television spot is set to debut during opening ceremonies and appear throughout the 2012 London games. Inspired by USD’s recent designation as a Change-maker campus, it will be broadcast in seven markets with high concentrations of alumni that are also key areas for student recruitment: Los Angeles/Orange County, the San Francisco Bay Area, Phoenix, Las Vegas, Denver, Chicago and San Diego. The spot will also be available to view on the USD website and other university social media platforms. Let the games begin!**
OPEN THE GATES

New baseball field to be first step in USD’s ambitious athletics master plan

by Kristy Shrive

In 2007, the University of San Diego baseball program had what could only be described as an explosive year. The team celebrated its first 40 win season, was ranked as high as No. 4 in the nation, had three players drafted to the major leagues and earned the right to host an NCAA Baseball Regional, bringing one to San Diego for the first time in college baseball history.

But the tournament wasn’t played on the Toreros home field, which was deemed too small to accommodate the big event. Instead, the Toreros were forced to host at San Diego State University’s Tony Gwynn Stadium, which was ranked by Baseball America as the second best park in the nation for the 2007 season, and the baseball program had what could only be described as a dream season. The football field didn’t have lights until the coach made a side deal with SDG&E, the basketball team played in a community gym and then-baseball coach John Cunningham built a baseball diamond without any real budget. The new park will break ground at the end of May and will open in February 2013.

USD Board of Trustees chair Ron Fowler, who played high school baseball and had hopes of playing college baseball but it not been for a knee injury, says athletics programs go a long way toward raising the profile of a university and building alumni pride and alumni involvement.

“The baseball facility at USD wasn’t consistent with the quality of the team and the reputation of the program,” Fowler says. “With a new facility I think USD can achieve great things.”

Sophomore Mike Wagner, the team’s closer; can’t wait to set foot on the new pitcher’s mound. “The new facilities look amazing,” he says. “I feel like we have the chance to go a long way this year. We want to be a great team going into the season.”

“We’re happy to be able to assist USD in its effort to host an NCAA Baseball Regional at San Diego State. Their play this season certainly warrants the opportunity to obtain a home-field advantage in the NCAA tournament, and we believe it is important for San Diego State to host such an event,” said San Diego Padres senior vice president of baseball operations Peter O’Brien. “Our offices are spread out over five different areas,” says Athletics Director Ky Snyder. “Nine of our 17 sports don’t have locker rooms. Sports is about teamwork, it’s about camaraderie and our facilities make functioning difficult, and make recruiting a challenge. We didn’t need another Band-Aid; we needed a master plan.”

Dave Shaffer, chair of the athletics subcommittee for USD’s Board of Trustees, is proud to help transform the athletics master plan from vision to reality. “We’re voting on and supporting initiatives that won’t come to fruition until after we’ve left,” Shaffer says. “We may not be there for the ribbon cuttings, but we know that we’re improving the experience for everyone who comes after us.”

The Toreros have been a major force across all sports in recent years and earned the West Coast Conference Commissioner’s Cup again in 2011 — marking the first time in conference history that a school has won the cup four times, let alone four years in a row. Winning creates excitement and builds momentum. For fans, it creates expectations. And for players — who travel all over the country playing in top-notch facilities — it leads to questions about how much longer USD can remain competitive against programs that have so much more.

“Athletes see the rec centers at places like Gonzaga and San Clara,” Snyder says. “They know about the softball facility at Loyola Marymount University. They want to know why those guys have facilities that we don’t have. What do I tell them? Now I can tell them that we have a plan.”

It’s a master plan that provides more locker rooms, gives athletes state-of-the-art equipment, allows coaches and staff to move out of cramped quarters and gives the golf team a short course so players don’t have to drive to local courses to practice.

“We’ve done pretty well athletically, but we can do better,” says Snyder. “We’re not a pro factory, but we turn out pro athletes. With these new facilities, there’s no telling how far we can go.”

TORERO ATHLETICS

[auspicious]
The cities of Menlo Park, Calif., and Dessie, Ethiopia, are separated by 10,000 miles; an exhausting journey for even the most seasoned of travelers. And yet, when juxtaposed against the economic and cultural chasms that exist between the two communities, that daunting distance seems little more than a hop, skip and a jump.

As bootstraps on the ground proponents of HIV/AIDS care and education programs in Africa, Todd Johnson, his wife, Lil, and their two daughters, Sara and Emily, have made that lengthy and occasionally grueling trek five times in the last seven years. Along the way, they’ve found that their own perspectives on wealth, health and happiness have taken a similarly dramatic journey.

“When we first went to Africa in 2005, we realized that these were people who, by Western standards, had nothing. But they also had immense joy in their lives,” Todd recalls. “And when we came back home to Menlo Park, which is a very affluent community by any other’s standards, we began to notice that a lot of the people who lived there seemed unhappy, despite having way more than enough.

Fundamentally, Ethiopia shifted our focus of what was enough, but also in terms of how we live.”

The road to their epiphany started with a $100 challenge from the pastor of the family’s parish. After delivering a sermon on the “Parable of Talents” — a Biblical reading that addresses money, faithfulness and the relationship between the two — the pastor then asked the congregation if they would be interested in going on an adventure.

And so began a defining chapter in the Johnson family’s story: “He gave us a $100 bill and told us that it wasn’t ours. We had to do something with it for God, and we had to be willing to come back and tell a story,” Todd says.

A spirited discussion ensued about what the family would do with the money. Saddened by the devastating effects of the HIV virus on African populations, they decided to take the $100 and turn it into pennies, which became the foundation toward their goal of collecting and displaying 19 million pennies to show their community, their country and the world what it looks like to see the 19 million Africans who had died of AIDS at that time.

They were convinced that it would take only a few months to raise the remaining $18,900 needed to complete their display. Five years and eight million pennies later they ended their project … and the journey was more rewarding than they ever could have imagined.

“It was tougher than we ever would’ve anticipated, but there were so many amazing experiences along the way,” Todd says. “We were lucky enough to be able to visit Africa five times together and meet some truly inspiring people.

We also put on a display at both the Democratic and Republican national conventions in 2008, where we had delegates and politicians make HIV/AIDS care-giver kits that were sent to Africa. “We started out not really having any idea of what we were doing, but we knew we just wanted to try and make a difference.”

Oldest daughter Sara, who graduated from USD in 2011 with a bachelor’s degree in political science and minors in psychology and peace and justice studies, has carried that mantra forward into her pursuit of a master’s degree in peace and justice studies from the Joan B. Kroc School of Peace Studies.

The indelible life experiences she garnered during the family’s visits to Africa have led to her interest in a career where she can help entrepreneurs in developing countries create businesses that sustain their communities — and dad couldn’t be more proud.

“I am very passionate about economic development and poverty alleviation,” says Todd, who, as a partner in Bay Area International law firm Jones Day, serves as a lawyer, counselor and advisor for businesses looking to maximize growth and efficiency through a minimal environmental footprint.

“We hadn’t heard much about USD prior to Sara transferring there as an undergraduate, but the more we learned, the more we liked, especially the work going on at the School of Peace Studies.” Todd and Lil have had the opportunity to visit Alcalá Park several times over the last five years, and have become fast friends with outgoing School of Peace Studies Dean Father William Headley, whom Todd describes as “a man of peace.”

To contribute to the William Headley Endowed Scholarship, contact Director of Development Elisa Lurkins at elurkins@sandiego.edu, or call (619) 260-7913.

For Todd Johnson and family, more does not equal enough.
It starts with a vague restlessness, a growing awareness that the life you’re living simply isn’t enough. You may have achieved everything you’ve ever dreamed of. You may be wildly successful by every measurable standard. Yet, somehow, some way, you know it’s not enough. Not enough to satisfy the hunger gnawing at your soul. Not enough to make you happy. One day something flips, and you reach a decision. Whatever lies ahead, however costly, however risky, cannot possibly be worse than wondering, “What if?” It’s time to try something new.

The gnawing sensation evaporates, replaced by a heady mixture of fear and freedom. You don’t even know where you’re going, much less how you’re going to get there. But you’re trembling with excitement just to be taking a first step in a new direction. Soon you’re dreaming big, shooting for the top, making audacious requests and promises, faking it ‘til you make it.
What you’re making is a new kind of life, one that satisfies deep down, one that speaks to others and leaves a legacy. What you’re making is art.

SKETCHING HER LIFE’S WORK

It’s a beautiful spring night in San Diego, but the crowd leaving the Cygnet Theatre doesn’t much seem to notice. They’re still immersed in the world of “Parade,” a musical set in Atlanta in the early days of the 20th century. Back then, fashion favored big floppy hair ribbons for young girls, relaxed silhouettes and hat pins for ladies, straw boaters for men, tweed knickers for boys.

The story is based on a real case, that of Jewish factory superintendent Leo Frank, unjustly accused of the murder of one of his employees, 13-year-old Mary Phagan. Final bows for the critically acclaimed production were celebrated with a standing ovation. Under the stage lights, the muted colors of the actors’ detailed period costumes subtly reflected and enhanced each individual role.

“When on stage, clothing creates character,” explains Cygnet resident artist and costume designer Shirley Pierson. “We all work together to create as much truth as we can, in a theatrical sense. But in the case of this play, I also worked hard to honor it historically.”

That’s not unusual for Pierson, who says that extensive research is her favorite aspect of designing, except, of course, seeing the final product coalesce on stage. Her success in this highly competitive field — including work for Cygnet’s “Little Shop of Horrors” and “Sweeney Todd” as well as the New Village Arts’ “Into the Woods” — may partly be due to the fact that she came to this career circuitously.

“I grew up in Arapahoe, Neb.,” she explains, while walking through the warren of rooms below the Cygnet stage. “Well, we never lived in the town itself, we were out on the farm.” Her options were limited: “It was nursing or teaching.” She chose nursing, winding up as a psychiatric nurse in Los Angeles, but ultimately wasn’t fulfilled. “There was an emptiness inside me,” she says, pensive. “I think everybody has it.”

That hollow feeling ultimately led her to a vocational about-face. She worked for a time as an assistant buyer for a major department store, moved into designing textiles and clothing for children’s wear, but all the while, she longed for more. “It wasn’t until I was back in the cornfield — in Illinois, while my husband was getting his doctorate — that I started taking classes, working with a puppetry company.”

Bam. She figured out what was missing. “I was creating character, rather than clothing that was consumed. I was hooked.” The family relocated to San Diego when her husband, Eric, became a professor at USD. “Once we got here, I worked in the theater, stitching, sewing, whatever was needed in various local companies.” When the university added a theatre arts major, Pierson was first in line, earning her degree in 2006.

She designed costumes for shows on campus, worked with Graduate Theatre Chair Richard Seer for an Old Globe/USD MFA production of “Richard III” (“that was fun, it was a mixture of 40s style combined with the Elizabethean time period”), got her MFA at San Diego State University and has been working steadily ever since. She’s found her place and, in the end, it’s about the magic that comes when creative minds work together. “Theater, in its very nature, is a collaborative art. Nothing happens in a vacuum in the theater.”

BREAKING THE MOLD

One by one, Mark Edward Adams hefts three rough-hewn bronze horses, each in a different stance, and lines them up across his fireplace mantel. They tell a story, he says, the universal tale of the hero’s journey — accepting a defining challenge, slogging through the depths of doubt, and finally cresting the summit of success.

It’s a journey Adams ’97 knows well. The three horses, a series now featured in Scottsdale, Arizona’s renowned Paul Scott Gallery, also depict his own quest: to become a truly great sculptor and to inspire a new genre he calls “spiritual expressionism.”

“I see sculpture and art the same as I see myth,” Adams explains. “It’s a message we pass on from one generation to the next.”

Adams came to sculpture by serendipity. After majoring in chemistry at USD, Adams added a master’s degree, got a good job at a San Diego pharmaceutical firm, found a girlfriend and spent five happy years anticipating a normal life — marriage, kids, the house in the suburbs.
Then it all fell apart. A hit-and-run driver left Adams injured and in pain. Next, his girlfriend moved out. Adams heard something say, “Go to Italy.”

A week later, he was on a plane to Rome. He couldn’t have chosen better therapy. “After Italy, life was beautiful again.” What he loved most was the sculpture. Fantastic sculpture everywhere, in every square, every building. When he came home, Adams signed up for a beginners’ class. Soon his new hobby took hold of him. “I’d sculpt til three in the morning,” he says. “One day I made a decision: I’m going to be a sculptor, and I’m going to be the best I can be, no matter what.”

For that, he knew he’d need world-class instruction. He wrote to the top five representational sculptors on Earth: “I want to learn from you; will you teach me?” One wrote back: Simon Kogan, a Russian master, who had immigrated to the state of Washington.

“Simon saw I wasn’t any good at that time,” Adams admits. “But he told me I was the most passionate sculptor he’d ever met, at least in the U.S., and he said, ‘That’s all you really need; I can teach you the rest.’”

Eventually Adams began to sculpt animals as well as humans, and discovered he needed a new set of skills. Again, he reached out to the best, and again, one wrote back. Acclaimed horse sculptor Rod Zullo invited Adams to his home in Montana and taught him how to capture the equine physique and spirit. When he was ready, Adams’ mentors encouraged him to offer his work to galleries. He approached the top venues in the country and waited. A month later, Paul Scott took on all three pieces of “The Journey Series,” and has since invited him to mount a one-man show.

Adams’ third horse perfectly expresses his response. It stands proudly, feet together, head and tail high, a study in triumph.

It’s a full-on multimedia experience. By the final note, Wahl has created a bold portrait of U2 front man Bono. Only then does the artist turn and address the room full of marketing executives. “When did you decide logic trumps creativity? Chances are, that’s when you lost your passion — and your competitiveness. Want it back? Show up with your whole self, left and right brain, head and heart.”

It’s a message Wahl has taken to corporate clients worldwide for the past 10 years. Now he’s broadening his reach. Soon he’ll debut a live theatrical experience designed to inspire general audiences. And he’s using social media to engage followers in Art Drop, a worldwide scavenger hunt for free paintings.

“Creativity isn’t just for corporate America,” he says. “It’s universal. There’s no set way to do something; no set way to be. Art is freedom. You’re unshackled.”

Wahl founded his company, The Art of Vision, with his wife, Tasha Moffitt Wahl, ’94, and their success has exceeded their wildest dreams. Wahl speaks a hundred times a year, he’s done a film, he has a book coming out next year. And his artwork, which he never sells, has generated $1.5 million at charity auctions.

Yet the Wahls’ success sprang from bitter failure. After 9/11, the business blueprint Wahl had devoted his life to fell victim to a crumbling economy. He lost everything. “The emotional toll was huge,” he says. He started painting purely as catharsis. Big canvases, bright colors, unstudied abandon. Art was a long shot, but he kept at it — and painted his way to an epiphany.

His life had been backwards; now he had a chance to set it right. Returning to the corporate world was out, but he and Tasha had three sons. How were they going to survive? After brainstorming, they came up with a wild idea. What if Wahl blended his knowledge of business and speaking with his new passion for art? He began piecing together a presentation; Tasha took on the marketing. Every time her 4-year-old went down for a nap, she got on the phone. It didn’t take too many yeses to jumpstart their venture.

“With each speaking date came five more,” Erik Wahl says. “It wasn’t a linear growth structure; it was nuclear: No one was doing what we were doing.” And there’s his point again. Want to be successful? Be different. Be unique. Be your most creative self.

“We’re all in these boxes; we’re all living with labels,” Wahl says. “What if we freed ourselves? How fast could we change the world?”
For 13-year-old Katie Blessing, pursuing her dream of becoming a marine scientist has been a no-brainer. Now a bubbly eighth-grade student and avid science buff, Blessing says as far back as she can remember, the blue waters of the Pacific beckoned.

“I really started to think about it when I was little, just looking at the ocean,” she says. “The first question I asked myself was, ‘What’s in the ocean and what is it all about?’”

Blessing is clear about her career path, but the world of science hasn’t historically been so welcoming to girls and young women. When Biology Professor Sue Lowery was a college student in Mississippi in the 1970s, it was rare for a woman to be admitted to medical school. And when, armed with her own degree in zoology, she began applying for jobs in medical research, Lowery found out why: “I went to several interviews where people said, ‘Oh, we would never hire you. I don’t know why they sent you here,’” she recalls, adding that prospective male employers would reject her out of hand, certain that she would inevitably leave the field to become a mother. Lowery persisted, eventually earning her PhD in marine biology and carving a successful career for herself.

Getting young women excited about pursuing careers in science, technology, engineering and math isn’t easy, but it’s necessary.

by Karen Gross

Getting young women excited about pursuing careers in science, technology, engineering and math isn’t easy, but it’s necessary.

by Karen Gross

Photography by Luis Garcia

For 13-year-old Katie Blessing, pursuing her dream of becoming a marine scientist has been a no-brainer. Now a bubbly eighth-grade student and avid science buff, Blessing says as far back as she can remember, the blue waters of the Pacific beckoned.

“I really started to think about it when I was little, just looking at the ocean,” she says. “The first question I asked myself was, ‘What’s in the ocean and what is it all about?’”

Blessing is clear about her career path, but the world of science hasn’t historically been so welcoming to girls and young women. When Biology Professor Sue Lowery was a college student in Mississippi in the 1970s, it was rare for a woman to be admitted to medical school. And when, armed with her own degree in zoology, she began applying for jobs in medical research, Lowery found out why: “I went to several interviews where people said, ‘Oh, we would never hire you. I don’t know why they sent you here,’” she recalls, adding that prospective male employers would reject her out of hand, certain that she would inevitably leave the field to become a mother. Lowery persisted, eventually earning her PhD in marine biology and carving a successful career for herself.

Getting young women excited about pursuing careers in science, technology, engineering and math isn’t easy, but it’s necessary.

by Karen Gross

Photography by Luis Garcia
**“It’s been found that if girls aren’t doing extremely well, they’ll transfer to something else where they do extremely well.”**

Association of University Women in 2010 titled, “Why So Few?” found that while the picture is improving, especially in medicine, biology and the life sciences, career opportunities for women still lag far behind in physics and engineering. And in computer science, their numbers have actually declined after rising for several years. The reasons for the disparity are vast and varied: Popular culture often depicts scientists as socially awkward, geeky men, not to mention an ongoing implicit bias, which still sends school-aged girls the message that math class is hard, as Teen Talk Barbie once famously said. While there’s ample proof that girls score just as well as boys in high school math and science courses, fewer pursue STEM majors in college. According to the National Science Foundation, just 12 percent of undergraduate engineering degrees and 17 percent of degrees in physics are awarded to women. Getting girls past these daunting statistics and stubborn barriers, which include subtle stereotypes, implicit bias, and a mostly-male work environment, can be tricky. One key to the problem might be better marketing, studies show that women want to see the results of their work and know that it’s making a difference in peoples’ lives. And explaining what engineers actually do is crucial, says Debra Kimberling, a mechanical engineer at Solar Turbines, who spoke at the EYH conference.

“Young women need to know that they can make a contribution to society,” she explains. “That engineering is a viable field, it’s not just for nerds.”

At USD, female faculty are working hard to push science students further along the pipeline and to help them succeed beyond their undergraduate degrees. Through the Bridges to Doctoral Institutions program, the university sends two women to research intensive institutions the summer after their junior year, increasing their chances of attending top-notch graduate programs. Professor Deborah Tahmassebi, chair of USD’s Department of Chemistry and Biochemistry, says that in many ways, science is still a man’s world. She sees it as her role, and that of her colleagues, to help female students feel like they fit. “I think it takes some good role models to pave the way,” she says. “And I have to say, that’s not just the case at many institutions. When you look around and try to find somebody who looks like you, you just don’t find them.”

Twenty years have passed since Teen Talk Barbie was silenced and forced to keep her controversial views on math to herself. Many academic institutions are making changes and working to draw more women into the sciences and keep them there. Programs such as Expand Your Horizons are growing, with teachers, parents and school administrators increasingly setting their sights on school-aged girls. As Kathleen Kramer, a biology major, has mentored for several years. She says it’s as rewarding for her as it is for the younger girls. “I like encouraging them. Even though we are women, and women aren’t that prominent in science, we can change that,” she says. “It’s really fun to see their eyes light up they realize they could have a career doing something they really enjoy.”

That’s the entire point of EHY’s skills and support network, including Kathie Stiller, a senior at USD’s Department of Chemistry and Biochemistry, who spoke at the EYH conference.

“Women need to know that they can make a contribution to society, and that engineering is a viable field, it’s not just for nerds.”

“It’s difficult to get a really good hands-on workshop for students,” says Kramer, who sits on the committee for the San Diego chapter. “You want them to love it, and you want it to be effective.”

**Judging by the number of girls who come back year after year, EHY excels on both fronts. “Because of what I’ve experienced before in science, how men have always been dominant, I know how this empowers women to get more into it,” said ninth-grader Symone Carreno, who was attending for the third time. “You get to do science with a bunch of other girls who are interested in the same stuff as you are.”**

Another third-time participant, Katie Blessing was just as excited. “I love that it’s so interactive,” she said. “They encourage you to try new things and follow your goals.”

In order to make the subject matter more accessible, EHY recruits young mentors who shepherd groups of girls between workshops and answer questions about college majors and career choices. Most of them are undergraduates in one of the STEM fields. USD junior Amy Bowers, a biology major, has mentored for several years. She says it’s as rewarding for her as it is for the younger girls. “I like encouraging them. Even though we are women, and women aren’t that prominent in science, we can change that,” she says. “It’s really fun to see their eyes light up they realize they could have a career doing something they really enjoy.”

That’s the entire point of EHY’s skills and support network, including Kathie Stiller, a senior at USD’s Department of Chemistry and Biochemistry, who spoke at the EYH conference.

“Women need to know that they can make a contribution to society, and that engineering is a viable field, it’s not just for nerds.”

“She is obviously very important to getting them interested in physics and engineering.” — Debra Kimberling
On the occasion of his first public visit to San Diego, His Holiness the 14th Dalai Lama, Tenzin Gyatso, the spiritual leader of Tibet, visited the University of San Diego, the University of California, San Diego and San Diego State University. The joint symposium was titled “Compassion Without Borders: Science, Peace and Ethics.”

Among his many honors, the Dalai Lama was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize for his non-violent struggle for the liberation of Tibet; fittingly, the theme of his talk at USD was “Cultivating Peace and Justice.”

President Mary E. Lyons, PhD, presented the University of San Diego Medal of Peace to the Dalai Lama on the stage of the Jenny Craig Pavilion, in recognition of his scholarship and lifelong contributions to international peacebuilding. “As a spiritual leader, one who strives for and continues to live a life dedicated to peace, you are truly a living witness to the greatest aspirations of our university,” she said.

Following are excerpts from his remarks at USD to an extremely appreciative crowd of students, staff, faculty and community members.
On himself as a person: “I am just another human being. We are the same. These kind words and medals are recognition for my small contribution for serving humanity. So, thank you very much.”

On the value of compassion: “I really am impressed how often, in different places and countries, how quite often I’m hearing about compassion, peace and non-violence. And many places, including this university, are really making actual efforts to implement the value of compassion.”

“Compassion is a noble sort of emotion. If you remain cautious, because the facts say you should distrust a person, because they really want to harm you, to hate you, to create trauma for you, you can keep a genuine sense of concern for their well-being. They are also human beings, just like you. Keep a genuine sense of compassion, a sense of concern over their well-being. That you can do...”

“One Tibetan monk I know very well was arrested by the Chinese authorities in 1959 for the next 18 years. In the early ’80s, after things were more liberal, these people were released and had the opportunity to come to India. He told me that during his 18 years in Chinese prison, he faced some dangers. I thought danger for his life, maybe. What’s wrong? Physical comfort doesn’t mean mental comfort. The mental satisfaction that comes from money is only temporary. In the long run, mental comfort must develop within the mind itself...

“The 20th century eventually became the century of blood, the century of fear, the century of violence. Those unhappy events were actually the symptom of past negligence, of past mistakes.”

On inner peace and happiness: “Through education, through awareness, I think we can develop a deeper understanding about the system of our inner world. Through that way, we can develop genuine inner peace, and once that inner peace develops, justice automatically comes...

“Since immense technological and material development have failed to bring real happiness to humanity, now the time has come to find different ways. Education and institutions are the key factor to further investigation. Eventually we have to find some kind of curriculum about these inner values, from kindergarten to university level...”

“On respect for religious traditions: “I’m a Buddhist, therefore, I should not develop an attachment towards Buddhism. Because once I develop an attachment, I become narrow-minded, and then I can’t see other things objectively. It’s important to have faith toward one’s own religion, and respect for all religions. All of the major traditions have served humanity for the last thousand years, and millions of people all over the world have benefit of immense inspiration, of these sources of hope...”

“I’m a staunch Buddhist, however, I sincerely, seriously respect all other religious traditions. Whenever I have the opportunity, I make a pilgrimage to different holy sites. I started this practice in India in 1975, and whenever I have the opportunity, I go to religious places. Millions of Christian practitioners all over the world are truly dedicated to others, it’s a tremendous sort of dedication and it comes from their faith. So there are plenty of reasons for respect.”
ENCHANTED EVENING
Alumni Honors celebrates distinguished graduates

by Krystin Shrieve

The university’s 2012 Alumni Honors recipients were (left to right): J. Scott Di Valerio ’83; Sandra Chew Phillips ’84; Timothy Lynch ’91; Theodore J. Boutrous, Jr. ’70; Joseph Ghougaslian ’77; ‘80; Jacqueline D. Rychnovsky ’84; Arnulfo Manriquez ’05; Susi Menazza ’03; and Kevin Herde ’90.

These alumni have accomplished great things in their careers and for their communities, and have made a significant impact on USD,” says Director of Alumni Relations Charles Bass. “It’s a privilege to share their stories with the campus and alumni from across the nation and around the world.”

Now retired, Ghougaslian, who received the Bishop Charles Francis Spalding Award, was the first naturalized United States citizen from the Middle East to become a U.S. ambassador after President Ronald Reagan appointed him in 1985. In 1989, Pope John Paul II bestowed upon him the rank of Knights Commander in the Order of St. Gregory the Great for influencing the Qatar government to lift 14 centuries of religious prohibition on the public practice of the Christian faith and other faiths.

Chew Phillips, a technical writer for Qualcomm, was given the Mother Rosalie Hill Ciferon Award because of her dedication to USD. Over the past 40 years, she’s served on the University of San Diego Alumni Association Board of Directors, as well as the alumni board for the School of Leadership and Education Sciences. She has also been active in the Alumniae of the Sacred Heart, serving on the Sacred Heart Advisory Committee to the USD Discovery Campaign.

Herde, who was inducted into the Chest and Marguerite Paggi Family Athletic Hall of Fame, was primarily a catcher for the baseball team, but earned the moniker “Mr. Versatility,” because he also saw action at first base, on the pitcher’s mound and as a designated hitter. He is the only Torero baseball player to have earned the team’s Most Valuable Player award three times (1991-1993).

Inaugurated in 1995 to commemorate the legacy of USD President Emeritus Author E. Hughes, the university this year gave an Author E. Hughes Career Achievement award to one alumnus or alumna from each school. Boutrous, the School of Law recipient, is a partner in the law firm of Gibson, Dunn & Crutcher LLP, and has been called one of the best media and appellate attorneys in the nation. In 2011, he convinced the Supreme Court of the United States to reverse one of the largest class actions of all time in the landmark case of Wal-Mart v. Dukes.

Rychnovsky, who was honored by the Hahn School of Nursing and Health Science, joined the U.S. Navy in 1990 and has worked in various roles throughout her career, including serving as a chaplain’s assistant for USD. Over the past 40 years, she has also been active in the Alumnae of the Sacred Heart and has served on the executive committee and the annual fundraising campaign.

Di Valerio, who was chosen by the School of Business Administration, is the chief financial officer of Cointar Inc. Before joining Cointar, Di Valerio was president of the Americas for Lenovo Group and, prior to that, was Microsoft’s corporate vice president of the Original Equipment Manufacturer Division.

Manriquez, recipient for the School of Leadership and Education Sciences, is president and chief executive officer of MAAC, a nonprofit organization dedicated to Maximizing Access to Advance Our Communities. He has dedicated his career to working directly with underprivileged individuals, households and communities of San Diego County and promotes self-sufficiency through housing economic, educational and employment programs.

Menazza, who represents the Joan B. Kroc School of Peace Studies, is a senior policy advisor for The Nature Conservancy. Her primary task is establishing relationships with European countries and organizations on issues affecting Asia-Pacific’s environment.

Lynch has helmed a number of groundbreaking music videos — including the winner of the 2005 MTV Video Music Awards’ Video of the Year, Green Day’s “Boulevard of Broken Dreams.”

Following the presentations, guests spilled out onto the Garden of the Sky Plaza for an evening under the stars, complete with fabulous food stations and the soulful tunes of the Bill Mague Blues Band.

“Tonight is about honoring ordinary people who lead extraordinary lives,” says President Mary E. Lyons. “We call them leaders and visionaries, advocates and ambassadors. They are peacemakers. They are changemakers. They are Toreros.”

The USD Wine Classic will take place on Sunday, July 22, 2012 at the Joan B. Kroc Institute for Peace & Justice. Proceeds will benefit USD’s Alumni Endowed Scholarship, which has a goal of raising $1 million by June 30. Currently, the total raised is in excess of $940,000. To learn more, go to www.sandiego.edu/wineclass.

Alumni business owners can connect with thousands of their fellow Toreros through the university’s web-based communities and groups, which help alumni build their personal and professional networks and empower career transitions. Go to alumni.sandiego.edu to learn more, click on “USD Communities on the Web.”

Alumni participation is critical to the success and prominence of the University of San Diego.

The term means the percentage of alumni that make an annual gift of $2,500 when it comes to the USD Mission. Giving is one of the key metrics used to determine national rankings and the financial support received from foundations. A gift of $25 is just as important as a gift of $2,500 when it comes to these numbers. Give today! Go to www.sandiego.edu/giving or call (619) 260-4724.

USD Magazine
30 SUMMER 2012
31

The 2012 Alumni Honors event culminated in a glittering soirée for hundred at the JP’s Garden of the Sky Plaza. The USD Wine Classic will take place on Sunday, July 22, 2012 at the Joan B. Kroc Institute for Peace & Justice. Proceeds will benefit USD’s Alumni Endowed Scholarship, which has a goal of raising $1 million by June 30. Currently, the total raised is in excess of $940,000. To learn more, go to www.sandiego.edu/wineclass. Alumni business owners can connect with thousands of their fellow Toreros through the university’s web-based communities and groups, which help alumni build their personal and professional networks and empower career transitions. Go to alumni.sandiego.edu to learn more, click on “USD Communities on the Web.” Alumni participation is critical to the success and prominence of the University of San Diego. The term means the percentage of alumni that make an annual financial gift to their alma mater, which is one of the key metrics used to determine national rankings and the financial support received from foundations. A gift of $25 is just as important as a gift of $2,500 when it comes to these numbers. Give today! Go to www.sandiego.edu/giving or call (619) 260-4724.

Toreros near and far are sharing their life experiences and adventures by submitting class notes to www.sandiego.edu/pubs-submit CLASS NOTES. Each issue of USD Magazine is built around the inspiring exploits of amazing alumni, submit your class note today for the Spring 2013 issue at classmates@sandiego.edu. What’s your story?
Chargers CFO Jeanne Bonk is the ultimate team player

by Mike Sauer

S everal months have passed since the San Diego Chargers played the final down of their 2011-12 season, but the team’s Mission Valley, Calif., headquarters remains a beehive of activity. Couriers zip through the facility’s entry doors and disappear down maze-like hallways at warp speed. Receptionists move deftly between answering a seemingly never-ending stream of phone calls and the queries of wide-eyed visiting fans. Team coaches roar greetings to one other above the din on their way to afternoon meetings. Jeanne Bonk ’83 has seen it all before, and takes in the chaotic scene with an amused, if not altogether approving grin. “Oh, this is just kind of the way it is around here,” she says. “If you think this is crazy, you ought to come back by for a visit when training camp starts. That’s when things really get going.”

As the team’s executive vice president and chief financial officer (CFO), Bonk has her finger firmly on the pulse of all things Chargers. Her professional purview extends across the organization, from overseeing the team’s day-to-day operations to helping negotiate for a new stadium in San Diego. On a personal level, she bleeds blue and gold. So much so that it’s common knowledge among her co-workers and friends to give her an especially wide berth the morning after a Chargers’ loss. “I’m naturally a competitive person, so it really impacts me when things don’t go well for the team on the field,” she says, then adds with a wry smile, “If people really need to get ahead of me, they know to wait until the afternoon so I’ve had time to get over it.”

A lifelong sports aficionado, Bonk grew up playing softball and tennis on the fields and courts near her Anaheim, Calif., home. A diehard Los Angeles Lakers fan in those days, she’s fairly certain she was the only teenage girl in her neighborhood with posters of Lakers great Jerry West and Wilt Chamberlain adorning her bedroom walls. “I was a huge fan,” she recalls. “We would sit around the dinner table and talk about my dad’s company, and the Lakers. I guess I should’ve known then that I was destined for a career in sports, huh?”

Those mealtime conversations also piqued Bonk’s interest in business, and were determining factors in her obtaining a bachelor’s degree in accounting from USD. A stellar academic résumé and a strong endorsement from her then accounting program advisor Ethel Sykes earned Bonk a job with global accounting firm Price Waterhouse. It turned out to be a life-changing opportunity. “I’ve always considered myself a very fortunate person, but I never would’ve guessed how fortunate I was in getting the job with Price Waterhouse,” she says. “I met my husband there, and the Lakers. I guess I was around the area at the right time to find time to visit her alma mater at the west end of Mission Valley from time to time. Last year, she spoke to a rapt audience as a member of a sports marketing and management panel discussion for USD’s Knowledge Transfer program. At the event’s conclusion, several eager attendees approached Bonk to find out how exactly she had found a path from Alcalá Park to the Chargers’ front office. Her answer was simple: hard work, and lots of it. “Most people in the sports industry work a lot of hours, and some people come into it with their eyes wide open. The sheer volume of work tends to overwhelm them,” she says. “Internships are a really great way to go, but if you think you’re going to come in here and work eight to five, then you’re going to be in for a shock.”
REDELL HARTMICH (ME&I) retired in 2010 from USD United School District in San Diego, after 30 years as a classroom teacher and education specialist. Currently, Redell is a part-time faculty supervisor at USD for the School of Leadership and Education Sciences.

JERMY PLUMER (BA) writes, “I lived in the ‘burbs of Kansas City, working as an IT project manager at a global company named That. Now, I am an independent in the same community, being a board member of both the Jackson County 4-H Foundation and the Kansas City Metropolitan FFA Chapter. I also love my hobby of combating with my horses in the Kansas City Area, or how far from old friend Find me on Facebook in the USD community.”

MICHAEL RAMEY (BA) was diagnosed with Multiple Sclerosis (MS), with Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis (ALS), also known as Lou Gehrig’s disease. Shortly after receiving this, he received a $50,000 grant from the National Multiple Sclerosis Society, for research. Mike turned his energy into fighting for better treatment and quality of life, and has taken on the challenge of searching for a cure through fund raising. In 2016, Mike and his wife, Maureen (White), ‘81, along with friends and family, founded the Team Godfather Charitable Foundation (TGCF). So far, the foundation has donated more than $250,000 to ALS research. The organization can be found online at www.teamgodfather .org and on Facebook.

34 USD MAGAZINE SUMMER 2012
“Like hard physical work, and ballet is physically demanding,” he says. “And I like precision. When I execute things correctly, it feels really good. For me it’s like the exhilaration you feel when you win the Super Bowl. You’ve pumped up adrenaline; endorphins are shooting around; you’re excited.”

Audiences and critics alike exult in watching Padilla perform. Whether portraying the prince levitating into an aerial split in “The Nutcracker,” a gritty street gangster in “West Side Story” or a strolling tap dancer at Legoland, Padilla thrives in each role, and it shows. He was only four when his mother, herself a dance and drama instructor, took him to tap lessons at the neighborhood rec center. “I wasn’t super interested,” he admits. But five years later when he started classes on his first professional appearance—in “The Mu-

**STARLIGHT THEATRE** — Padilla dis-
covered he liked performing. He moved on to jazz dance classes at age 11 and finally ventured into ballet at age 14, at the insis-
tation of his jazz instructor. During Padilla’s senior year at the San Diego School of Cre-
ative and Performing Arts, the physicality of dance hooked him for good. Five, sometimes six days a week, he studied Rus-

tian classical ballet at the San Diego Academy of Ballet. All through his college years, Padilla shuttled between the lecture halls of Alcala Park and the ballet studio in Kearney Mesa neighborhood. As a freshman, fascinated by the workings of the justice system, he relished the idea of using the law to help others, perhaps as a public defender. But by sophomore year, he had reconsidered.

“I decided law school wasn’t something I wanted to do,” Padilla says. “I was starting to realize I wanted to pursue phys-
ical endeavors. I thought, ‘I can’t sit at a desk all day. Maybe I can’t be a lawyer, but not now.’”

He stuck with his degree program, though, postponing the advanced dance training he knew he needed until after graduation. His diploma secured, Padilla set out for New York to explore his options. An inten-
tive program with Ellison Ballet at the Barrowyck Arts Center proved just the right prescrip-
tion to strengthen his skills and build his confidence.

Padilla came home to San Diego and signed on with the California Ballet, a professional company based in San Diego. He has taught at a top ballet academy, as well as a ballet school. And he has a budding businesswoman, an independent consultant for a legal services company.

Padilla “found reason and will to keep dancing,” he admits. “I’m in the study of philosophy, his major at 

**USD.** “One thing I learned from phi-
losophy is if you want something you don’t have now, you have to do something different,” he says.

Padilla’s personal codes, like his work, draws from disparate sources. He references Friedrich Nietzsche’s emphasis on personal choice, Dale Carnegie’s belief in self-development and a former ballet master’s mantra: “The only true talent is the ability to work.” Dance, of course, requires all three. Choosing to dance as a career is committing to a life of relentless practice and continual improvement. And that’s exactly what Padilla loves about it.

**1995** 

**WENDY S. DUNLAP (MS)** moved to Alaska in 1998 to work on her PhD through the University of Alaska, Fairbanks. While in Alaska, she worked with the Alaska Department of Fish and Game until July 2001. She didn’t finish her PhD but moved back to Southern California and now works for the California Department of Fish and Game maintaining the commer-
cial data, trends and research database.

**JOEL GONZALEZ (BA)** is director of admissions at the University of California, San Francisco, School of Pharmacy, the No. 1-ranked pharmacy school in the country.

**TODD MORAN (BA)** lives in Law-
farms, Ore. His wife, Tiffany Tran-Parta, teaches middle school science. The couple’s 3-year-old son, Liam, keeps them on their toes.

**JENNIFER WILLIAMSON (BA)** is an account executive for the Vitamix 

**1996** 

**NATALIE A. (ABRAMAH ALLAN (BA)** was married in 2007 at USD. She is now living in Kansas and work-

**JENNIFER (BARTA) ROWEY (BA)** and her husband, Steve, have a daughter who recently began pre-
school. The family adopted two ther-

**GREG YOUNG (LLM)** chaired an eminent panel on preparing arbitra-

**GEORGE EBERLING (MA)** recently published Chinese Energy Futures

**2000**

**SARAH (LANSES) DICE (BA)** and her husband, Jim, welcomed a son, Joseph Raymond, on May 15, 2011. “Big brother J.J. couldn’t be more proud,” says Sarah.

**AMALIA (RIVERA) LAWLESS (BA)** has been lucky as the UC San Diego Law School’s Law Img.

**JENNY (KOHLEN) KIRCH (BA)** and her husband, Michael, are the parents of two-year-old Jack and Alex, in March 2011. “When I’m not busy juggling two babies, I am a bank regulatory counselor at Wilmer-

**KATHY (WESLOWSKI) NORTH-

cutt (BA)** writes, “Life is full of surprises. While I still work at a law/ 

**CAILA (COUGHLIN) ANDERSON (BA)** lives in Valdosta, Ga., with her husband, Consp, and two sons. She enjoys her time with Devon, 2, and Grant, 1, and a public relations/social media freelancer in her spare time. She

**WENDY S. DUNLAP (MS)** moved to Alaska in 1998 to work on her PhD through the University of Alaska, Fairbanks. While in Alaska, she worked with the Alaska Department of Fish and Game until July 2001. She didn’t finish her PhD but moved back to Southern California and now works for the California Department of Fish and Game maintaining the commer-
cial data, trends and research database.

**JOEL GONZALEZ (BA)** is director of admissions at the University of California, San Francisco, School of Pharmacy, the No. 1-ranked pharmacy school in the country.

**TODD MORAN (BA)** lives in Law-
farms, Ore. His wife, Tiffany Tran-Parta, teaches middle school science. The couple’s 3-year-old son, Liam, keeps them on their toes.

**JENNIFER WILLIAMSON (BA)** is an account executive for the Vitamix 

**1996**

**NATALIE A. (ABRAMAH ALLAN (BA)** was married in 2007 at USD. She is now living in Kansas and work-

**JENNIFER (BARTA) ROWEY (BA)** and her husband, Steve, have a daughter who recently began pre-
school. The family adopted two ther-

**GREG YOUNG (LLM)** chaired an eminent panel on preparing arbitra-

**GEORGE EBERLING (MA)** recently published Chinese Energy Futures

**2000**

**SARAH (LANSES) DICE (BA)** and her husband, Jim, welcomed a son, Joseph Raymond, on May 15, 2011. “Big brother J.J. couldn’t be more proud,” says Sarah.

**AMALIA (RIVERA) LAWLESS (BA)** has been lucky as the UC San Diego Law School’s Law Img.
Celia Lopez (BA, MA ’04) says she found her true calling in 2011 after working in Diego after working for a year and a half in Santa Barbara. “I’m currently working at the Animal Services Shelter, fostering youth and spending my free time actively volunteer- ing in my church community.” Celia says.

Nicole Matthews (MA) is the chief experience officer and co-founder of The Highlight, a thought-leader and speaker on personal and professional development and startup trends, and she focuses on how important it is to go to college and how to prepare. For this reason, future part-time students shared the actual event and its future benefits and leadership for college-bound students and other businesses. The company provides high-profile events, creates unique experiences, and manages the lives of busy execu- tives and their families.

Carol Suen “Is a construction project manager. He has built up to 5 million & sales roadhouses. John has been mar- ried for five years and has two children.

2001 TIMOTHY CLARK (BA) recently again began his career in the Department of Chemistry and Biochemistry at USD after four years as R&D Manager at San Diego. He is a Loma Linda University. “The family will soon have a toddler, a second-order son.”

Gregory Jackson (BA) is recently in his second year in the Los Angeles Surgery and then returned to San Diego to take a position as a staff member at his specialty hospital. He also married his fiancée, a former resident of California.

Colleen Cleary-Reed (BA) writes, “We want to get a slice of the wedding cake and report that he is very happy with the job he is doing for his wife and the best husband in the world! As a clan trainer, she travels all over the country training new and seasoned teachers for a nationwide insurance company in Sep- tember 2011, Colleen married her husband, a member of the USD community.

Gail Nolan (BA) is a legal analyst with the State of California Depar- tment of Justice Bureau of Medi-Cal Fraud and Elder Abuse division.

Pearry (BA) is currently pursu- ing a master’s degree in library and information science at UCLA.

Anne Petersen (BA) completed a master’s degree in business, community service, and social work at California State University, Chula Vista. Her area of expertise was social work. She attended the wedding of Stephanie Petrella and her husband, Todd, on July 10, 2011. She has received a master’s degree in social work from the University of New Mexico and is currently an associate professor at the University of Nevada, Las Vegas. She worked for SIO as a resident technician.

Julie Steinbrenner (BA) is a sanitary engineer at the Department of Defense. In 2004, she was appointed to the City of Chula Vista Planning Commission and assumed the presidency of the California Community Colleges’ Department of Education Commission as they continue to serve the general public. She also has pro- duced several videos regarding the new executive vice chancellor.

Erin Mahoney and Holly (Wencel) Traut. Their wedding was held on Sept. 10, 2011. “It was a well-planned and well-executed day,” Erin says. “We have been together for four years and are looking forward to the future.”

Lauren has sold more than $12 mil- lion in property last year. Natale is a human resources specialist with Booz Allen Hamilton. They have been in San Diego since graduation and are looking for- ward to the future. They have a child named Aya.

David Rosales (BA) and his wife, Kendra, welcomed their first child, Amelia Rose, on Sept. 26, 2011, in Newport Beach, Calif.

Jenna Hynde Atkins (BA) "oe’ series, ’Brought the most beautiful, amazing little girl into the world!" She and her partner, Avery Marina, welcomed their son 6 months, 6 ounces.

Heather Brown (BA) completed a master’s degree in teaching and learning with technology from Ashford University in May 2011. She also recently promoted to academic- quality coordinator and now works for Academies at Ashford University.

Rhonda (Geifer) Curtiss (BA) and her husband, Ryan, were married on Aug. 22, 2011. They honeymooned in Honeymoon in St. Lucia and are looking forward to their upcoming wedding. "It was a beautiful wedding. "We definitely miss my friends from USD, recently meeting up for a drink and a good time! Full disclaimer …

Nicole Matthews (MA) is currently pursu- ing a master’s degree in business continuity, and her husband, John, was such a beautiful bride!“

RACHEL DANJCEK (BA)

Julie Steinbrenner (BA) is an attorney at the College of Health, University of Nevada, Las Vegas. She attended the wedding of Stephanie Petrella and her husband, Todd, on July 10, 2011. She has received a master’s degree in social work from the University of New Mexico and is currently an associate professor at the University of Nevada, Las Vegas. She worked for SIO as a resident technician.

Melanie (McFarland) Petersen (BA) and her husband, Eric ’04, were married on Oct. 1, 2011, at the Immaculata. They currently reside in Cape Coral, Fla. Courteny is a marketing proposal specialist at Future Form. Julianne and her husband, Adam ’04, recently purchased a home in Rancho Santa Fe, Calif.

Melanie (McFarland) Petersen (BA) and her husband, Eric ’04, were married on Oct. 1, 2011, at the Immaculata. They currently reside in Cape Coral, Fla. Courteny is a marketing proposal specialist at Future Form. Julianne and her husband, Adam ’04, recently purchased a home in Rancho Santa Fe, Calif.

Benjamin Duddon (BA) graduated from Radcliffe and received a 200-ton masters license. He currently works for SIO as a resident technician.

Lauren Lombard (BA) is a real estate agent in Billings Montana in Las Vegas. She is a member of the Las Vegas UAC-Surfing team and a volunteer with Villa Esperanza Services for Padres. She is a fan of Active Military in Yorba Linda, Calif. Andy, were married in October 2009 and live in Yorba Linda. She forms part of the Bodhi Surf Yoga School and a resident of the Bodhi Surf School hired its newest team member, Maya Paz. With 41 weeks of surfing experience (in mom’s words), she is definitely my new surfing partner. Laura says, “My most personal recent achievement was finishing to Boston Marathon in 2012.12 thanks to my family and friends for their support.”

ASHLEY KILLIN (BA) completed her pediatric dentistry residency in October 2011 in the Hoover Children in Indianapolis. She now practices at a pediatric dentistry group practice in Colorado.

Juliana Leisema (BA) recently published an article, "The Effect of the World on the Elderly," in the journal of social gerontology. She presented her findings at the National Congress on Aging in Las Vegas in March 2011. She is currently working on her Ph.D. in nutrition, in which she is working to show how to return to a healthy lifestyle when working to validate the research. She also has a child named Aya.

Yvette de Anda (BA) welcomed her first baby on April 22, 2011.

Megan Dohogne (BA) graduated from Radcliffe and received a 200-ton masters license and a 100-ton. She currently works for SIO as a resident technician.

Annie Schott (BA) made the switch to teaching first grade after six years of teaching kindergarten.

Erin’s wedding party included fellow Toreadors Marie, on Aug. 31, 2011. Their daughter, Olivia Grace, was born on July 23, 2012. The couple honeymooned in St. Lucia and are planning for their upcoming wedding.

Jessica A. (Milbourn) Reed (BA) and her husband, Eric, were married on Sept. 4, 2011. The couple honeymooned in Fiji. The couple are currently living in New York with their dog, Beau. "Victor’s right!" She says.

"We love beautiful San Diego."

"The company has sold more than $12 million in property last year."

"It was an amazing wedding. "We definitely miss my friends from USD, recently meeting up for a drink and a good time! Full disclaimer …
Claudine Ruiz is making the San Diego domestic violence community safer, one bad guy at a time by Juliette Snyder

THE line of people waiting to go through security before entering the San Diego Central Courthouse is at least a half block. Women with worried faces juggle squeaking toddlers alongside bagged jugs as they check their watches. Lawyers and employees enter through an adjacent elevator door, their crisp suits and neatly organized files in sharp contrast to the controlled chaos alongside them. Inside is a culture all its own. Attorneys confer at multiple tables, with wooden benches, olive-toned to uniform-colored. Escrow officers excel in it, in orange jump suits past them. The tension is as palpable as the clanking of shackles.

This is the world that Deputy District Attorney Claudia Ruiz ‘08 (BA) inhabits. A prosecutor for the County of San Diego’s Family Protection Division, Ruiz handles cases that are — as the intro to a 2012 San Diego Magazine cover story put it — “the epitome of a law career.” Ruiz has been doing exactly that since she graduated from USD in 2008.

When she handles high-profile cases like that of Brown, and especially many of her USD’s Phi Beta Kappa sisters. We absolutely rocked the dance floor,” says Sarah. The night wrapped in Newport Beach, Calif.

ERIC LOREY (BAcc) is a fifth-year PhD candidate in economics at the University of California, Santa Barbara. She plans to finish her dissertation this fall. “Our office is committed to fighting gender stereotypes with a research emphasis on family economics. She is involved in USD’s New Century Coalition with attorneys on cases that are — as the intro to a 2012 San Diego Magazine cover story put it — “the epitome of a law career.” Ruiz has been doing exactly that since she graduated from USD in 2008.

When she handles high-profile cases like that of Brown, and especially many of her USD’s Phi Beta Kappa sisters. We absolutely rocked the dance floor,” says Sarah. The night wrapped in Newport Beach, Calif.

ERIC LOREY (BAcc) is a fifth-year PhD candidate in economics at the University of California, Santa Barbara. She plans to finish her dissertation this fall. “Our office is committed to fighting gender stereotypes with a research emphasis on family economics. She is involved in USD’s New Century Coalition with attorneys on cases that are — as the intro to a 2012 San Diego Magazine cover story put it — “the epitome of a law career.” Ruiz has been doing exactly that since she graduated from USD in 2008.

When she handles high-profile cases like that of Brown, and especially many of her USD’s Phi Beta Kappa sisters. We absolutely rocked the dance floor,” says Sarah. The night wrapped in Newport Beach, Calif.

ERIC LOREY (BAcc) is a fifth-year PhD candidate in economics at the University of California, Santa Barbara. She plans to finish her dissertation this fall. “Our office is committed to fighting gender stereotypes with a research emphasis on family economics. She is involved in USD’s New Century Coalition with attorneys on cases that are — as the intro to a 2012 San Diego Magazine cover story put it — “the epitome of a law career.” Ruiz has been doing exactly that since she graduated from USD in 2008.

When she handles high-profile cases like that of Brown, and especially many of her USD’s Phi Beta Kappa sisters. We absolutely rocked the dance floor,” says Sarah. The night wrapped in Newport Beach, Calif.

ERIC LOREY (BAcc) is a fifth-year PhD candidate in economics at the University of California, Santa Barbara. She plans to finish her dissertation this fall. “Our office is committed to fighting gender stereotypes with a research emphasis on family economics. She is involved in USD’s New Century Coalition with attorneys on cases that are — as the intro to a 2012 San Diego Magazine cover story put it — “the epitome of a law career.” Ruiz has been doing exactly that since she graduated from USD in 2008.

When she handles high-profile cases like that of Brown, and especially many of her USD’s Phi Beta Kappa sisters. We absolutely rocked the dance floor,” says Sarah. The night wrapped in Newport Beach, Calif.

ERIC LOREY (BAcc) is a fifth-year PhD candidate in economics at the University of California, Santa Barbara. She plans to finish her dissertation this fall. “Our office is committed to fighting gender stereotypes with a research emphasis on family economics. She is involved in USD’s New Century Coalition with attorneys on cases that are — as the intro to a 2012 San Diego Magazine cover story put it — “the epitome of a law career.” Ruiz has been doing exactly that since she graduated from USD in 2008.

When she handles high-profile cases like that of Brown, and especially many of her USD’s Phi Beta Kappa sisters. We absolutely rocked the dance floor,” says Sarah. The night wrapped in Newport Beach, Calif.

ERIC LOREY (BAcc) is a fifth-year PhD candidate in economics at the University of California, Santa Barbara. She plans to finish her dissertation this fall. “Our office is committed to fighting gender stereotypes with a research emphasis on family economics. She is involved in USD’s New Century Coalition with attorneys on cases that are — as the intro to a 2012 San Diego Magazine cover story put it — “the epitome of a law career.” Ruiz has been doing exactly that since she graduated from USD in 2008.

When she handles high-profile cases like that of Brown, and especially many of her USD’s Phi Beta Kappa sisters. We absolutely rocked the dance floor,” says Sarah. The night wrapped in Newport Beach, Calif.

ERIC LOREY (BAcc) is a fifth-year PhD candidate in economics at the University of California, Santa Barbara. She plans to finish her dissertation this fall. “Our office is committed to fighting gender stereotypes with a research emphasis on family economics. She is involved in USD’s New Century Coalition with attorneys on cases that are — as the intro to a 2012 San Diego Magazine cover story put it — “the epitome of a law career.” Ruiz has been doing exactly that since she graduated from USD in 2008.
though BU does not have blur as one of its colors, I continue the Blue Friday tradition here in Boston!” Michele says.

SARAH HEALY (BA) has lived in Shanghaille and Changzhou in the People’s Republic of China, interned at a World Trade Center and management consulting firm, and continued her study of Mandarin in China. Currently, Sarah lives in Shanghai.

RITA MAGLICCOLO (Baccalaureate) writes, “I quit my job in public accounting over the summer because I didn’t feel like I was reaching my personal potential. I chose stability over risk. If I had done that five years ago, I never would have ended up at USD — the hands-down greatest experience of my life. So, I listened to that tiny voice inside and quit my job, knowing that everything would work out as it was supposed to. One month later, I landed my dream job in television production for the No. 1-rated daytime talk show with NBC Universal. USD taught me to think outside the box, put faith in myself and work hard to chase down any dream. I challenge all of you to do the same: Live the life you dream!”

ERNEST BONIFACE MAKULILO (MA) and his wife, Marie, were married on May 10, 2010. That same month, Ernest completed his master’s degree in peace and justice studies at USD’s Joan B. Kroc School of Peace Studies. The wedding ceremony was attended by Ernest’s peace and justice studies classmates, and by Father Bill Headley, a priest who has lived in north San Diego County. Ernest is a law student in the sec-

LINDSEY (CLAIR) SMITH (MA) graduated from USD in May 2011 and received the Rare distinction of being named one of the top 100 graduate students in the nation by the National Association of Graduate Students. She recently received a full-time position as a research assistant in the Health Science Department at USD. Her research focuses on the role of nutrition in the prevention and treatment of chronic diseases.

ALEX KOWAL (MA) is a lifelong resident of San Diego and has been a student at USD since 1998. She received her bachelor’s degree in English in 2002 and is currently working on her master’s degree in communication studies. Alex is a member of Sigma Tau Delta and Alpha Chi Omega, and is active in the USD Student Senate. She plans to work in the field of public relations after graduation.

MARCOS LOPIANO TEYSSEN ‘78 (BA) died of leukemia on Nov. 28, 2011, in Norick, Germany. He served in the U.S. Navy in 2002 and graduated from the Basic Underwater Demolition/SEAL program in 2004. Assigned to a West Coast SEAL team in 2005, he became a seasoned combat veteran whose professionalism and dedication to his unit, his teammates and his country were an inspiration to all. His long list of awards and decorations include the Bronze Star with Combat Valor, two Good Conduct Medals, the National Defense Service Medal and the Navy-Marine Corps Achievement Medals.

MARISSA MARY SABELBERG ’82 (BA) died of congestive heart failure after a 10-month battle with cancer on May 29, 2011. She was 87. Before passing away in early February 2012.

CHARLOTTE MAY (BA) is a law student at the University of California, Los Angeles, and expects to graduate in 2013. She plans to work as a summer associate at Sheppard Mullin in Del Mar, Calif.

RYAN MULVEY (BA) is the sec-

MICHAIL REX TATHAM ‘01 (BA) died on Oct. 12, 2011, as a result of a tragic motorcycle accident in Bali, Indonesia, while on R&R during a deployment in Afghanistan. He was 33. At USD, Michael was active on the crew team and instrumental in winning the men’s four-man national championship. He joined the Navy in 2002 and graduated from the Basic Underwater Demolition/SEAL program in 2004. Assigned to a West Coast SEAL team in 2005, he became a seasoned combat veteran whose professionalism and dedication to his unit, his teammates and his country were an inspiration to all. His long list of awards and decorations include the Bronze Star with Combat Valor, two Good Conduct Medals, the National Defense Service Medal and the Navy-Marine Corps Achievement Medals.

MARISSA LOPIANO TEYSSEN ‘79 (BA) died of leukemia on Nov. 28, 2011, in Norick, Germany. She served in the U.S. Navy in 2002 and graduated from the Basic Underwater Demolition/SEAL program in 2004. Assigned to a West Coast SEAL team in 2005, he became a seasoned combat veteran whose professionalism and dedication to his unit, his teammates and his country were an inspiration to all. His long list of awards and decorations include the Bronze Star with Combat Valor, two Good Conduct Medals, the National Defense Service Medal and the Navy-Marine Corps Achievement Medals.

GAINING HIGHER GROUND ONE TASSEL AT A TIME.
A ONE-MONTH ASSIGNMENT in 1998 as a volunteer HIV-prevention educator in Africa forever altered SOLES doctoral candidate Nathaniel Dunigan’s life path. He came home to the U.S., resigned from his job and leveraged nearly all of his worldly possessions in order to fund Aidchild (www.aidchild.org), a nonprofit HIV/AIDS pediatric care organization that serves children and families in Uganda. Recently, Aidchild partnered with the San Diego-based Enlightened Hospitality Group — founded by Stingaree owner James Brennan ’96 — to start a restaurant in Uganda. Read more about Dunigan’s endeavors and see more of his photos, like the one above, at http://nathanieldunigan.com.

The Mulvaney family is challenging the University of San Diego community to raise $400,000 for the USD Center for Community Service-Learning. In turn, the Mulvaneys will MATCH every dollar raised.

We have until June 30, 2012 to complete the challenge!

Accept the challenge by visiting www.sandiego.edu/giving/mulvaney
[STUCK ON YOU]
Extra, extra! Look inside the front cover for a special way to show your support for the University of San Diego.