

USD MAGAZINE

UNIVERSITY OF SAN DIEGO / SUMMER 2012

EVERY DAY OFFERS US A NEW PATH.

ENLIGHTENMENT

IN THE END, HUMANS LONG FOR



[editorial license]

DESPERATELY SEEKING ANSWERS

How do we know for sure that we’re doing the right thing?



People talk about it all the time: “Be good,” they caution with a smile. “If you can’t be good, be careful,” others quip. Strangers instruct us to have a good day. There’s good grief and good riddance, good luck and good gravy. We can get while the getting’s good, get the goods on someone, and of course, strive to be do-gooders.

But to actually be good, really good, is a tricky thing. While the dictionary doesn’t see much ambiguity (*Good — adj. Morally excellent; virtuous; righteous; pious*), in truth, it’s hard to know when you’re being really, truly good. Are you expecting a reward for your goodness? Shouldn’t goodness for its own sake be the goal? Are your attempts at goodness the result of the certainty that you know better than others? If so, isn’t that the worst sort of hubris?

Thoughts like this can keep a person tossing and turning when they ought to be sleeping, and that’s definitely not a good thing. Certainty in life is rare, especially when trying to wrestle concrete meaning for a term that seems, ostensibly, to be as clear-cut as “good.” Good for who, exactly? Is good something you do or something you are? Are we all born good? Do some go bad? And when bad things happen to good people, it can be awfully hard to see any good at all.

What is certain is that true goodness isn’t just recognizable ... it’s unmistakable. That was quite clear from the ebullience expressed by those greeting His Holiness the 14th Dalai Lama in San Diego this spring. Each person lined up on the airport tarmac looked absolutely delighted to simply be near the Tibetan spiritual leader. And when he presented them with the white silk *khata* — a ceremonial scarf that symbolizes purity and compassion — their pure joy was a beautiful thing to behold.

When he took the stage at USD’s Jenny Craig Pavilion later in the week, the rapt crowd was delighted time and again. They thrilled when he put on a Torero Blue USD visor. They were appreciative at every twinkly smile, every large and small gesture. They roared with delight when he made a joke, then sat spellbound and drank in his words as if they’d been parched under a desert sun for weeks. It’s fairly certain that any one of the thousands in attendance would have vowed whole-heartedly that this remarkable man was the embodiment of good.

And perhaps it’s equally as likely that he would deny that claim. I suspect that the Dalai Lama would say that he tries, really tries, to be good, but he doesn’t succeed every time. As part of his remarks, he admitted exactly that: “I often lose my temper,” he said. “My staff members know if something is wrong, then I burst.” A wave of good-natured skepticism swept through the crowd; that statement seemed far-fetched at best.

“How do you remain optimistic when there is so much distress and pain in the world?” one questioner asked. The Dalai Lama paused, a hint of a smile playing about his lips. “The simple answer is, it is far better to remain optimistic.”

Good answer.

— Julene Snyder, Editor

USD MAGAZINE

UNIVERSITY OF SAN DIEGO

[president]
Mary E. Lyons, PhD

[vice president of
university relations]
Timothy L. O’Malley, PhD

[assistant vice president
of marketing and
strategic partnerships]
Coreen Petti
cpetti@sandiego.edu

[editor/senior director]
Julene Snyder
julene@sandiego.edu

[associate editor]
Mike Sauer
msauer@sandiego.edu

[senior creative director]
Barbara Ferguson
barbaraf@sandiego.edu

[writers]
Barbara Davenport
Karen Gross
Sandra Millers Younger
Liz Neely
Trisha J. Ratledge
Krystn Shrieve

[usd magazine]
USD Magazine is published by the University
of San Diego for its alumni, parents and friends.
Third-class postage paid at San Diego, CA
92110. USD phone number: (619) 260-4600.

[class notes submissions]
Send Class Notes to the address below or
email them to: classnotes@sandiego.edu.

USD Magazine Class Notes
University Publications
University of San Diego
5998 Alcalá Park
San Diego, CA 92110

[postmaster]
Send address changes to USD Magazine,
Advancement Services, 5998 Alcalá Park,
San Diego, CA 92110.

[be blue go green]
USD Magazine is printed with vegetable-
based inks on paper certified in accordance
with FSC standards, which support environ-
mentally appropriate, socially beneficial
and economically viable management of
the world’s forests.

[0512/65500]



ALUMNI VOTE WITH THEIR GIFTS.

PARTICIPATION

VOTE for USD

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.

Scan this code to make a gift with your mobile phone.

USD MAGAZINE

UNIVERSITY OF SAN DIEGO / SUMMER 2012

CONTENTS

FEATURES

SOMETIMES THE ANSWER IS SIMPLE.

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.

DEPARTMENTS

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 Ordinance 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.



16

LET GO OF CERTAINTIES.

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.



14

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.

WORK HARD AT WORK WORTH DOING.



36

GIVING BACK

14 / Do What You Can

Todd Johnson and his family didn't know what, exactly, they wanted to do, but they did know they wanted to make a difference.

WHAT ARE YOU DOING FOR OTHERS?



26

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 non-violence, 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



HILDE STEPHAN

[generosity]

NEW ERA FOR NURSING

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

by Barbara Davenport

In May 2012, Hahn School of Nursing and Health Science Dean Sally Brosz Hardin 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, conferences 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 classrooms with moveable 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 exam 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 are 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.

[unification]

CULTIVATING COMMUNITY

Graduate and law student ministry program a nexus of connection

by Mike Sauer

By all accounts, USD's Katherine M. and George M. Pardee Jr. Legal Research Center (LRC) is one of the premier law libraries on the west coast; a seven-level bastion of journals, databases and historical documents that nourish the intellectual appetites of Torero law students on a daily basis.

But it's also the kind of place that aspiring legal professionals like Nathaniel Gallegos need a break from in order to maintain a healthy life balance ... and their sanity.

"Sometimes, I feel like I live in that library," Gallegos says. "That can make it difficult to get out and see what the campus has to offer, and connect with other students."

That quest for connection — and avoiding a potential meltdown from overexposure to business and corporation law — drew Gallegos from his customary perch in the LRC for a stroll across Alcalá Park. During his walk-about, he came across a flyer for "Theology on Tap," a popular event sponsored by University Ministry's Graduate and Law Student Ministry Program. The idea is to encourage students from across campus to gather on a monthly basis for food, drinks, and, most importantly, a heightened sense of community.

"The first thing I noticed was that Theology on Tap was a really inclusive experience," Gallegos recalls. "I've been involved with similar ministry-sponsored programs in the past, and they can be a bit exclusive from a religious affiliation standpoint. Here at USD, it's not all about Catholicism or Christianity."

Founded five years ago at the behest of a campus committee that recognized the need to sup-

port USD's ever-expanding graduate community, the Graduate and Law Student Ministry Program offers a variety of events and services that meet the needs — and schedules — of a student group that rarely has a minute of free time to spare.

"We wanted to offer the opportunity for our graduate students to do more than just show up for class and go home," says Assistant Vice President and Director of University Ministry Michael Lovette-Colyer. "We wanted them to engage with the campus community in a holistic way that allowed them to grow spiritually and socially."

At the program's inception, Lovette-Colyer and his University Ministry colleagues were more than a little concerned that the frenetic pace of academic life would prevent students from attending scheduled events. But in the years since, they've been pleasantly surprised by the steady growth in participation.

"We were happy to find out that students did indeed have the time, and that they were very excited about the opportunity to get involved," he adds.

And word of the Graduate and Law Student Ministry Program's success is spreading. Last June, the Catholic Campus Ministry Association recognized USD's University Ministry department as an exemplary program. They were one of only six ministry groups from across the country to receive such an honor, and the only one recognized for their work with graduate programs.

"We're excited about the award, and are continuing to look for ways to reach the greatest number of students," Lovette-Colyer says.

[mutuality]

LIVE AND LEARN

Freshmen choose a new spin when it comes to on-campus residency

Activities like kayaking and snorkeling at La Jolla Shores help freshmen residents of the Honors Living-Learning Community bond with like-minded schoolmates.



MARK CEDAR

by Trisha J. Ratledge

In the spare space of La Jolla Playhouse's Shank Theatre, impassioned dancers turn back time, bringing the audience with them to the Dominican Republic and the heart-wrenching murder of three sisters who participated in the country's 1960 resistance movement. For the USD freshmen

that fill 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 into an invigorating mélange of inquiry and intellectual awakening. The students are all residents of

USD's Social Justice Living-Learning Community (LLC), one of three LLCs offered during the 2011-2012 academic year. Putting a new spin on the tradition of freshman residential living, themed communities such as sustainability, social justice and honors connect academics to residential life.

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 the 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 jointly by Noelle 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 constricted 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 to 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 RAs and faculty who are integrated and care about them together, so they are getting that true holistic experience," adds Dayanne Izmirian, assistant 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 environ-

mental justice, a trip to the California 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." ☕

Dear Dr. Lyons:

I am in my senior year here, majoring in biochemistry and political science. I have lived in the BEST dorm on campus (Maher 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 to 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 baskets 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 voicemail 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.

Thank you.

— Ashley Torkelson '12

[intrepid]

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 an EOD Technician," is not a one-man story. It is not just about that day in July 2009 when Marine Jesse Cottle stepped on a pressure plate while on foot patrol in Afghanistan. It is about the first moments, weeks and

months after he lost both his legs to an improvised explosive device. It is also about his recovery and success.

But Cottle, now 27 years old, is quick to point out that the film mirrors the stories of many wounded veterans returning home from war: "I hope that it

does raise awareness so everyone can see the big picture, what people in the military go through, not just Jesse Cottle."

Directed by Colorado film student and Cottle's longtime friend Aaron Pendergast, the film was shown on March 23 in USD's Joan B. Kroc Institute for

For 27-year-old Jesse Cottle '14, raising awareness of what people in the military go through is job one. About 200 veterans of military service are currently enrolled at USD.

Peace & Justice Theatre. Co-sponsored by the USD Student Veteran Organization (SVO), the screening included a post-film discussion with Cottle and Pendergast. The documentary focuses on July 19, 2009, when the Explosive Ordinance Disposal (EOD) technician and his

team were on foot patrol in Afghanistan's Nowzad Province.

It includes interviews with Cottle, his family and friends, as well as powerful on-the-ground footage of Cottle, a staff sergeant, team leader Gunnery 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 undergraduate- and graduate-degree programs, says Scott Handley, advisor to the SVO.

"They're all coming back with very unique and specific needs," says Handley, who served in the U.S. Navy from 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 SVO 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 fiancée, 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 fiancée 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." 📷

[gifts at work]

A generous completing gift from Trustee Emeritus Richard P. Woltman has been made to establish the Richard and Kaye Woltman Distinguished Professorship in Finance. The new endowed fund, resulting from their personal contributions totaling \$550,000, was initiated by Woltman and his late wife and former trustee, Kaye M. Woltman, to attract and retain outstanding faculty with finance expertise in the School of Business Administration and the School of Law.

The School of Law was awarded \$100,000 from the Estate of Eleanor B. Kahn to establish the Irvin J. and Eleanor B. Kahn Endowment. The Kahn endowment will provide scholarships to law students with financial need. Mr. and Mrs. Kahn were lead donors who helped build the Grace Court Room at the School of Law's Warren Hall in the late 1970s.

The Rokenbok Fund at the San Diego Foundation awarded \$10,000 to the Caster Family Center for Nonprofit and Philanthropic Research. The center is part of the Institute for Nonprofit Education and Research within the School of Leadership and Education Sciences. Directed by Laura Detrick, the mission of the center is to educate leaders and advance best practices in the nonprofit and philanthropic community, and to be the leading source of information, data and research for the local nonprofit sector.

The Hahn School of Nursing and Health Science recently received a \$500,000 grant from the Helen Fuld Health Trust, the nation's largest private funder devoted exclusively to nursing students and nursing education. The grant, which will be distributed over three years, will be used to fund scholarships for students in the school's Master's Entry Program in Nursing (MEPN). Half of the grant will be held as an endowment fund. The remaining \$250,000 will be known as the Health Trust Scholarship Fund.

The Carrie Estelle Doheny Foundation awarded \$40,000 for the Pre-Undergraduate Research Experience (PURE) program in the College of Arts and Sciences. The primary goal of the PURE program is to increase the interest, retention and achievement of under-represented students with an interest in science through their active involvement in scientific research with USD faculty. The Doheny Foundation has supported the University of San Diego since 1988 through generous gifts for science programs and the construction of new facilities, including the Jenny Craig Pavilion and the Donald P. Shiley Center for Science and Technology.



[resolute]

SOMETHING VENTURED

Would-be entrepreneurs face angel investors



by Sandra Millers Younger

For 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, strode confidently into a plush boardroom setting, wearing beach duds and accompanied by an eye-catching, bikini-clad blonde.

Selected to pitch his 3-month-old start-up company to a panel of investors on the ABC reality show, "Shark Tank," Aarstol himself quickly tanked, forgetting his presentation and fumbling around helplessly for several long moments. One "shark" called him "the worst presenter" she'd ever seen.

But Aarstol bounced back to win the confidence and cash of billionaire Mark Cuban. Now the two are business partners, navigating their way to success in an exploding new market. What convinced business-savvy Cuban to look beyond a botched pitch? Aarstol describes his "secret sauce" as a blend of

The success of Stephan Aarstol '99 (MBA) on the TV show "Shark Tank" served as an inspiration to business students looking for angel investors.

His experience might prove helpful to four USD students selected as finalists in a campus-wide business competition, who recently shared an opportunity similar to Aarstol's "Shark Tank" immersion.

Venture Vetting (aka V2) is a unique entrepreneurial challenge designed and organized by USD Management Professor Michael Lawless, who set out to transform the traditional university business plan competition into a more realistic experience.

"Investors almost never, ever look at a business plan up front," Lawless explains. "They listen to a pitch for five, 10, maybe 15 minutes. If they like it, they'll ask for another meeting, and maybe somewhere down the line they'll look at a business plan."

V2 competitors distill their business concepts into slide shows, which four finalists present to a panel of actual angel investors, as opposed to judges — another distinguishing characteristic of V2. Although no V2 entrant actually gives up company ownership in return for funding, any finalist could walk away with part or all of a \$15,000 prize donated by university supporters.

"We model what real angel investors might do," Lawless says. "It's not a tournament. There's not just one winner. Investors can individually decide to fund one or more participants, or to put their money together as a group."

This year's panel of investors spread the cash around a bit, awarding the biggest share of the pot, \$7,500, to Approach Mobile, a mobile application development business; \$5,500 to Bottle Talk, a wine info service accessible by phone scans of bottle labels; and \$1,000 each to the remaining two finalists.

Investor panel members were Andy Laats, co-founder of Nixon, an Encinitas-based sports watch and accessories firm; Kathleen Dakota Parker, an independent

investor and founder of Parker Communications; and Hans Petersen '98 (MBA), CEO of the 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 prizewinner 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 \$15,000 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.

[etc.]

USD has been named the Outstanding Sustainable Organization 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 '08, 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) 260-4585.

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 Feiteira, Carina Hinton, Jacob Holley, Natalie Larraga,

Natasha Mahapatro, Ciria Mariscal, Rocío López Ramos, Alysia Rodriguez, Kierstan Sanvidge, Kara Skarzynski, Alicia Vallejos and Joshua Wheeler.

This year marks a number of USD milestones: It's been 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, after five years of extraordinary service. He will spend a semester on sabbatical and plans to return as a KSPS faculty member in Spring 2013. His 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 institutional television spot is set to debut during opening ceremonies and appear throughout the 2012 London games. Inspired by USD's recent designation as a Changemaker 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!

[a u s p i c i o u s]

OPEN THE GATES

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

by Krystn Shrieve

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's western half.

"We are 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 be a good neighbor," explained then-SDSU Athletics Director Jeff Schemmel.

Fast-forward five years to this season, and the baseball program remains strong. Even more exciting than the team's record, however, is the news that plans are moving forward on a new baseball facility — Fowler Park and Cunningham Field — which was made possible

by a gift by Ron and Alexis Fowler. 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 did 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 this stadium, live up to our potential and know we are a team that deserves a stadium of that caliber."

Third baseman Kris Bryant, now a sophomore at USD, first visited the campus in 2008 as a sophomore in high school. He recalls watching Josh Romanski — a pitcher and centerfielder — who was drafted by the Milwaukee Brewers just a few months later. "We've had some top-notch players," Bryant says, "but I can't begin to imagine the talent we'll get once we have a new stadium."

Fowler Park is just one compo-

nent of the Drive for Torero Success, a \$30 million endeavor that also includes plans for a softball/golf and club sports facility, the renovation of the Skip and Cindy Hogan Tennis Center, as well as operational and scholarship endowments.

Roger Manion, assistant vice president for facilities management, came to USD in 1971. At that time there were no women's teams and only three men's teams. 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.

Manion says what is now the Sports Center was originally a residence for Catholic priests before it was repurposed. There were growing pains as priests made way for coaches to set up offices in what used to be bedrooms, and coaches trying to discuss game-time strategies in their offices while priests played pianos in their living rooms down the hall.

Today, the growing pains still exist. The Jenny Craig Pavilion, which opened in 2000, only

houses 10 percent of USD's student-athletes and 12 percent of the athletics staff.

"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 Santa 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." 



[high-minded]

DO WHAT YOU CAN

For Todd Johnson and family, more does not equal enough

by Mike Sauer

The cities of Menlo Park, Calif., and Dessie, Ethiopia, are separated by 10 time zones and 8,879 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 boots-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 anyone'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 foundational donation 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've 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 oppor-

A trip to Ethiopia resulted in a fundamental shift in Todd, Lil and Sara Johnson's worldview. All they knew for sure was that they wanted to make a difference.

tunity to visit Alcalá Park several times over the last few years, and have become fast friends with outgoing School of Peace Studies Dean Father William Headley, whom Todd describes as "a man of peace," willing to roll up his sleeves and take a hands-on approach to making the world a better place.

"We love Father Bill. When we heard that he was going to step down, we thought starting an endowed scholarship in his name would be a great way to honor his service as founding dean of the School of Peace Studies."

The William Headley Endowed Scholarship in Peace and Justice Studies will support students from developing countries who, through education, research and collaboration, will build the toolkits they need to promote economic development and conflict resolution within their home nations.

For the Johnsons, helping provide financial support to those in need fits perfectly with the life principles they espouse, and they are hopeful others will join them in supporting the William Headley Endowed Scholarship.

"My wife and I have adopted a saying that we often use when people ask us what they can do to help: 'Start where you are, use what you have, do what you can, it will be enough.'"

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



NICK ABADILLA


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.

"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 "Sweeny 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 Elizabethan 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.

IN LIVING COLOR

The lights dim. The music rises. Images of the rock band U2 fill two enormous video screens on either side of a spotlight stage where Erik Wahl '93, darts between pots of paint and a huge black canvas, filling it with vibrant smears of color.

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 world-wide 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



{Geek}

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

BECOMES HER

by Karen Gross



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

Photography by Luis Garcia

career path as an academic, and fervent champion of the underrepresented.

"Obviously we have a lot of catching up to do. We were purposely excluded from these fields several decades ago," she says.

Encouraging young women to pursue the so-called STEM professions — science, technology, engineering and math — has become a passion not only for Lowery and her USD colleagues, but also for ranks of female scientists and researchers across the country. A sweeping research survey released by the American

"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. And among those who do, the likelihood of dropping out somewhere along the pipeline is higher than it is for their male counterparts.

"It's been found that if girls are not doing extremely well, they'll transfer to something else where they will do extremely well," says Kathleen Kramer, professor and director of the engineering program at USD. "It's more likely that a male student will just shrug and say, 'Cs get degrees.'"

So what does it take to convince more young women to sign up for a STEM career and keep their eyes on the prize all the way through graduate school? It helps to begin early, with a target group of eager and open-minded girls, and offer them accessible outlets to explore.

Both Kramer and Lowery work with that critical cluster through Expanding Your Horizons (EYH), a national organization dedicated to nurturing middle and high school aged girls' interest in science and math. As presi-

dent of the local chapter, Lowery recently co-chaired the group's 10th annual conference on the USD campus. Some 400 girls took part in hands-on workshops where they tried activities ranging from crime scene investigation to chromatography to building towers with spaghetti and marshmallows.

"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, EYH excels on both fronts.

"Because of what's happened before in science, how men have always been dominant, I like 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, EYH 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 EYH, adds ardent supporter Neena Din. Assistant dean of the College of Arts and Sciences, Din has taken part in the EYH conference for several years and runs a workshop about cells, microbes and DNA.

"It's all about getting the girls excited about these fields," she says. "Especially math, which is obviously very important to getting them interested in physics and engineering."

But when it comes to those two specific fields, the hurdles remain very high. Even at USD

— where numbers surpass the national average — only about one quarter of engineering students and one fifth of the faculty are female. 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.

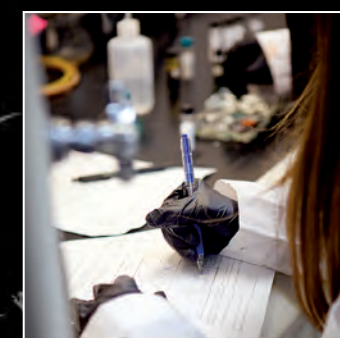
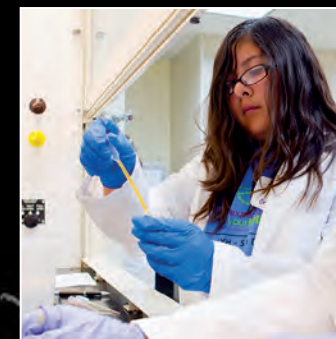
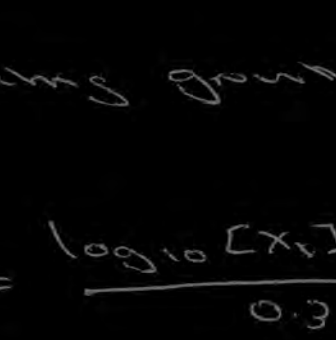
"Young women need to know that they can make a contribution to society," she explains. "That engineering is a viable field, it's not just for nerds."

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 just not 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.


At the end of the day, says Kathleen Kramer, what young women really need is a strong dose of confidence. It's a world that may not feel like home yet, but there's only one way to change that. "As an engineer, I'm not used to being in the majority," she laughs. "If (being a woman in a man's world) was upsetting or threatening to me, then I'd need to change fields." 





Compassion WITHOUT BORDERS

HIS HOLINESS THE 14TH DALAI LAMA OF TIBET COMES TO SAN DIEGO



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.

Photography by Tim Mantoani and Chris Park



**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, so I asked what kind of danger. His answer was, 'Danger of losing compassion toward the Chinese.' A trained person has that kind of attitude. It's really important to keep compassion towards your

perpetrator. Losing compassion is a very serious danger."

On non-violence and violence:

"Genuine peace must come through inner peace, from a sincere sense of concern for others' well-being. On the other hand, if the motivation is to cheat, to exploit, to take advantage while using nice words, even though it looks like non-violence if the motivation is to harm, it is essentially violence. So the ultimate demarcation of violence and non-violence is entirely based on motivation ...

"There's a Tibetan saying ... the Tibetan word for temper rhymes with knuckles, so the saying is, 'When you lose your temper, just bite your knuckles.' So at least, there's some pain that distracts your anger. I like that ...

"Many of my friends — scientists and educators — are really concerned about youth and the younger generation, about the violence and unhealthy things they see happening. And having a very luxurious life or coming from a richer family still doesn't make them happy. So 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 the university level. Experiment with one school, with limited students, for five years. What is the result? If it's positive, expand to another 10 schools, then another 100 schools. Then things become really convincing and we can adopt on a larger scale, even, finally, the federal level, and the global level ...

"In order to build a happy 21st century — a century full of peace, based on inner peace and compassion — our ultimate goal is through education, through awareness, through everybody taking care of one's self. A healthy mind brings a healthy body and a healthy family. I think that's the way to build, to change, to transform our world."

**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 still get the 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 serving to others, it's a tremendous sort of dedication and it comes from their faith. So there are plenty of reasons for respect."

**On the importance of hope:**

"I think that a hopeful mental state can have an immense benefit. When you've completely lost hope, it's very bad for your health. Fear is the destroyer of a calm mind. Anger and hatred are the destroyer of peace of mind. And that kind of enemy is within yourself ...

"In spite of some sad events in the world, I think humanity is becoming more civilized, more mature. This is my view. There are those who say humanity is basically bad and that the human future is doomed, and I basically disagree. We are just beginning this 21st century. Things are changing. Yes, the economic crisis is bad, but it is good to remind yourself not to take things for granted. Even bad events can be transformed." 🙏



[remarkable]

ENCHANTED EVENING

Alumni Honors celebrates distinguished graduates

The university's 2012 Alumni Honors recipients were (left to right): J. Scott Di Valerio '85; Sandra Chew Phillips '68; Timothy Lynch '95; Theodore J. Boutrous, Jr. '87; Joseph Ghougassian '77, '80; Jacqueline D. Rychnovsky '04; Arnulfo Manriquez '05; Susi Menazza '03; and Kevin Herde '93



by Krystn Shrieve

Held for the first time at the Joan B. Kroc Institute for Peace & Justice Theatre, the 2012 Alumni Honors event was a spectacular tribute to nine extraordinary graduates who exemplify the Torero spirit.

The 17th annual event, held on April 28, honored Joseph

Ghougassian '77 (MA), '80 (JD); Sandra Chew Phillips '68 (BA); Kevin Herde '93 (BBA); Theodore J. Boutrous, Jr. '87 (JD); Capt. Jacqueline D. Rychnovsky, PhD, CPNP '04 (PhD); J. Scott Di Valerio '85 (BBA); Arnulfo Manriquez '05 (MA); Susi Menazza '03 (MA); and Timothy Lynch '95 (BA).

"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, Ghougassian, who received the Bishop Charles Francis Buddy 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 Knighthood 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 Clifton 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 Alumnae of the Sacred Heart, serving on the Sacred Heart Advisory Committee to the USD Discovery Campaign.

Herde, who was inducted into the Chet and Marguerite Pagni 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 as head of nursing research at the Naval Medical

Center San Diego before serving a six-month tour as the head of inpatient nursing at Camp Arifjan in Kuwait. She is currently the executive officer of the U.S. Naval Hospital in Yokosuka, Japan.

Di Valerio, who was chosen by the School of Business Administration, is the chief financial officer of Coinstar Inc. Before joining Coinstar, 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 underserved 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 environ-

ment and development — such as climate change, biodiversity conservation and the establishment of "green" economies. She is also regularly involved in international policy negotiations.

Lynch, who is being honored by the College of Arts and Sciences, is co-founder and executive producer of Farm League and Woodshed Films. He has traveled the globe creating award-winning film projects that capture adventure and inspire environmental stewardship. Also an esteemed video producer, 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 Magee 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 2012 Alumni Honors event culminated in a glittering soiree for hundreds at the IPJ's Garden of the Sky Plaza.

ALUMNI BRIEFS

The USD Wine Classic will take place on Sunday, July 22, 2012 at the Joan B. Kroc Institute of 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/wineclassic.

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/publications/classnotes. 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 classnotes@sandiego.edu. What's your story?



GAME CHANGER

by Mike Sauer

"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,

Modest to a fault, Bonk has

"Most people in the sports industry work a lot of hours, and some people come into it without 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." 🏈

1960s

[1962] 🎓

PEGGY (D’AGOSTINO) THOMPSON (BA) retired twice as a music specialist from the Clark County School District, and recently as a consultant/mentor for the district. She was awarded the Lifetime Achievement Award for her work with children and new music teachers in the schools. Peggy is the wedding coordinator for St. Joseph Church and the liturgist/music director for the Shrine of the Most Holy Redeemer.

[1965]

ALCY (BOSS) NEIDLINGER (BA) has been in Spring, Texas, for nearly three years. She joined a photography club and sells her photos locally as cards.

1970s

[1974]

VICKI (WESTERVELT) NASMAN (BA) and her husband, Steve ’71, became grandparents with the birth of Lincoln Vedder Reidel on Nov. 8, 2010. Vicki retired from the State of California Employment Development Department in 2010 and now cares for Lincoln twice a week. Steve is the senior managing director of The Affinity Advisory Group, a consulting firm for financial institutions. Vicki and Steve are co-presidents of USD’s Orange County Regional Alumni Association and they also coordinate the baptism ministry at St. Martin de Porres Catholic Church in Yorba Linda, Calif. They love to travel and planned to go to China in February 2012.

[1975]

GILBERT CARRASCO (BA) married Iryna Zaverukha in February 2011. Gilbert also co-authored *The Law of Discrimination: Cases and Perspectives* with USD Professor Roy L. Brooks and George Washington University Professor Michael Selmi.

[1977] 🎓

JOAN STEIDENGER (BA) was designated a certified consultant by the Association for Applied Sport Psychology in October 2011. Joan has taught sport psychology at the University of California, Berkeley, Extension Program and the Western States 100 Mile Race training camp, and

has worked with athletes, musicians and performing artists on performance enhancement, injury concerns and adjustments. She is president of Power Zone, an individually designed coaching program for achieving personal bests in sport and life. Joan recently returned from Nepal, where she ran in a three-day,100K stage race to raise funds for Freedom Children’s Welfare Center, a Nepal orphanage.

[1979]

DOUG BOHNENBERGER writes, “I will never forget my years at USD. Cramming all night for a final and having to go in the basement of the nursing building past the cadavers to the only vending machines on campus; Friday evenings in Torero Canyon; studying on Sunset Cliffs; I loved everything about USD! ... Miss all of you!”

REDELLE HRASTICH (Med)

retired from the San Diego Unified School District in 2009, after 30 years as a classroom teacher and education specialist. Currently, Redelle is a part-time field supervisor at USD for the School of Leadership and Education Sciences.

JERRY PLUMMER (BA) writes,

“I’m living in the ‘burbs of Kansas City, working as an IT project manager at a global company named Thales. I love being involved in the community, being a board member of both the Jackson County 4-H Foundation and the Carriage and Driving Society of Greater Kansas City. As you can tell, I still also love my hobby of competing with my horses in carriage driving. I would love to hear from old friends! Find me on Facebook in the USD community.”

MICHAEL RAMIREZ (BBA) was

diagnosed on Sept. 3, 2009, with Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis (ALS), also known as Lou Gehrig’s disease. Shortly after receiving this news, Mike turned his energy into fighting for and prolonging his quality of life, and has taken on the challenge of searching for a cure through fundraising. In May 2010, Mike and his wife, Maureen (McKeon) ’81, along with friends and family, founded the Team Godfather Charitable Foundation. To date, Team Godfather has donated more than \$250,000 to ALS research. The organization can be found online at www.teamgodfather.org and on Facebook.

1980s

[1981]

ED MAPLE (BA) is a computer systems administrator for a company in Scottsdale, Ariz. He has been married for 22 years, and he and his wife have two kids, ages 21 and 17.

MARYANN THOMSON (BA, MA ’82)

loved seeing her classmates from 1981 and 1982 at the 2011 Homecoming Weekend. “Wow,” she writes, “30 years later, Toreros are still awesome!”

STEVE VASQUEZ (BBA) writes,

“Enjoyed touring the USD campus while in San Diego to do the Superfrog Half Ironman Triathlon on Sept. 11, 2011. What a beautiful campus! What an environment to go to school.”

[1982] 🎓

MARK GARIBALDI (BA) was featured in the October 2011 issue of *Bakersfield Life* magazine. Founder of the Garo Method, a program of mental fitness, nutrition and physical ability, Mark has worked with clients across the country, including students, athletes and professionals. After graduating from USD, Mark earned a master’s degree at California State University, Bakersfield, and a law degree from the University of the Pacific’s McGeorge School of Law. He practiced for a year with a private civil law firm and spent 10 years as a deputy district attorney. Mark launched the Garo Method in 2002, complete with a CD program and one-on-one life coaching. His website is www.thegaromethod.com.

DONNA (HAFF) SKAHILL (BA, MA ’88)

and her husband, Vince ’83, are joining the Peace Corps and plan to travel to Micronesia/Palau in June 2012, where they will teach.

[1984]

FRAN (POLITO) ALGYA (BBA) has been a business owner in Flagstaff, Ariz., for 14 years. She and her husband own a dealership for small construction equipment and tractors, as well as snow removal equipment. They have three kids, ages 17, 15 and 10. “My husband and I recently went on a jazz cruise to Alaska,” she writes. “The entertainment was unbelievable!”

TERESA BURRELL (JD) has had

three legal suspense mystery novels

published: *The Advocate*, *The Advocate’s Betrayal* and her most recent, *The Advocate’s Conviction*, which was released in October 2011. Her website is www.teresaburrell.com.

ROZANNA (SANCHEZ) QUINTANA (BA)

reports that her daughter, Abby Reutzel, is at Georgetown University in Washington, D.C., studying at the McDonough School of Business. Rozanna relocated to Jacksonville, Fla., to pursue her interest in adapted sports and recreation.

[1985]

KATHLEEN HARRIS (BBA) is the chief financial officer at Gallagher & Kennedy Law Offices in Phoenix, Ariz., and was recently named a board member of Catholic Community Foundation. In addition to serving on local professional banking boards, Kathleen has given her time to a number of nonprofit organizations, including Kiwanis Club of Tempe, Tempe Sister Cities, the St. Francis Xavier Elementary School Auction and charity events through the Diamondback wives. She is president of the Phoenix Police Foundation Board, serves in several advisory roles at Xavier College Preparatory, volunteers at Brophy College Preparatory and recently completed her 25th year of volunteering as a Junior Achievement leader. She and her husband, Tom, have four children.

MARGARET (BOYER) HILL (BA)

graduated with a JD degree from Arizona State University in May 2011 and is working on an MBA from ASU.

KEN WINANS (BBA) was awarded

top honors in the 2011 USA Best Books Awards. His book, *Preferred Stocks – The Art of Profitable Income Investing*, was the winner in the investment category. His prior books are *Preferreds – Wall Street’s Best-Kept Income Secret* and *Investment Atlas – Financial Maps to Investment Success*. Ken’s website is www.kenwinans.com and his books are available on Amazon.com.

[1986]

KEVIN HASKINS (JD) is an assistant district attorney with the Orange County District Attorney’s Office. He is a candidate for Orange County Superior Court judge in the June election. Kevin’s campaign website is www.haskinsforjudge.com.

JANINE MASON (BA, MA ’11) is

executive director of The Fieldstone

Foundation, where she has worked for 23 years. She also manages the San Diego Small Grant Program for the Weingart Foundation, based in Los Angeles, and serves on the advisory board for the Institute of Nonprofit Education and Research at USD. Janine has a 15-year-old son who is a freshman at Cathedral Catholic High School.

[1987] 🎓

DONALD JAMES (BBA) reports that he has four great kids – Olivia, Lexi, Lleyton and Piper – and that he has found his soul mate in his wife, Melinda. With offices in New Zealand, Donald intends to split his time between the United States and New Zealand after the girls enter college. His primary activity is “family ... always” and his secondary activities are surfing, triathlons, Xterra and mountain bike racing.

[1988]

DANIEL LeKANDER (BBA) married Miranda Maison ’97 on Nov. 13, 2010, in Sacramento, Calif. Dan is CEO of Minerva Properties and Miranda is senior corporations counsel for the California Department of Corporations.

GLENN O’CLASSEN (BA) is vice president of cloud adoption at Appirio, a global enterprise cloud solutions company. Glenn joined the firm as part of an acquisition by Appirio of VelocityMG, the company that Glenn founded to assist enterprises in driving user adoption of cloud applications. He launched the company after a tenure at Salesforce.com.

JOSIE (GABLE) RODRIGUEZ (MA)

exhibited “Luminous Layers”, an encaustic art show at the San Diego International Airport, Terminal Two East, through March 2012. She says she is inspired by the “visceral, messy and spontaneous character of encaustic art.” (Encaustic art incorporates wax.) She was a clinical chaplain at Scripps Mercy and San Diego Hospice, and now dedicates her time to making and teaching art from her home studio in San Diego, where she and her husband, Al, offer art retreats.

PETER STAMATOPOULOS (BA)

was named commanding officer of the Naval Supply Systems Command, Fleet Logistics Center San Diego. The San Diego center provides logistics, business and support services to fleet, shore and industrial commands of the Navy, Coast Guard and Military Sealift Command, as well as other joint and allied forces.

JIM WINGROVE (BA) lives in Sunnyvale, Calif., with his wife, Tracy ’92, and two children. He is an avid runner and enjoys coaching his daughters’ softball teams. Jim works at a biotech company in Palo Alto.

[1989]

KAREN PARKER PAPE (BBA) lives in Oakland, Calif., where she owns a business, Chirofitness, and keeps busy with family and friends.

ANNA (PATZMAN) UMSTADTER (BA)

and her husband, Karl, moved to the Livermore Wine Valley in the San Francisco Bay Area. “I am now at home with our busy 2-year-old, Amelia Kate,” Anna says, “and my husband is a physicist with KLA-Tencor in Silicon Valley.”

1990s

[1990]

CHRISTIE BURKE BABCOCK (BA, Med ’92) lives an hour southwest of Chicago in Frankfort, Ill., with her husband, Paul, and their four kids: Grace, 12; Molly, 9; Meg, 6; and Mick, 3. “I work two days a week as a high school counselor, where I spend the majority of my time trying to convince my students to become Toreros!” she says.

JEFF CARPENTER (BA) was selected California Teacher of the Year by the Veterans of Foreign Wars in January 2012 and has advanced to the national competition. On Dec. 15, 2011, he and his wife, Kristin, were in Sacramento where Jeff received Teacher of the Year awards from Rancho Bernardo VFW Post 7766 and VFW District 1. A longtime Rancho Bernardo High teacher, Jeff has five Advanced Placement government classes and a civics class, and he coaches football and girls’ lacrosse.

ANNE (DEMETRIO) DOWNING (BA)

lives in Phoenix, Ariz., with her three children: Jack, 12; Kate, 10; and George, 8. She is a senior partner at Demetrio & Associates, a national and international recruitment and placement firm. “I enjoyed a great weekend of fine wine and dining in San Francisco with seven of my USD classmates this past September,” she says.

LORI (WUYCHECK) VENERDI (BA)

and her husband, Bo ’90, have been married for 20 years and they

have two children: Ben, 17, and Emma, 15. “Emma has Down syndrome and we are involved with the Special Olympics here in northeast Florida,” she writes. “Ben is a junior in high school and can’t believe USD offered surfing as a class and neither Bo nor I took it!” Bo owns Global Protection Products, where he manufactures and sells hurricane shutters.

[1991]

LIANA ABELE-OSITIS (BAcc) and her husband, Vilis, have a 2-year-old daughter. “Life is good!” Liana says.

CHARLES GALLAS (BA) and his

wife, Stephenie, have three beautiful daughters: Alyssa, 14; Caitlyn, 9; and Bridget, 6. “I jokingly call it Charlie’s Angels,” Charles says.

[1992] 🎓

KRISTINE ASHTON-MAGNUSON (BA) owns and operates Ashton-Magnuson Media, a music publicity company in Los Angeles that she founded after departing the Mitch Schneider Organization in 2009. Her clients have included Rockstar Energy Drink UPROAR Festival; 48 Hours Festival; Avalanche Tour; Rock on the Range; *Revolver Magazine*; *Punk Rock Dad*, a book by Jim Lindberg; and the Dolor novella series by Rick Florino. Her website is www.am-media.net.

CHRIS SPENCE (BA) was honored when his office, Spence Chiropractic Center in San Diego’s Mission Valley, was voted Best Chiropractic Office in San Diego for the fourth year by *CityBeat* magazine. He is the past president of the San Diego Chiropractic branch of the California Chiropractic Association (CCA) and was twice awarded Doctor of the Year honors by the CCA. Chris lives in San Diego with his wife, his daughter, 5, and his son, 18 months.

MICHEL ZELNICK (JD) is a former CPA, attorney and psychotherapist who works with closely held businesses, partnerships and family enterprises to constructively harness conflict through periods of transition.

[1993]

STACEY (BUCKLEY) BUNN (BA) and her husband, David, have been married for 13 years. They live in Monterey County, Calif., and have four children, ranging in age from 20 months to 11 years old. Stacey home-schools the children and works part time in the family’s pie bakery.

BRENT HODGES (BAcc) is the head of schools for Rancho Solano Private Schools, the largest private school system in Arizona, with four schools serving pre-k through eighth grade and a new high school that graduates its first senior class this year. He is a proud USD alumnus and encourages USD education graduates to apply to Rancho. Brent’s son, T.J., is a sophomore at Phillips Exeter Academy boarding school in New Hampshire. Brent enjoys kayaking, stand up paddle boarding and reading in his spare time.

SUSAN (COLLINS) MOSBY (BA)

and her husband, Peter, bought i9Sports, a youth sports franchise. “We are busy promoting and running flag football, basketball and soccer leagues/camps for kids ages 4 to 14 in the south Denver area,” Susan says. “I continue to teach Spanish at Cherry Creek High and raise our three kids: Chas, 6; Quinn, 4; and Lucia, 3; and two dogs: Nica and Bruin!”

[1994]

TIFFANY BEANE-LANDES (BAcc) writes, “I’d love to hear from former classmates and ‘lost’ friends. We live just west of Indianapolis in Avon, Ind., and have two busy boys: Jacob, 12; and Grant, 9. Update me and let me know what’s going on in your life.”

GREG CHABON (MBA) was named to the 2012 list of The Best Lawyers in America, the oldest and most respected peer-review publication in the legal profession. Greg is a corporate and securities attorney in the Greensboro, N.C., office of Womble Carlyle Sandridge & Rice.

RIAN KIRKMAN (BBA) was

recently promoted to vice president of marketing, Las Vegas region, for Caesars Entertainment.

CYRIL VIDERGAR (BA) opened the law practice of Samson & Vidergar in Longmont, Colo., on Dec. 1, 2011, with prior law partner, Rick Samson. The firm focuses on real estate, land use, government regulation, estate planning and probate matters, as well as entrepreneurial planning, beer law and strategic business planning services. One of Cyril’s appellate cases was selected for publication in 2011, and he is scheduled to return to the Colorado Court of Appeals in 2012 to defend municipal regulation of oil and gas activities. He also authors a brewing column called “Pondering the Pint.”



[l i t h e s o m e]

GRACE IN MOTION

For Vincent Padilla, mere talent isn't enough

by Sandra Millers Younger

At the barre, Vincent Padilla doesn't try to stand out. He's just one guy in a huge rehearsal room full of men in black tights and torso-hugging T-shirts; women in dark leotards, pink tights and hair neatly coiled atop their heads.

But there's something different about Padilla. It's the way he holds himself, his slight frame straight yet supple. It's the chiseled cut of his muscles, the perfect grace and control each time he bends an arm, extends a leg, points a toe. Every movement is both artistry and athleticism, a practiced blend of precision and poetry.

Off-stage, Padilla is equally flexible, equally disciplined. Which explains how, at age 24, he's already achieved what many covet — a career that combines multiple passions.

He dances with the California Ballet, a professional company based in San Diego. He has taught at a top ballet academy, as well as San Diego City Park and Recreation centers, where he got his start. And he's a budding businessman, an independent consultant for a legal-services corporation.

Padilla '10 found reason and will to pursue his eclectic lifestyle in the study of philosophy, his major at

USD. "One thing I learned from philosophy is if you want something you don't have now, you have to do something different," he says.

Padilla's personal credo, 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.

"I like hard physical work, and ballet is so 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 your team wins the Super Bowl. You're pumped up on adrenaline; endorphins are shooting around; you're excited."

Audiences catch that excitement 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 throws everything he has into each role, and it shows.

He was only four when his mother, herself a dancer and dance instructor, took him to tap lessons at the neighborhood rec center. "I wasn't super interested," he admits.

But five years later when the curtains opened on his first professional appearance — in "The Music Man" at San Diego's venerable

Starlight Theatre — Padilla discovered he liked performing. He moved on to jazz dance classes at age 11 and finally ventured into ballet at age 14, at the insistence of his jazz instructor.

During Padilla's senior year at the San Diego School of Creative and Performing Arts, the physicality of dance hooked him for good. Five, sometimes six days a week, he studied Russian classical ballet at the San Diego Academy of Ballet.

All through his college years, Padilla shuttled between the lecture halls of Alcalá Park and the ballet studio in San Diego's 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 physical endeavors. I thought, 'I can't sit at a desk all day. Maybe in 20 years, 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 intensive program with Ellison Ballet at the Baryshnikov Arts Center proved just the right prescription to strengthen his skills and buoy his confidence.

Padilla came home to San Diego and signed on with the California Ballet. At the same time, he began building a business through Legal Shield, an organization offering an HMO-like approach to legal services and, Padilla hopes, a steady income to underwrite his ballet career as long as his body allows.

And then? Padilla turns pragmatic. "Then it will be time to tap. You can tap forever." 🎵

[1995] **WENDY S. DUNLAP (MS)** moved to Alaska in January 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 commercial passenger fishing vessel database.

JOEL GONZALES (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 Lawrence, Kan., and is a senior support analyst at Johnson County Community College. His responsibilities include providing computer support for classrooms and computer labs.

CHRISTOPHER M. PARTA (BA) is in his third year of law school at Lewis and Clark in Portland, 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 Corp. "This year, I also started training and competing as a bodybuilder, something I've always wanted to do," she says. "I compete in the figure division, which requires a high degree of muscularity, but not the huge size and mass of those competing in the bodybuilding division. I placed first at my third show, and plan to continue training and competing as long as I can!"

[1996] **NATALIE A. (ABRAHAM) ALLAN (BA)** was married in 2001 at USD. She is now living in Kansas and working for PRA International. She has a 6 ½-month-old daughter named Miranda. Her husband also graduated from USD with an MBA in finance, though they didn't meet at USD.

JENNIFER (BARTA) KNOX (BBA) and her husband, Micah, are the pastors at United NW Church in Auburn, Wash. They have four kids: Faith, 13; Hope, 12; Grace, 11; and their son, Justice, 10.

CATHY (WESOLOWSKI) NORTH-CUTT (BBA) writes, "Life is full of

surprises. While I still work as a life/parent coach, last year I made a big decision to scale back my private practice to go into business with my husband of 23 years." Dan has been in real estate for 25 years and they are now a team, helping people buy and sell real estate in San Diego County. Their website is www.TeamNorthcutt.com. "We would enjoy hearing from you," Cathy says. "Peace!"

[1997] 🎓 **CAILA (COUGHLIN) ANDERSON (BBA)** lives in Valdosta, Ga., with her husband, Corey, and two sons. She enjoys her time with Devin, 2, and Grant, 1, and is a public relations/social media freelancer in her spare time.

JENNIFER (BAILEY) BOWHEY (BA) and her husband, Steve, have a daughter who recently began preschool. The family adopted two Bernese mountain dogs, and Jennifer is involved in church fundraising and yoga classes.

MIRANDA (MAISON) LeKANDER (BA) and her husband, Dan '88, were married on Nov. 13, 2010, in Sacramento, Calif. Miranda is senior corporations counsel for the California Department of Corporations and Dan is a real estate investor.

GREG YOUNG (LLM) chaired an eminent panel on preparing arbitration lawyers for a new generation of bilateral agreements at New York City's International Law Weekend conference. More than 1,000 academic and practicing international lawyers, regulatory lawyers and law students attended the conference. Greg is co-chair of the American branch of the International Law Association's Bilateral Investment Treaty and Development Committee.

[1998] **JAMIE A. (MILLER) GONZALEZ (BA)** has been working with the UC Sea Grant Extension Program in San Diego on water pollution and invasive species issues related to recreational boats. She has been involved in research and outreach programs to help boaters reduce bottom paint pollution, and prevent the hull transport of invasive species.

JENNIFER (KOHNNEN) KIRSCH (BA) says her daughter, Elisabeth, now 4, became a big sister and welcomed new baby brother, William

Daniel, on May 27, 2011. Jennifer, her husband, Paul, and the kids enjoy living in Austin, Texas, and visit USD and the beach when they can.

GIANNA RAVENSCROFT (BA) and her husband, Mike, welcomed their twin son and daughter, Zachary and Alexa, in March 2011. "When I'm not busy juggling two babies, I am a bank regulatory counsel at Wilmer-Hale in Washington, D.C., where I represent financial institutions of all sizes in strategic transactions and matters pending before the federal banking regulators," she says. "While we love the excitement that comes with living in our nation's capitol, we also dream of the day when we move back to sunny San Diego."

[1999] **KRISTINA BROWN (MA)** was promoted to associate professor at The School of Professional Psychology at Forest Institute. She is the director of the marriage and family therapy programs at the institute, and has a part-time private practice as a licensed marriage and family therapist.

GEORGE EBERLING (MA) recently published *Chinese Energy Futures and Their Implications for the United States*, which is available through Lexington Books.

TRAMY "EVELYN" HUYNH (BA) married Joseph Levert on June 25, 2011.

2000s

[2000] **SARAH (LANSER) DICE (BA)** and her husband, Jim, welcomed a son, Joseph Raymond, on May 10, 2011. "Big brother J.J. couldn't be more proud," says Sarah.

AMALIA (RIVERA) LAWLESS (BA) and her husband, Stephen, celebrated their 11th wedding anniversary on Oct. 21, 2011. They were married at The Immaculata. Their oldest daughter, Emily, is 6 and loves school, soccer, reading and playing with friends. They welcomed their second daughter, Leah Kathryn, on Feb. 19, 2008. Leah, 3, is in preschool and loves "playing with dolls, making us laugh, eating all kinds of foods and bugging her big sister. I'm still very happy staying home with my kids," says Amalia. "They keep me on my toes. Life's never boring, that's for sure!"

CELIA LOPEZ (BA, MA '04) says she is happy to be back home in San Diego after working for a year and a half in Santa Barbara County. "I'm currently blessed to be working with foster youth and spend my free time actively serving in my church community," Celia says.

NICOLE MATTHEWS (MA) is the chief experience officer and owner of The Henley Company, an experiential event and lifestyle management company based in San Diego. The company produces high-profile events, creates unique experiences, and manages the lives of busy executives and their families.

CHARLES SCHEIN (BBA) and Monica Escobedo '00 were married in Founders Chapel in 2001 and now have three sons, ages 3, 5 and 7. Charles is in the dental program at Loma Linda University. "The family will soon follow and will reside in Southern California for the next four years," Charles says.

JOHN SULLIVAN (BA) moved to Texas and is a construction project manager. He has built two \$100 million federal courthouses. John has been married for nine years and has two children.

[2001] **TIMOTHY CLARK (BA)** recently began a tenure-track position in the Department of Chemistry and Biochemistry at USD after four years as a faculty member at Western Washington University. Timothy and his wife, Nicole, have three daughters, ages 6, 2 and 8 months.

RACHEL DANJCZEK (BA) is a dean at an independent college preparatory high school in Brentwood, Calif. She continues to teach part time as well. "I am still in touch with my closest friends from USD, recently meeting up with Katie Giedt and Kristen Iacobelli," she says. "I also had the privilege to attend the wedding of Stephenie Petril-la, who was such a beautiful bride!"

YGNACIO "NASH" FLORES (MA) retired from the Navy after serving for 27 years and went on to complete an EdD at the University of Southern California. Recently, he was named the dean of public safety at Rio Hondo College in Whittier, Calif.

LISA HILL (BA) is training to ride in one of the premier cycling events in

the United States, El Tour de Tucson, a 109-mile race around the perimeter of Tucson, Ariz. She is racing in honor of a teammate, Brittany Ross.

PAULA (CHAPMAN) ISHAM (BA) writes, "I had a wonderful volunteer experience on behalf of USD in Mrs. Hackett's third-grade class in Roseville, Calif. I shared about USD, showed them photos of my personal experience, defined what a Torero is, and spoke about how important it is to go to college and how to prepare. Their favorite part was seeing my actual framed diploma I brought with me! It was special to share with a class of 8-year-olds about my fantastic alma mater."

GREGORY JACKSON (BA) finished a residency in veterinary surgery in the Los Angeles area and then returned to San Diego to take a position as a staff surgeon at a local specialty hospital. He also married his wife, Nicole, a veterinary technician. Gregory is enjoying being a newlywed and reports that he is very happy to be back near the USD community.

GAIL NOLAN (BA) is a legal analyst with the State of California Department of Justice Bureau of Medi-Cal Fraud and Elder Abuse division.

[2002]  **PEARL LY (BA)** is currently pursuing a master's degree in library and information science at UCLA.

ANNE PETERSEN (BA) completed a master's degree in business continuity, security and risk management at Boston University's Metropolitan College in May 2011. She is a member of the Junior League of Las Vegas and was recently named a board member for the non-profit Help of Southern Nevada. Anne is a full-time newscast producer at KLAS-TV, the CBS News affiliate in Las Vegas. Eventually, she hopes to integrate her professional experience with her new interest in business continuity.

JULIE SEIDENSTEIN (BA) is an attorney in the Charlotte, N.C., office of Parker Poe Adams & Bernstein, and was named a 2011 Woman Extraordinaire by *Business Leader* magazine. Julie is in her firm's banking and finance group, and she focuses her practice on commercial real estate and structured finance. She is active in CREW Charlotte, the Charlotte Women's Bar and the Mecklenburg County Bar Lunch With a Lawyer program.

AUBREE (SPEAR) VALENTINO (BBA) and her husband, Scott, welcomed a second son, Carter James, on Nov. 20, 2011. Carter joins big brother, Luke, who turned 2 in January 2012.

[2003] **ANN ABALOS-VENTURA (BBA)** and her husband, Julius, were married in September 2011.

ANNA (SMITHSON) BLANKENHEIM (BA) and her husband, Mike, were married on Oct. 22, 2011. They honeymooned in St. Lucia and are now settled in Sutter Creek, Calif.

KRISTIN (EDELHAUSER) CHESSEMAN (BA) and her husband, Ryan, welcomed their first child, Tyler, in November 2011. Kristin is a freelance writer and editor for various publications and websites.

COLLEEN CLEARY-REED (BA) writes, "Wow, what a ride! Since graduation, I have been fortunate enough to land the job of my dreams and the best husband in the world!" As a claims trainer, she travels all over the country training new and tenured employees for a nationwide insurance company. In September 2011, Colleen married her husband in Riviera Maya, Mexico, in a destination wedding. "I definitely miss my times at USD and so wish to go back some day to further my education," she says. "Thank you USD for a wonderful education, without which I wouldn't have this wonderful occupation. Also, thank you for starting my community service endeavors, which I continue to do, both inside and outside of work!"

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

JUANITA LEDESMA (MA) recently published *Return and Succeed, Continue Your Education Now!* The book is filled with exercises, checklists, inspirational stories and a wealth of resources to show step-by-step how to return to an educational setting with awareness and a roadmap for success.

ERICA (SNOW) MIKULSKY (BA) moved to Alabama, and she and her husband welcomed a baby girl in February 2011. "We are enjoying the Southeast!" she says. "Someday, we'll return to San Diego. We miss the beach!"

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

ERIN (BETTINGEN) SORENSON (BA) and her husband, Eric '01, welcomed their first child, Tristan Joel, on July 9, 2011. He weighed 7 pounds and was 20 inches long at birth. "He is such a good little baby boy," Erin says. "We love seeing him smile at us each morning!" Erin and

BONNIE ANN DOWD (EdD) was named the new executive vice chancellor for business services by the San Diego Community College District's Board of Trustees. She brings 22 years of experience as a faculty member and administrator in California community colleges. Most recently, Bonnie was vice president, finance and administrative services, at Palomar College. She is also the president-elect of the California Community Colleges' Association of Chief Business Officials and assumes the presidency of the state organization in 2012.

JOHN DZIDA (BA) married Amanda Huffman on Aug. 5, 2011, in San Juan Capistrano, Calif. John and Amanda live in San Francisco.

LAURA JOHNCOX (BA) loves making floral arrangements, gift baskets and other craft projects involving art. She also enjoys playing sports, running and yoga. Laura says, "My most recent personal achievement was finishing to Boston Marathon in 4:02:12. Thanks to my family and friends for their support!"

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

JUANITA LEDESMA (MA) recently published *Return and Succeed, Continue Your Education Now!* The book is filled with exercises, checklists, inspirational stories and a wealth of resources to show step-by-step how to return to an educational setting with awareness and a roadmap for success.

ERICA (SNOW) MIKULSKY (BA) moved to Alabama, and she and her husband welcomed a baby girl in February 2011. "We are enjoying the Southeast!" she says. "Someday, we'll return to San Diego. We miss the beach!"

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

ERIN (BETTINGEN) SORENSON (BA) and her husband, Eric '01, welcomed their first child, Tristan Joel, on July 9, 2011. He weighed 7 pounds and was 20 inches long at birth. "He is such a good little baby boy," Erin says. "We love seeing him smile at us each morning!" Erin and

Eric live in Ladera Ranch, Calif., where they are now enjoying all of the family-friendly activities.

COURTNEY (CRUMMEL) SUMMERS (BBA, MA '04) and her husband, Guy, welcomed a daughter, McKinley Faye, on July 26, 2011.

KRISTEN (SCHULTZ) WRAY (BA) has been the alumni director at her alma mater, La Salle High School in Pasadena, Calif., for nine years. She also has her own business, Finer Details Wedding and Event Planning. Kristen is an active member of the Kiwanis Club of Pasadena, and a volunteer with Villa Esperanza Services in Pasadena and For Families of Active Military in Yorba Linda, Calif. Kristen and her husband, Andy, were married in October 2009 and live in Yorba Linda.

[2004] **PEDRO ANAYA (MA)** was recently appointed to the City of Chula Vista Planning Commission.

TRAVIS BAYS (BA) welcomed his new daughter with a creative announcement: "On Feb. 12, 2011, Bodhi Surf School hired its newest team member, Maya Paz. With 41 weeks of surfing experience (in mommy's tummy), this new ripper is no joke. She forms part of the Bodhi Surf Yoga Team as well, and has participated in 700 hours of Vinyasa flow and deep meditation, topping most yoga professors who have been teaching and practicing for years. Talk about being advanced for her age! Full disclaimer ... her proud father is writing all this hype, so tread lightly when you do the research to validate the numbers!"

YVETTE DE ANDA (BA, BA) welcomed her first baby on April 22, 2011.

MEGAN DONOHUE (BA) graduated from Maine Maritime Academy with a 200-ton mates license and a 100-ton masters license. She currently works for SIO as a resident technician.

LAUREN LOMBARDI (BBA) is a real estate agent at Billionaires Row in La Jolla, Calif., specializing in the UTC area of La Jolla, as well as the coastal communities of San Diego. Prior to becoming an agent, Lauren was executive manager of Billionaires Row for four years. As one of the company's top-producing agents,

Lauren has sold more than \$12 million in property in the last two years.

NATALIE (GERKEN) PETERSEN (BA) and her husband, Eric '04, were married on Oct. 22, 2011, in San Diego. Eric is an electrical engineer for General Atomics and Natalie is a human resources specialist with Booz Allen Hamilton. They have been in San Diego since graduation and are looking forward to building their life together there as a newly married couple.

DAVID ROSALES (BBA) and his wife, Kendra, welcomed their first child, Amelie Pearl, on Sept. 28, 2011, in Newport Beach, Calif.

[2005] **JENNIFER (HYDE) ATKINS (BA, BA '05)** writes, "Brought the most beautiful, amazing little girl into the world on Sept. 22, 2011." Daughter Avery Marina Atkins weighed 6 pounds, 9 ounces.

HEATHER BROWN (BA) completed a master's degree in teaching and learning with technology from Ashford University in May 2011. She also was recently promoted to academic quality coordinator and now works in Academic Affairs at Ashford University.

RHONDA (GIEFER) CURTISS (BA) and her husband, Ryan, were married on April 26, 2008. Their son, Braydon Woodrow, was born on Feb. 17, 2009, and their daughter, Briley Rae, was born on Aug. 16, 2010. Rhonda is the Learjet 85 Aircraft interiors buyer for Bombardier Learjet in Wichita, Kan.

VICTOR DUMEIGE (BA) married Sonia Caballero '05 in July 2011 in the south of France. "Sonia and I are currently living in New York with our dog, Beau Gosse," Victor says. "We miss beautiful San Diego!"

ERIN GUNNING (BA) earned a master's degree in social work from Colorado State University. Erin specializes in substance abuse counseling and early mental health therapy, and is the alumni volunteer coordinator at USD.

EMILY HOIST (BA) married Kenny Oliver in San Diego on Oct. 1, 2011. Emily works at a financial planning firm in San Diego and Kenny is in human resources at a local high-tech company.

DANIEL JAIMES (BA) helped open the Katz & Associates San

Francisco office and is now the on-site community outreach specialist at the San Francisco Public Utilities Commission as they continue to rebuild the Hetch Hetchy Water System. Recently, Daniel contributed an article to *Water Environment & Technology* magazine highlighting some of the social media outreach tactics he's initiated to reach reporters, government officials and the general public. He also has produced several YouTube videos on behalf of the agency.

CHERYL A. KURTZ (MS) is now a government employee of the Department of Defense. In 2004, she was hired into the New Professional Program at Space and Naval Warfare Systems Center in San Diego as a marine ecologist. She now provides technical and regulatory support to SPAWAR, NAVSEA, and U.S. EPA scientists. Cheryl moved to Santee, Calif., in October 2004 and has two cats, Oscar and Sage.

JONATHAN BANNON MAHER (BBA) is a candidate for the United States Senate in New Jersey.

CHRISTINE (BURGER) PISTEK (BA) and her husband, Peter, welcomed their second daughter, Olivia Marie, on Aug. 31, 2011.

SARITA (HAMMONS) PITONES (BA) and her husband, Arturo, were married on Nov. 23, 2008. They live in El Cajon, Calif., and welcomed their first child, daughter Olivia Guadalupe, on April 30, 2011.

JESSICA A. (MILBOURN) REED (BA) works in Carlsbad, Calif., at the 3E Company as an associate regulatory specialist. She also served as primary technical contact for environmental permits for all Home Depot stores. Recently, Jessica accepted a job offer in Maui, Hawaii, as an environmental specialist for Maui Electric Co.

KELSEY WEBSTER (BA) graduated from New York Medical College in May 2011 with dual degrees of MD and a master's in public health. Kelsey has started her residency training in obstetrics and gynecology at the University of Colorado.

BRIANA (RONHAAR) WEISINGER (MA) reports that she has two wonderful children, Shira, 3, and Ari, 1, and also earned an MBA. With fellow

alumna Christy Soto, Briana started the San Diego Professional Chapter of the National Association of Women MBAs. The website is www.nawmba.org/sandiego.

[2006] **EVAN BARNES (BA)** was honored by the 2010 National Newspaper Publishers Association Award for Best Sports Page (third place), 2009 NNPA Award for Best Sports Page and News Story, and 2008 NNPA Award for Best News Story (third place).

MICHAEL BRUSSELBACK (JD) was recognized as the Riverside County Prosecutor of the Year for 2010.

JONATHAN HASKELL (BAcc) and Colleen Moore '06 were married in St. Louis, Mo., on Sept. 4, 2011. The wedding party included fellow Terrors J.V. Abraham, D.J. Birnie, Jenny (Yates) Cook, David Hunt, Patrick Mahoney and Holly (Wencel) Traut. Jonathan and Colleen live in Denver.

LINDSAY (RHINE) PETERSEN (BA) and her husband, Adam '04, recently purchased a home in Rancho Peñasquitos, Calif. "We are enjoying home improvement projects and making this new house into our home," Lindsay says.

COURTNEY (BLOKLAND) ROBERTS (BA, MBA '10) and her husband, Blake '10, were married on Oct. 1, 2011, at The Immaculate. They live in the Bay Area, where Courtney is a marketing proposal specialist for Grant Thornton, and Blake works for Stryker Endoscopy.

[2007]  **MELANIE (McFARLAND) ALLRED (BA)** and her husband, Tyler, have been married for three years and welcomed a daughter, Penelope Joann, on Jan. 10, 2012. Penelope weighed 8 pounds, 1 ounce, and measured 18-1/2 inches. Melanie is the ministry assistant, discipleship, for Solana Beach Presbyterian Church, where she manages more than 70 Bible study small groups and the women's ministry. She continues to be involved with Alpha Chi Omega at USD as the raternity relations advisor and volunteers with Greek InterVarsity at USD.

SARAH (CHILDRRESS) GRAY (BA) and her husband, Robert, were married on Sept. 10, 2011. "It was an



FRED GREAVES

[integrity]

BURDEN OF PROOF

Claudine Ruiz is making the San Diego community safer, one bad guy at a time

by Julene Snyder

The line of people waiting to go through security before entering the San Diego Central Courthouse stretches for half a block. Women with worried faces juggle squirming toddlers alongside badged jurors anxiously checking their watches. Lawyers and employees enter through an adjacent separate 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 with clients on wooden benches, oblivious to uniformed officers escorting prisoners in orange jumpsuits past them. The tension is as palpable as the clanking of shackles. This is the world that Deputy District Attorney Claudine Ruiz '00

(JD) is immersed in. A prosecutor for the County of San Diego's Family Protection Division, Ruiz handles cases that are — as the intro to a popular TV show says — “especially heinous.” Child abuse. Felony domestic violence. Elder abuse. “Those are our special victims,” she explains. “Our office feels that those particular victims — children, the elderly and people in domestic violence situations — need additional attention and resources.” The first-degree murder conviction of serial spousal abuser Larry W. Brown in 2010 epitomizes what her work is all about. “My office found six prior girlfriends and ex-wives who had horrible

domestic violence that spanned 20 years with Brown,” Ruiz recalls. But it's not always easy to convince people to testify: “No victim wants to go to court and tell their story. They don't want to see the defendant; they don't want to relive what happened. But when it's all over, victims feel really empowered, because they've been able to stand up to their abuser.” When she handles high-profile cases like that of Brown, and more recently, David Ditto, who was convicted of the first-degree murder of his wife in October 2011, there's little time for anything else. “There's nothing fun about a big trial until you're done,” she says with a hint of a sigh, before brightening. “When you look back on the whole experience, it's exhilarating. But when you're in it, it's all-consuming.” Ruiz grew up in Maryland, near Washington, D.C. Her mother's family hails from Georgetown, going back four generations. Her Colombia-born father came to the U.S. as a student; neither parent earned a college degree. But Ruiz was driven. After earning a BA in international relations from American University, she ultimately hoped to become a diplomat, however, fate intervened: While working as a lobbyist, she came to San Diego for the Republican National Convention as part of Elizabeth Dole's gender gap team. The city captured her heart. “That was a tremendous week,” she recalls. “I thought, ‘I could go to law school out here. I could live in San Diego.’” She applied to USD without even seeing the campus. “My goal was just to get my law degree, because all the interesting jobs in D.C. go to lawyers.” When she got a letter that she'd not only been accepted but been named a Dean's Outstanding Scholar, which typically goes to students who have their pick of the top schools in the country, she was thrilled. “I flew out to see the school and fell in love with it.” She reveled in her studies even though she didn't necessarily ex-

pect to wind up practicing law. But while serving as a law clerk for the attorney general's office during the summer of 1999, she was reading transcripts and had an epiphany: “I'd rather be in the courtroom.” She got her way: for the past 12 years — much of it in San Diego's South Bay felony unit, as well as serving rotations in the gang unit (“very intense”) and the central pre-trial and disposition unit — and she doesn't regret a thing. “I had the luxury of choosing this work because I had a full scholarship to law school,” Ruiz says with candor. “I didn't have a lot of student loans to repay.” But perhaps most important to her is that her principles are never at risk of compromise; prosecutors are duty-bound to only pursue cases that they believe in. “I'm always wearing the white hat,” she says. “If we don't believe in a case beyond a reasonable doubt, we dismiss it.” While the work is grueling by any standard — especially cases dealing with children — she takes pride in the positive impact her efforts have for the whole community. “If you can help a child, and there is a good outcome or conviction, it's just more valuable in comparison to other kinds of cases,” Ruiz explains. As busy as her caseload keeps her, she still makes time to share her expertise where it's most needed. “I go to Mexico periodically to train prosecutors, because they're switching over their criminal justice system. That allows me to be active internationally and feel like I'm giving back.” It's a juggling act, but one at which she's become adept. “I can only do one thing at a time,” she shrugs. “When you're in a big trial, you just have to get it done. When you've invested so much of yourself and your time and energy into a case, you can't take half measures.”

incredible day with all of our friends and family, and especially my USD Gamma Phi Beta sisters. We absolutely rocked the dance floor!” says Sarah. The newlyweds live in Newport Beach, Calif. **ERIC LOREY (BAcc)** was recently promoted to enterprise controller of Technetics-Burbank, an engineered-products company serving the aerospace market. He is also taking courses in an MBA program at Woodbury University while living in nearby Pasadena, Calif. **JENNIFER MILOSCH (BA)** is a fifth-year PhD candidate in economics at the University of California, Santa Barbara. She plans to finish her degree in the spring of 2013 with a research emphasis on family economics. She is involved in USD's new Central Coast Alumni Chapter. **MELANIE MINO (BA)** graduated from the University of Texas at Austin in 2009 with a master of science degree in social work and is now a medical social worker in a hospital critical care unit in Chicago. **MEGAN MORTENSEN (BA)** graduated from Emory University in May 2011 with a doctorate in physical therapy. She is now in a pilates-based physical therapy residency in Durham, N.C. **ALEXANDRA SMITH (BA)** went on her ultimate dream vacation to Egypt in December 2010. The three-week trip covered every major city in Egypt, a Nile cruise, a camel ride and a hike up Mount Sinai with a guide named Moses. Back at home, Alex is the president of the new Central Coast Alumni Chapter for USD. **MICHELLE (LEIBRAND) WAHLIN (BA)** writes, “Graduate school can be a very long haul, but I'm happy to say the end is in sight! I am officially a PhD candidate and am working on my thesis research right now. Just another few thousand hours in the lab and 100+ pages of dissertation writing, and I will get to add a few letters to my name (and hopefully a real job to my résumé). My work is on understanding and characterizing the metabolism and toxicity of a breast cancer drug called lapatinib (Tykerb).” **BETH (MACHTOLF) WINTER (BAcc)** and her husband, Aaron '06,

were married on July 9, 2011, in Spokane, Wash. They live in Seattle. **[2008] JAMES ALDO (BBA)** and Lindsay McGowan '08 were married on Sept. 17, 2011. **KAITLIN GOWAN (BA)** is a doctoral student in literature at Arizona State University. She received her master's degree from ASU in the spring of 2011. In addition to teaching first-year composition at ASU as part of her teaching associateship, Kaitlin is an adjunct faculty member teaching composition at a local community college. Kaitlin says the great English literature foundation she received at USD helped get her to where she is today. “Go Toreros!” she says. **REBECCA HAMES (MA)** was promoted to assistant director of the UCSD California State Summer School for Mathematics and Science (COSMOS), a month-long summer academic enrichment program for talented high school students who are interested in science, technology, engineering and/or math. She manages program operations, supervises the student selection process, trains high school teacher fellows, coordinates curriculum with university faculty, and trains residential and graduate assistants. Rebecca also facilitates an annual UCSD summer program “best practices” day-long conference. **THOMAS BLAKE HIGGINS (BA)** is enrolled as a first-year dental student at the University of Colorado Denver School of Dental Medicine. Before enrolling at CU, he participated in two medical/dental mission trips to Honduras with Cure International to provide free care for patients in underserved communities in that country. Blake says he is happy to be back home in Colorado and hopes to get in a little skiing in his hometown of Vail this winter. **JAMIE (BUFKIN) HOVERSEN (BA)** and her husband, William, were married in Dar es Salaam, Tanzania, in December 2010. **ITHA KARASINTH (BA)** is a medical student at Touro University Nevada.

ROBERT WATKINS (JD) and his wife, Shauna (Boehm) '09, celebrated their third wedding anniversary in December 2011. **[2009] ELIZABETH (HACHMANN) CONDAS (BBA)** and her husband, Russ '10, were married recently. “We met at USD and loved every second of it!” Elizabeth says. “We miss San Diego ... but maybe we'll be back in the future! Right now, we're living in Minneapolis.” **ANNA LEYRER (BA)** received an award at the Fourth Annual La Mancha Awards ceremony, which was held on Oct. 20, 2011, at USD's Joan B. Kroc Institute for Peace & Justice. Anna was honored for her outstanding volunteer service through Casa Cornelia Law Center's volunteer program. **LAUREN McDONOUGH (MA)** graduated from Harvard University's language and literacy graduate program in May 2011 and is now a literacy specialist in a public elementary school just outside of Boston. **BRITTANY (WHITE) STRUCK (BA)** completed graduate school at the University of Rhode Island with a master's degree in marine affairs. She then married her husband, Kenneth, in Dallas and they moved to Long Beach, Calif., where Brittany works for the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration. As a natural resource management specialist, she works on endangered species, specifically the Southern California steelhead trout. **SHAUNA WATKINS (JD)** and her husband, Robert '08, were married and moved to Washington, D.C. They are both attorneys, practicing administrative law for the United States Department of Veterans Affairs. “We are definitely enjoying the area of law and the East Coast adventures,” Shauna writes. **[2010] JAMES BLACKFORD (BA)** was promoted to account executive after reaching the rank of assistant manager in the management trainee program at Enterprise Holdings. **MICHELLE DOMINGUEZ (BA)** is a student in the master of arts in medical science program at Boston University School of Medicine. “Even

though BU does not have blue as one of their colors, I continue the Blue Friday tradition here in Boston!" Michelle says.

SARAH HEALY (BA) has lived in Shanghai 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 MAGLIOCCO (BAcc) 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 passion. 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 at The Immaculata on May 1, 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 officiated by Father Daniel Nganga from Kenya, Ernest's peace and justice studies classmate, and by Father Bill Headley, dean of the school. "Great memories," Ernest writes. "Now Marie and I are blessed with our son, Benedikt Fulbright Makulilo, born on Feb. 10, 2011." Ernest is from Tanzania, and is founder and director of the Makulilo Scholarship Foundation, which helps people in developing countries pursue studies in North America and Europe. He also is publishing a book on the same topic.

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 in the sec-

ond year of a joint degree program (JD and master's in philosophy) at Boston University.

VINCENT PADILLA (BA) is a professional ballet dancer and a business owner. "It seemed only natural to go into business after completing my philosophy degree, and my dancing career is both a passion and a serious endeavor," Vincent says.

KATHARINE TEMPLE PISCHEL (BBA) and Zachary Shannon Wood '10 were married on Oct. 10, 2010, in Monterey, Calif. They met at USD as sophomores and now live in Loveland, Colo.

[2011]
DEREK ABBEY (MA) is deputy director at the U.S. Marine Corps' Train the Trainer School.

MICHAEL GREEN (JD) took the bar exam in July 2011 and has started his legal career in Washington, D.C.

MELANIE LUCAS-CONWELL (BA) moved back to the Bay Area with her boyfriend and fellow Torero, A.J. Griffin. She is an account coordinator for Google's AdMob account management team and coaches her high school's rowing team. Melanie looks forward to rowing in the USD Alumni 8 at the San Diego Crew Classic in April.

EMILY McMAHON (BBA) writes, "After starting my job search in September of my senior year, I am thankful to have started as early as I did, for it took a full year to find a position. Searching for a position out of state posed an added difficulty, and my advice to those looking to move to a new city after graduation is to start their job search early, reach out to alumni via LinkedIn and be patient!"

SHANNA NASIRI (BBA) writes, "The company I work for just went public! InvenSense is now trading on the NYSE! Such an exciting experience to be a part of!"

LINDSEY (CLAAR) SMITH (MA) and her husband, Trevor, were married on Nov. 11, 2011, in a small sunset ceremony overlooking the beach in Carlsbad, Calif. "It was magical!" Lindsey says. Trevor is a third-generation Realtor, born and raised in north San Diego County.

Lindsey and Trevor live in Encinitas, Calif. Since graduating, Lindsey resumed a part-time role overseeing the training and marketing for Heart Haven OutReach (H2O), a nonprofit she founded in her hometown of Bolingbrook, Ill., in 2004. The website for the organization is www.HeartHavenOutReach.org. Lindsey also helps Trevor with his real estate business and she is heavily involved with her church, The Movement, in San Marcos, Calif.

ALEXA TIERNEY (BBA) was hired as a business services assistant at Red Door Interactive after a full-time paid summer internship. "First full-time, non-intern position since graduation!" she says.

KAYLA WITT (BA) is studying toward a master's degree from the University of Portland and working as a third-grade teacher at St. John the Baptist Elementary in Draper, Utah.

In Memoriam

JAMES M. BURNS, former dean of the School of Business Administration, died of congestive heart failure on June 17, 2011, in San Diego. He was 74. He joined USD in 1974, one of just seven faculty members at the business school. Named dean a year later, he helped bring the school from 250 students to more than 1,300 in his first decade, and full-time faculty from seven to 44. Under his leadership, the school moved into a new home, Olin Hall, with a \$4.5 million grant from the Olin Foundation. During his 22-year tenure as dean, Burns helped promote international business and links between USD and Mexico, China and other countries; he was instrumental in obtaining the endowment that funded the Ahlers Center for International Business; and helping the business school attain accreditation. He stepped down as dean in 1997 — but continued teaching until 2006 — and he received the rare distinction of being named both a Professor Emeritus and Dean Emeritus.

IRENE MARY SABELBERG PALMER, founding dean of the Hahn School of Nursing and Health Science, died peacefully at the Silverado San Diego Hospice on

May 29, 2011. She was 87. Before joining USD, Irene had a distinguished career in the Army Nurse Corps, as director of nursing at the District of Columbia Tuberculosis Hospital, as a faculty member at New York University and as dean of Boston University School of Nursing. At USD, she established a rigorous curriculum of practice and research to educate nurses to the highest standards. Securing a substantial gift from the Phillip Y. Hahn family and a federal grant, she broke ground for the Hahn School of Nursing and Health Science. Her intellectual vision remains the cornerstone of the school, which consistently produces the profession's leaders in science and practice.

MICHAEL REX TATHAM '01 (BA) died on Oct. 12, 2011, as the result of a tragic motorcycle accident in Bali, Indonesia, while on R&R during a deployment to Afghanistan. He was 33. At USD, Michael was active on the crew team and instrumental in winning the men's four-man national contest. 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 four Navy-Marine Corps Achievement Medals.

MARISSA LOPIANO TEYSSEN '79 (BA) died of leukemia on Nov. 20, 2011, in Munich, Germany, after a courageous three-year struggle. She was 54. Marissa graduated summa cum laude from USD, then earned a doctor of medicine degree in 1983 from Tulane University, followed by a three-year residency in internal medicine in Boston. As a physician, she instilled a sense of calm and reassurance in her patients. She met and married a corporate attorney in Germany, and together they lovingly raised four children in Europe. After family, her passions were cooking, traveling and entertaining.

DANIEL ZEIDMAN '76 (JD) passed away in early February 2012.

Congratulations Class of 2012!

GAINING HIGHER GROUND
ONE TASSEL AT A TIME.



ONE-STOP SHOP FOR ALL ALUMNI
USD Torero Store on campus or online www.usdtorerores.com.



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>.

DOUBLE *the* DOLLARS DOUBLE *the* DIFFERENCE



THE MULVANEY CHALLENGE



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 Mulvaney family will **MATCH** every dollar raised.



Accept the challenge by visiting www.sandiego.edu/giving/mulvaney



OFFICE OF UNIVERSITY PUBLICATIONS
5998 ALCALÁ PARK
SAN DIEGO, CA 92110-2492

CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED

NON-PROFIT ORG.
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
SAN DIEGO, CA
PERMIT NO. 365

[STUCK ON YOU]

Extra, extra! Look inside the front cover
for a special way to show your support for
the University of San Diego.

