

# USD MAGAZINE

UNIVERSITY OF SAN DIEGO / FALL 2012

OF SORTS, AND LIFE ACHIEVES BALANCE.

RENAISSANCE

WHEN WORK FEELS LIKE PLAY, THERE'S A



[inquiry]

## TELL ME SOMETHING GOOD

Alumni Attitude Survey asks questions, gets answers



**M**uch like incoming freshmen, we here at *USD Magazine* have a tendency to seek validation: how are we doing? Are we producing an “A” caliber publication, or do we need to step up our game? And even when we’re sure we’re on the right track, we can’t keep ourselves from striving (higher!), learning (smarter!), reaching (farther!). Lather, rinse, repeat.

As it turns out, our colleagues have a similar need to gauge their performance and make sure that USD’s tens of thousands of alumni remain happy with their alma mater (boy, can we relate). And one of the best ways to cut to the chase is to bypass anecdotal evidence and rely on hard data, metrics and analytics.

Toward that end, in the spring of 2012, the alumni relations office invited USD graduates to participate in an online survey to gather their opinions on a variety of topics relating to their engagement with the university since graduation. Former Alumni Association board member and current USD trustee Jamey Power ’85 — an expert in customer satisfaction measurement — led the effort.

The response was gratifying: thousands took the time to share detailed opinions about everything from their experiences as students to the perceived value of their degrees.

Of course, I couldn’t help but turn first thing to the results about the work we here at university publications do, and was gratified by what I found: 93 percent of respondents have a good or excellent opinion of the university, and most cited this magazine as one of the most important communications they receive from USD.

But even more fascinating is thumbing through the 1,726 stories from alumni about “the person who had a special impact” on their experiences as students. Some highlights?

“Tom Cosgrove was the ASB advisor when my husband and I were at USD. Tom did a great job of mentoring the students. He came to our wedding and we still keep in touch to this day (and yes, he talked us into donating a paver with our name on it in front of the new Student Life Pavilion).”

“Father Owen Mullen. Friend. Confidant. Mentor. My four-year education and experience would not have been the same without Father Mullen as an advisor.”

“Dr. Del Dickson was the most amazing professor I’ve ever had. Brilliant, kind, took a personal interest in my life and academics, prepared me better for law school than anyone else; a wonderful human being.”

“Greek advisor Mandy Womack was an amazing resource, friend and mentor and provided such a great example to the sorority women.”

“Professor Del Rio understood my desire and efforts to work within the political media arena and actively supported and worked with me to accomplish that goal by connecting me with former students, past colleagues and others who either were in Washington, D.C., or had connections that might help me. I will never forget how much time and effort he put into helping me get my foot in the door in a city that is built on who you know.”

“Dr. Iris Engstrand might be the greatest lady ever invented. She truly is what USD is all about. She epitomizes what a teacher should be, cares about her students and cares about USD. She is who I hope to be like one day.”

For those of us who spend our days working to keep the connection between the university and its alumni strong, immediate and lasting, it’s fascinating stuff. Rest assured, in the months to come, we’ll continue to seek out your feedback on how we’re doing. So drop a line, send an email, keep us posted.

We’re all ears.

— Julene Snyder, Editor

## USD MAGAZINE

UNIVERSITY OF SAN DIEGO

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**DO WE HAVE ENOUGH MUSCLE TO BEAT OUT OUR RIVALS IN ALUMNI PARTICIPATION?**

**USD alumni participation is only 13 percent.**

**We’re being beaten by our WCC rivals: Santa Clara’s alumni participation is over 21 percent, while Gonzaga and LMU are nearly 20 percent!**

**Your gift will help Diego hit the goal of 4,500 alumni donors by June 30, 2013.**

**Make your gift today at [www.sandiego.edu/giving](http://www.sandiego.edu/giving).**

**'DIEGO' TORERO**



# USD MAGAZINE

UNIVERSITY OF SAN DIEGO / FALL 2012

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SOME CAUSE HAPPINESS WHEREVER THEY GO.



direction. The career of Tara Shiroff '02 has taken a dramatic twist that she never saw coming. Being famous isn't the point for acclaimed TV actor Jim Parsons '01 (MFA), who's found his way back to one of his first true loves. Claudia Dominguez '03 delved deep inside herself, and then took a leap of faith. And Kevin Petti '06 (PhD) has created a niche that allows him to share his love for interconnection.

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Photograph by  
Tim Mantoani

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[www.sandiego.edu/usdmag](http://www.sandiego.edu/usdmag).





LUIS GARCIA

[humanitarian]

# THE GLOBAL DIMENSION

Edward Luck new dean of peace studies

by Sandra Millers Younger

The selection of United Nations Assistant Secretary-General Edward Luck as the new dean of the Joan B. Kroc School of Peace Studies (KSPS) opens a new chapter for USD.

Before coming to San Diego in August 2012, Luck served as special advisor to United Nations Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon, who personally tapped him to take charge of the U.N.'s "responsibility to protect" doctrine, adopted in 2005 to help protect civilians from mass atrocities. Last year, the U.N. Security Council cited the doctrine

in two resolutions that cleared the way for military intervention in Libya, leading to the end of Libyan leader Muammar Gaddafi's brutal 30-year rule. In less coercive ways, the principle was used to help halt violence in Kenya, Guinea, Kyrgyzstan and Cote d'Ivoire.

So what was it about KSPS that enticed Luck away from such an influential position?

"It wasn't easy leaving New York," he concedes, "but the opportunities here are quite exceptional. The Kroc School is young, only 5 years old, so it holds great promise. I've

inherited innovative programs, a dynamic young faculty, and a strong foundation to build on."

"Now, we're looking at a more mature phase," Luck continues. "We have an opportunity to put USD on the global map as an important center of fresh thinking, teaching, research and convening. We can play an important role in facilitating international discussion about peace and justice."

Luck's education and experience uniquely equip him to fulfill those intentions. He holds a BA from Dartmouth College, plus

multiple diplomas from Columbia University. He also holds the Certificate of the Russian Institute.

While serving on Ban Ki-moon's executive staff since February 2008, he also worked as senior vice president for research and programs at the International Peace Institute, an independent policy research center in New York. His academic experience includes several years as professor of practice at Columbia's School of International and Public Affairs, as well as stints at Princeton's Woodrow Wilson School and Sciences Po in Paris.

Earlier in his career, Luck served for a decade as president and CEO of the United Nations Association of the USA and as an architect of U.N. reform efforts in the 1990s. The author of numerous books and articles, he frequently testifies before Congress and comments in

the media on foreign policy issues.

"Throughout his distinctive career, Dr. Edward Luck has demonstrated a commitment to both the practice and education of peace and justice," said Julie Sullivan, USD's executive vice president and provost, in welcoming Luck to campus. "I am extremely confident that he will provide the leadership needed to increase the distinction and visibility of the Joan B. Kroc School of Peace Studies."


Luck is eager to do just that.

"The combination of this world-class facility and San Diego's ideal location — providing a natural portal to continue trans-border work with our colleagues in Mexico, and also to reach out to the larger Asia-Pacific region — is quite rare," Luck says.

"I want to bring some of my colleagues from the U.N. out here to meet with our faculty and students, so that they can see that New York is not the beginning and end of the United States."

In turn, Luck hopes his U.N. connections can offer KSPS faculty and students a clearer understanding of how international policy is made.

"Before you can fix the world, you have to understand the world. The United Nations is the global center for the development of new principles and standards of international law and practice. Those are central to what this school and this university stand for. So we should bring the U.N. to San Diego and take San Diego to the U.N. It works both ways."

Luck also sees USD's emphasis on values as a natural starting point for international dialogue about pressing issues of peace, justice and human protection. "Tackling these issues will be an important part of our work going forward. Peace is more than the absence of war. I very much want us to focus on the principles of justice, human rights, and post-conflict peace-building, so that our students will make the issues we champion today core elements of global policy and practice tomorrow." 

## [gifts at work]

**Cynthia Connelly, PhD**, from USD's Hahn School of Nursing and Health Science — along with Rachel Manber, PhD, co-principal investigator from Stanford University, and co-investigators Lois Howland, DrPH and Karen Macauley, DNP — received \$2,705,000 from the National Institute of Mental Health for their research on "The Effectiveness of Non-Pharmacological Treatment for Perinatal Insomnia." The five-year grant will run from 2012 to 2017. The research is a randomized clinical trial to examine the efficacy of a nurse-delivered cognitive behavioral therapy for insomnia (CBTI) for maternal insomnia disorder. The study also will examine secondary outcomes of maternal and infant sleeping, maternal depressive levels and quality of life.

**University of San Diego Trustee Royal W. Carson III**, and his wife, Debbie, gave a generous gift of \$250,000 to establish the Royal and Debbie Carson Family Scholarship Fund, and to support the Center for Student Disability Services to help meet the growing needs of USD students with learning differences. The center's services include evaluating disability documentation, arranging academic accommodations and providing disability management or counseling to students with disabilities. The Carsons' gift would allow the Center for Student Disability Services to reach out to more students, to provide newer technologies to students and to offer training opportunities that will help educate the campus about learning differences.

**Richard Shapiro**, the parent of an incoming freshman and owner of an investment firm in Scottsdale, Ariz., donated \$25,000 toward USD's Mulvaney Challenge. The university recently met the challenge to raise \$450,000 for Community Service-Learning in order to receive a matching gift from Tom Mulvaney '77 (JD) and his wife, Karen, on behalf of Tom's father, Jim Mulvaney, a former USD School of Law professor who dedicated his life to community service. As part of his generous donation, Shapiro also offered a unique opportunity for two student internships, including room-and-board in a furnished apartment.

**Jane (Rollo) Balousek '91**, who graduated from the College of Arts and Sciences, and her husband, Jon Balousek, have established the Jon and Jane (Rollo) Balousek Endowed Scholarship Fund. They recognize the value of their respective college educations and experiences to the advancement and quality of their professional lives and personal development, and they are eager to afford other students the same opportunity to prepare personally and professionally to become responsible, contributing, engaged citizens through their chosen fields of study.



[b r a i n y]

# HIGH PRAISE INDEED

Pair of USD faculty members receive prestigious awards

Assistant Professor of Chemistry and Biochemistry Timothy Clark '01 (left) and Juliana Maxim, an assistant professor in the department of Art, Architecture + Art History, recently received recognition for their stellar work.



by Sandra Millers Younger

It may seem a long reach across the academic spectrum from modernist Eastern European architecture to organometallic chemical reactions, but Juliana Maxim and Timothy Clark, two young University of San Diego faculty members specializing in these disparate disciplines, share

the distinction of having recently received prestigious awards for their scholarly work.

Maxim, an assistant professor in the Department of Art, Architecture + Art History, is one of three recipients of the 2012 Fellowship for Postdoctoral Research in East European Studies

sponsored by the American Council of Learned Societies (ACLS), a group dedicated to advancing the humanities.

The \$25,000 fellowship stipend will enable her to take a year-long sabbatical and complete her forthcoming book, *The Socialist Life of Modern Architecture*:

*Bucharest, 1947-1965.* Maxim credits USD College of Arts and Sciences Dean Mary Boyd and Provost Julie Sullivan with supporting her hiatus from teaching to implement the fellowship.

Maxim's book, an extension of her dissertation, explores the interplay between architectural

expression and the communist political regime in post-war Bucharest, Romania.

"The aim is to show specific ways the city and its architecture were shaped by politics and how architecture shaped politics in return," Maxim says, "and also to show that socialist aesthetics, long understood as anti-modernist, are in fact key to a new, expanded definition of modernism."

Maxim herself grew up in Bucharest, living in one of the communist-era mass-housing buildings she now studies, before moving with her family to Canada at age 12. She studied art history at Quebec's Laval University and completed her PhD in the history of art and architecture at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology in 2006.

Her research topic crystallized soon after she realized the utilitarian concrete architecture that emerged in post-war Europe under socialist regimes — although not as eye-catching as the concurrent work of Frank Lloyd Wright, Le Corbusier and other great 20th-century architects — deserved attention for other reasons.

"I think the whole artistic legacy of the socialist regimes in Europe during the 1950s, '60s and '70s has been completely understudied," says Maxim, who counts herself among a group of young scholars who have recently begun to reverse that deficiency.

"These gray housing buildings seem quite banal, but they're really politically and socially rich with messages. They represent a very different world view in which domestic architecture was supposed to transform inhabitants into collectively minded participants in a utopian socialist society. I'm arguing that when talking about modernism, one should also make this part of the picture."

Clark, an assistant professor of chemistry and biochemistry, is the winner of a National Science Foundation CAREER Award, designed to foster the early

career-development activities of teacher-scholars who effectively integrate research and education.

Clark received a five-year, \$400,000 grant to fund the development of metal catalysts that can simplify the synthesis of organic compounds which could be useful in a number of medicinal applications including diabetes testing. His project, which began last July, also provides hands-on research experience for 15 USD undergraduates and two high school teachers, while also introducing high school students to careers in chemistry.

A 2001 USD graduate, Clark returned to Alcalá Park as a faculty member last year. He completed his PhD at the University of California, Irvine, in 2006. His research focuses on organometallic chemistry as applied to organic synthesis; in other words, using metals as catalysts in organic reactions that otherwise could not occur as easily, if at all.

Clark's primary research goal is to develop catalysts capable of streamlining the development of new pharmaceutical products. But equally important, he hopes to provide extraordinary learning experiences for his undergraduate students.

"I enjoy seeing students really get it; I love seeing the light go on," Clark says. "Participating in research gives them insights that are hard to translate in the classroom."

Clark's passion for providing undergraduate research opportunities also stems from his own experiences.

"I was a first-generation college student," he says. "When I came to USD, I didn't really know what I wanted to do, but I had great instructors who involved me in their research and got me excited about science. I want to have the same influence on today's students that my professors had on me. I want to give them a good sense of how science can contribute to society."

[g r o u n d b r e a k i n g]

# THE FUTURE IS NOW

Tammy Dwyer's extraordinary research maps synthetic DNA

by Sandra Millers Younger

Six scientists, including James Watson and Francis Crick, discovered the now-famous double helix structure of DNA; that marvelous messenger molecule containing life's genetic instruction manual, written with only four letters representing four types of molecules — the nucleobases known as A, C, G and T.

In the years since — a fantastic era of genome mapping, forensic breakthroughs and medical miracles — researchers have worked to expand DNA's genetic alphabet by inventing synthetic nucleobases. Their goal: to develop new organisms with potentially useful new properties and functions. Designer life, if you will.

This futuristic scenario is now unfolding with the help of a San Diego-based research group that includes USD Professor of Chemistry and Department Chair Tammy Dwyer.

Scripps Research Institute researcher Floyd Romesberg led the team, which designed and created two synthetic nucleobases, called 5SICS and NaM, a compatible pair that apparently

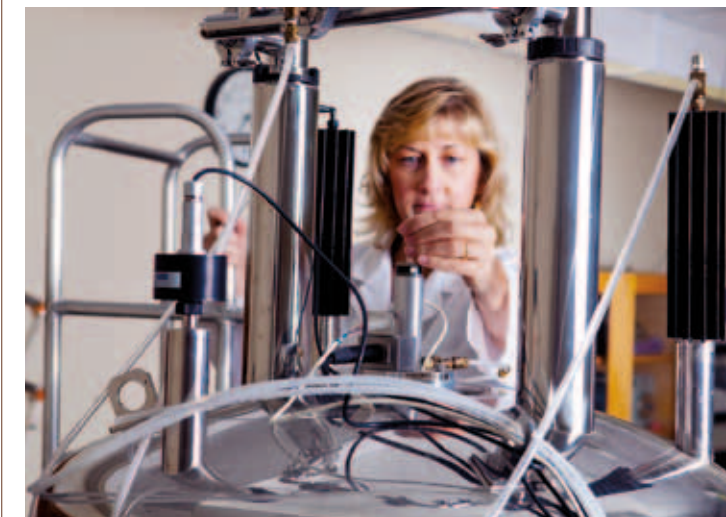
feels right at home within the DNA molecule.

The most stable and efficient synthetic base pair yet discovered, 5SICS and NaM easily take on the work of A, C, G and T, and even the critical task of DNA replication.

Using her expertise in nuclear magnetic resonance spectrometry, Dwyer mapped the 3D solution structure — allowing Romesberg to infer behavior — of the altered DNA molecule during this delicate process of copying and passing on the genetic information.

She found that unlike A, C, G and T, the synthetic bases 5SICS and NaM overlap slightly within the DNA molecule rather than meet edge to edge. But during replication, they line up their edges just long enough for the normal sequence of cell division to proceed uninterrupted.

"This is one of the first times the precise steps of DNA replication have been presented with this level of structural detail," Dwyer explains. "The opportunity to make even a small contribution to such an exciting project is thrilling. I'm very proud of this work."





[staying power]

## 15 YEARS AND COUNTING

**SOLES Dean Paula Cordeiro is just getting started**

by Ryan T. Blystone

Paula Cordeiro's passion for education runs deep. Her determination to preserve education's integrity and effectiveness is heartfelt. Those core values resonate as she celebrates her 15th year as dean of USD's School of Leadership and Education Sciences (SOLES).

Cordeiro's mindset about education — that it's an internationally accessible commodity — is a reflection of her own experiences as a student, teacher and administrator in Venezuela and Spain. She continues to advocate for the importance of preparing current and future educators to meet global challenges.

Case in point: This summer, Cordeiro journeyed to Ghana, where she gave a presentation at the International Council on Education's World Assembly at the University of Cape Coast with SOLES Professor Joi Spencer and Ghanaian education leaders. There, she discussed ongoing research done by SOLES faculty, staff and students in partnership with an international organization dedicated to helping low-income communities thrive through education.

Closer to home, Cordeiro gave a presentation this summer to participants of USD's University of the Third Age — life-learners aged 55 and older — titled, "Schools as Global Enterprises: Re-imagining Education for the Age of Globalization."

In that talk, she provided statistical information, and expressed her thoughts about

worldwide trends in education and SOLES' approach to developing and preparing students.

Her research offers up some statistical food for thought on education: 75 million people are enrolled in schools from pre-K to Grade 20. There are 6.5 million teachers, and California alone needs more than 20,000 if the present model remains intact. It's estimated that 2.2 million teachers will be needed in the next 10 years under the current system. Nearly 10 million school-age children, ages 5 to 17, speak a language other than English at home. By 2019, approximately 50 percent of all high school courses will be taught online.

Cordeiro also provided a simple picture of the educational shift in the U.S. The 1955 education model for children in grades 1-12 was elementary, junior high and high school, and the options then were simple: public or private school. But today's model has students going from pre-kindergarten to grade 12 and the road is diverse: elementary, middle and high schools through public, charter, private (for-profit, nonprofit) and virtual (public, for-profit and nonprofit) options.

This changing world of education has produced steady student population growth; different types of students seeking education; an increase in combining work and study; more flexible learning arrangements; more life-long learners and an emphasis on "learning to learn;" and the need

to provide custom or alternative learning routes to accommodate different learning styles.

Cordeiro's research has unveiled three worldwide trends in education: Schools as we know them are not efficient, effective and financially sustainable in the age of globalization. There is a blurring of the lines between who provides education and learning opportunities, with exponential growth in partnerships with nonprofit, public and private sectors. Technology — in particular, mobile devices — has radically changed opportunities to learn and to teach.

So how does SOLES approach it all? Cordeiro points to curriculum, pedagogy, faculty research and professional learning opportunities.

"Through these areas, there's a greater likelihood of having future teachers and school leaders who are globally competent," she says.

SOLES, which moved into the technologically advanced Mother Rosalie Hill Hall building in Fall 2007, incorporated leadership into its official school name a decade ago. Since then, the degree program has successfully attracted students who apply this trait in various education roles. It also complements SOLES' active relationship with the military through its Army Reserve Officers Training Corps (ROTC) program.

In Fall 2008, SOLES instituted a requirement that all students must have an international

experience prior to graduation. The Ghana project is one example, but study abroad courses in Costa Rica; Kenya; Sri Lanka; Mondragon, Spain; and elsewhere are offered through SOLES' Global Center.

Centers, institutes and field experiences enhance knowledge

and, through student action research projects, it's shared within the education field. The latest example is the new Mobile Technology Learning Center, aimed at researching, and simultaneously, championing K-12 innovation.

Cordeiro said SOLES is com-

mitted to "working with everybody," whether it's meeting with San Diego's many school superintendents, students partnering internationally or combining efforts with other schools on USD's campus.

"We want to engage with the world," she says. 🌐

# [etc.]

**Royal W. Carson III and Kevin R. Green '76 (MBA '79)**, are the two newest members of the University of San Diego's 2012-13 Board of Trustees. Carson, whose daughter Catherine will be a USD sophomore this fall, is chairman and chief executive officer of Carson Private Capital, a Dallas-based private investment firm. Green is the founding managing director at TripleTree, an independent, research-driven investment banking firm.

**USD has become the 10th campus in the U.S.** to earn a designation as a "fair trade" campus. The designation, made at the beginning of the summer, came from the national initiative Fair Trade Colleges & Universities, which recognized USD's commitment to using goods produced according to rigorous standards that address fair prices and wages, safe working conditions and environmental sustainability.

**The School of Leadership and Education Sciences (SOLES)** recently announced the creation of a Mobile Technology Learning Center (MTLC) to provide research-based answers to many of the unknowns regarding mobile technology and learning. This fall, USD will offer a MTLC certificate course designed for K-12 educators and administrators, the first mobile-tech program of its kind to provide an accredited certificate through a university system.

**USD proved to be a contender** with its latest institutional message, which debuted during the London 2012 Summer Olympic Games. The exposure for the university over the course of the games — which NBC says were the most watched TV event in

U.S. history — was impressive: More than 16.5 million households in San Diego and cities with large alumni concentrations, including Los Angeles, San Francisco, Denver, Phoenix, Las Vegas, Minneapolis and Chicago, had the opportunity to view the new 30-second commercial during the 15 days of international athletic competition. The spot, which was themed on USD's recent designation as a "Changemaker" campus, can be found at [www.sandiego.edu](http://www.sandiego.edu).

**The university's Greek Life community** recently received two awards from the Association of Fraternal & Leadership Values (AFLV). USD was awarded first place among peer institutions for the best differential in GPA between the Greeks and the general student population (the Patrick J. Naessens Educational Programming Award). Additionally, the AFLV bestowed a marketing and media award honoring our Panhellenic and Interfraternity Council's website.

**USD's athletics program** captured the 2011-12 West Coast Conference (WCC) Commissioner's Cup in June 2012. Given to the WCC institution garnering the most success during conference play, this marks USD's fifth Cup win and fifth consecutive — both firsts among WCC schools. The Toreros also captured the WCC Women's All-Sports Trophy (44 points) for the fourth time in the last five years. Three USD women's teams won or shared a WCC title in 2011-12.

**The Office of Undergraduate Admissions** has eliminated its early-action program and will now have a single application deadline of Dec. 15, effective for Fall 2013 applicants. "Having a single deadline will allow our team to give all students full consideration in the application process," said Stephen Pultz, assistant vice president of enrollment.



MARSHALL WILLIAMS



[ t e n a c i o u s ]

# SOLID AS A ROCK

## Defensive end Blake Oliaro has got game

by Mike Sauer

Blake Oliaro is in a hurry — or, at least you'd think so, given the vast tracts of ground he covers with his brisk, bounding gait. In fact, trying to keep pace with the junior defensive end as he strides across Alcalá Park on a sweltering midsummer's day proves to be an exercise in frustration, and ultimately, futility. Sensing that his pace might be a touch too quick, Oliaro downshifts a few gears and offers an apology sprinkled with a dash of sarcasm.

"Sorry about that, man. Going a little too fast for you?"

As the reigning Pioneer Football League (PFL) Defensive Player of the Year, you get the sneaking suspicion it's a sentiment he's shared with every offensive lineman tasked with keeping Oliaro out of his team's backfield. "As a defensive end, it's one of the things you really love to do; disrupt the offense's timing by getting into their backfield and putting pressure on the quarterback," he says, then adds with characteristic candor, "If I can't do that, then what good am I for the team?"

There's a confidence in Oliaro's demeanor that's unmistakable, but it stops well short of the chest-thumping brashness displayed by so many athletes these days. It's borne of an unwavering belief that he can accomplish anything he sets his mind to, as is evidenced by the lofty goals he sets for himself on the field, and in the classroom.

"As a player and a person,



LUIS GARCIA

Blake is just solid," says USD Head Football Coach Ron Caragher. "He's really a great example of what a student-athlete can be; nobody works harder at maximizing their ability than Blake does, and when you consider how talented he is, that can only mean good things for our football program, and for the university."

You really can't blame Oliaro for

living life at breakneck speed, especially when considering that, as a mechanical engineering major minoring in chemistry, he has hardly a moment of downtime to spare during the school year, let alone football season. Oh, and then there are the pre-med courses he's taking with the plan of attending medical school to become an orthopedic surgeon. Add in the fact he's studying to take his Medi-

Reigning Pioneer Football League  
Defensive Player of the Year  
Blake Oliaro is a "great example  
of what a student-athlete can be,"  
according to Coach Ron Caragher.

cal College Admission Test in a few weeks, and well ... that's not just a full plate; that's Thanksgiving dinner with all the fixings — and several helpings thereafter.

For the ever-intrepid Oliaro — who maintains a 3.62 grade point average and is a member of the illustrious national engineering honor society, Tau Beta Pi — it's also par for the course. "Last year, I had meetings at 6:30 in the

morning, then had to sprint to class, which I was in until noon. Then I had to sprint back to practice, which started at 12:15. Then there were the four-hour organic chemistry labs, and then ..." he shakes his head and laughs, well aware that his daily routine might seem like a herculean undertaking to most. "I know it seems like a lot, and it is, but you learn to adjust. I can catch up on sleep later on."

Recruited out of high school as a safety, it quickly became clear to the USD coaching staff that Oliaro's impressive physical skills might be better utilized in a different position on the field, and that would require plenty of studying on his part. Oliaro would spend much of the time during his sophomore red-shirt year (a term used to describe a period of time when college athletes don't participate in their chosen sports in order to lengthen their period of eligibility) learning the nuances of the defensive end position.

Surprising to no one, he was a very quick study. "Moving from the secondary to the defensive line is a very difficult transition, but Blake managed the move very successfully. Actually, he didn't just manage it, he excelled at it," Caragher says.

The 2011 season proved to be Oliaro's breakout year, as his rare blend of size, speed and strength left many opposing PFL head coaches admiring his skillset, and admonishing their offensive line coaches. As one of only 20 defensive players nationally listed on the prestigious Buchanan Watch List, Oliaro knows full well that he's on everyone's radar this time around, and he's looking forward to the challenge of exceeding expectations — especially his own.

"Last year, I think I might've snuck up on a few people, but I know I've got a big target on my back this year. All that does is make me want to work harder and prove that last year wasn't some kind of fluke." 🏈

[ m o m e n t o u s ]

## THE BEAUTIFUL GAME

### USD to host 2012 women's soccer national championship

by Davis Jones '14

America's finest collegiate soccer teams are about to take center stage in America's Finest City.

In October 2011, the NCAA Championship Committee officially named USD's Torero Stadium as host venue for the 2012 Women's College Cup, the Division I Final Four of women's soccer. Semi-final games begin on Nov. 30, leaving two teams on Dec. 2 to battle for national supremacy.

"It is an exceptional honor for our university and community to get such a prestigious event on our campus," says USD Women's Head Soccer Coach Ada Greenwood.

Greenwood, a member of the NCAA competition committee, says the bid to host the event in San Diego was well received by his colleagues.

"It was pretty straightforward. With San Diego being such a strong soccer community, the school is a great environment to host this kind of event."

Torero Stadium certainly has a history of showcasing the sport's most talented players. Besides hosting opening rounds of the

NCAA tournament, it has also welcomed the Chivas Soccer Club, both the men's and the women's U.S. National team, and the L.A. Galaxy to the pitch.

The atmosphere, however, wasn't the only draw for committee members.

"Of course, the climate was very important," says Greenwood.

And rightfully so, especially when compared with the near-freezing conditions for last year's national championship game in Cary, N.C., where the College Cup has been played five times since 2000. San Diego will mark the championship's first visit to Southern California.

Greenwood says his players were "absolutely ecstatic" upon hearing the committee's selection of their school. "They are all so excited. Making the Final Four in our own city would be incredible."

Will this setting be just what USD needs to make an historic postseason run?

"There's a big challenge ahead of us. We have things we need to work on, but we're definitely excited for the possibilities." 🏈



BROCK SCOTT

## SPORTS BRIEFS

### Basketball season at USD

always starts in November, but the Torero men's 2012-13 schedule includes something new for Coach Bill Grier's program: a tournament at the Jenny Craig Pavilion. The Toreros — in conjunction with Plan BC3, LLC and Triple Threat Travel — will host a five-team event, the NUCDF Basketball Challenge, from Nov. 14-18. Tournament proceeds will raise awareness, support and research for the National Urea Cycle Disorders Foundation. For more information, go to [www.nucdf.org](http://www.nucdf.org).

**Construction of Fowler Park,** the on-campus ballpark scheduled to open in February 2013, is ongoing. To see the progress on the state-of-the-art stadium, go to [www.sandiego.edu/experience/fowler\\_park.php](http://www.sandiego.edu/experience/fowler_park.php).

**The Los Angeles Lakers** hired USD alumnus Mike Brown '93 (BBA) as its head coach last year. The team posted a 41-25 regular-season record and made it to the second round of the playoffs. While much of the team's off-season news focused on changes to the player roster, Brown also made significant changes to his coaching staff, including hiring fellow USD alumnus Bernie Bickerstaff '68 as an assistant coach. While at USD, Bickerstaff was a player (1964-66) and later, head coach (1969-73) before going on to coach in the NBA. Bickerstaff is credited with giving Brown his first NBA opportunity while the former was the Denver Nuggets' head coach in the mid-1990s.

**The USD Athletics' website,** [www.usdtoreros.com](http://www.usdtoreros.com), has been redesigned, with an increased emphasis on social media communication. Many USD teams now have their own Facebook pages and some have Twitter accounts, separate from USD Athletics' main Facebook page and Twitter account, @USDtoreros.



[superstar]

# STROKE OF GENIUS

**Acclaimed art historian Derrick Cartwright comes home to USD as director of university galleries**

by Karen Gross

After almost 15 years away from academia, renowned art historian and museum director Derrick Cartwright has returned to his roots at USD. And his homecoming has caused a stir among the entire visual arts community in and around San Diego.

"He's one of the very best," declared his longtime friend and collaborator Hugh Davies, director of the San Diego Museum of Contemporary Art. "I've been telling people for 20 years that he's the best museum director of his generation."

Cartwright — who began his career at USD as an assistant professor in 1992 — left the university in 1998 for a string of successful museum directorships in France, Dartmouth College, the San Diego Museum of Art and, most recently, the Seattle Art Museum. Cartwright has returned to a position created especially for him. He will serve as director of university galleries and professor of practice, overseeing and managing USD's four galleries and their collections, and teaching several undergraduate art history courses through the Department of Art, Architecture + Art History.

"I'm very excited to be back at USD," he says. "I hope by making this move back to academia I can reconnect with the art that was really the reason

I got into art history originally."

That pressing need to get closer to art itself was fueled by Cartwright's most recent stint in Seattle. His two-year tenure began at one of the most difficult times in recent memory for museums in this country, and he found himself spending much of his time dealing with an unexpected budget crisis and taking steps to re-stabilize the museum. "We did what we had to do to keep the museum going, but it was really challenging. But our Picasso exhibition, 'Picasso: Masterpieces from the Musée National Picasso, Paris,' brought in 400,000 visitors in a single year. That was the highest attendance for a museum exhibition in the United States, outside of New York," recalls Cartwright.

"We ended last year with the biggest surplus the museum had had in many years," he says. "I decided after that I was ready for a change."

Seattle's loss became San Diego's gain. By all accounts, Cartwright is much more than a brilliant scholar and masterful administrator. Colleagues, artists, academics and students respect and admire him on a personal level. He makes friends wherever he goes.

"It's a huge catch for USD in that respect," says Malcolm Warner, director of the Laguna Art Museum. The two are currently

collaborating on an exhibit that will feature the works of American painter Robert Henri. "When people think of Derrick, they think of the most thoughtful kind of museum directorship. He's a man of great integrity and has a supreme reputation among his peers and colleagues."

During his time away, Cartwright curated a USD exhibit with the help of three undergraduate students. "Character and Crisis: American Printmaking, 1920-1950," is on display at the Robert and Karen Hoehn Family Galleries in Founders Hall through Dec. 14, 2012.

His return to campus in an official role is a thrill for his colleagues. "He was absolutely a brilliant professor and scholar," says Fine Arts Professor Sally Yard, who first helped recruit him to the university more than two decades ago. "He's always been very deeply committed to the role of museums in the life of a city, a community and a university."

Cartwright believes his new position will keep him true to that commitment, and give him the leeway to channel his passions in positive and productive ways. "On a practical basis, the job is to take the university's separate gallery spaces and bring an overarching vision to them," he says. "I'm very eager to get back into that mindset

Colleagues, academics and students of Derrick Cartwright admire him on a personal level. He tends to make friends wherever he goes.

where it's less about finding resources to keep the doors open, and more about sharing why art is such an important part of our lives."

Cartwright also hopes to build lasting and reciprocal relationships with San Diego's art museums and the visual arts community as a whole, so that USD might occasionally borrow pieces of art for display in its own gallery spaces. Similarly, he hopes to send more USD students afield for practical internships in the community. "The university needs to integrate itself well, and be a good collaborator with these other institutions," he says.

That shouldn't be a problem. Cartwright already has an excellent reputation within the local arts world, dating back to his five years as director of the San Diego Museum of Art. He is known among his peers for welcoming partnership and working openly and collaboratively on projects and exhibits.

"He's such a bright colleague and so generous," says Davies. "To have his intellectual horsepower back in town is very good news." 📍

USD houses four exhibition spaces: the Hoehn Family Galleries, the May Gallery, the Fine Arts Galleries and the Exhibit Hall. To learn more, go to [www.sandiego.edu/artgalleries](http://www.sandiego.edu/artgalleries).



MARSHALL WILLIAMS



# Show me **the bunny**

**HOPPING** DOWN

**UNTRAVELED TRAILS**



There's a moment that feels like forever. It's the instant when anything is possible and all your dreams seem not just attainable, but inevitable. Then life intervenes, as it tends to. Plans change and happily ever after starts to look like a childish reverie. So you get practical and do what needs to be done.

But if you're smart, if you're paying attention, if you take charge of your own life and keep more or less on the path you've set, you may look around one day and see that against all odds, you've wound up on exactly the right road to get you where you didn't know you wanted to go.

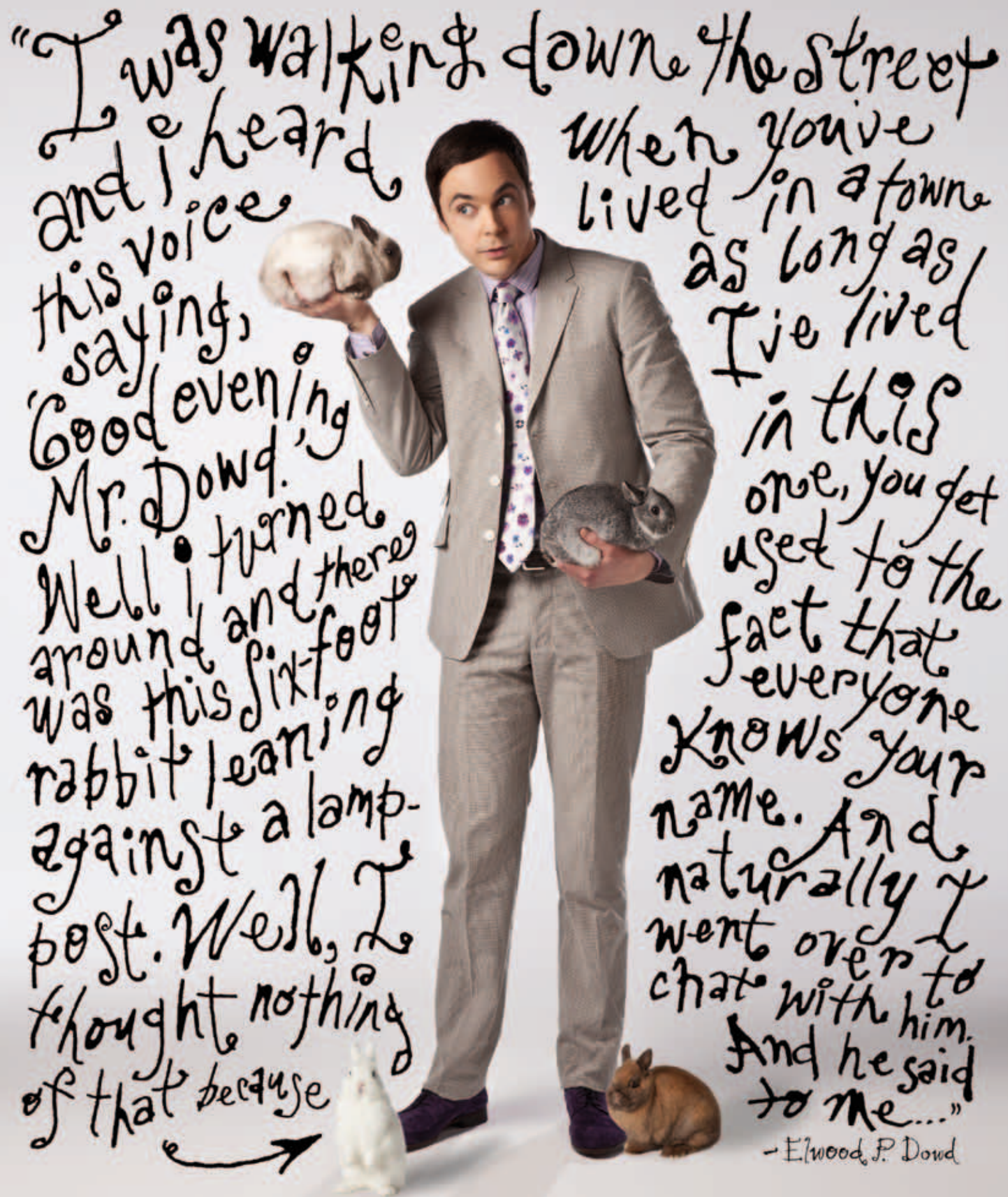
For the four alums in the pages that follow, there's a common thread: The best way to find fulfillment in work is to make it feel like play. Being famous isn't the point for Jim Parsons, who's found his way back to one of his first true loves. Claudia Dominguez delved deep inside herself, and then took a leap of faith. Kevin Petti has created a niche that allows him to share his love for interconnection. Tara Shiroff's career has taken a dramatic twist that she never saw coming.

They all reached for the carrot, and once they caught it, they held on for dear life.

[Photography by Tim Mantoani, Celeste Canino and Mark Mosrie]







# The Lovely Fellow

## JIM PARSONS TAKES ON BROADWAY

[NEW YORK] The heat bounces back and forth between the pavement below and the sullen sun above in unrelenting waves. But in spite of the record-shattering temperature — 95-plus degrees and rising — the throngs that flock to Times Square radiate more excitement than seems reasonable. Just a few blocks away, on West 53rd Street, a crowd is jockeying for position, cordoned off on the sidewalk by a line of no-nonsense police barricades. Periodically, a just-the-facts-ma'am type strides by and tells people to bunch up closer to the stage door.

Then, without warning, the stage door opens and it's him.

When actor Jim Parsons '01 (MFA) steps onto the sidewalk, it turns out that the crowd really can press closer together . . . a whole lot closer. He is tall, pale (or is that stage make-up?) and gracious, but he's on the move, signing autographs for those pressed against the metal cordons, not pausing for photos, nodding and smiling as a voice here calls out, "Jim!" and another yells, "Sheldon!" He just keeps moving, signing, nodding, signing, smiling, then Mr. No-Nonsense decides that's enough, and escorts Parsons into the backseat of a waiting car, which speeds down the street, takes a right and is gone. The crowd — some bereft, some still chattering with excitement — scatters, clutching autographed "Harvey" programs and posters and *Playbills*. A few look wistfully in the direction of the car that whisked Parsons away, then slowly make their way back toward 7th Avenue.

Is there any doubt that Jim Parsons has hit the big time? There really shouldn't be, what with the pair of Emmys he's won for his role as Dr. Sheldon Cooper on TV's "Big Bang Theory." Certainly, his star turn on Broadway this summer as Elwood P. Dowd — a dreamy soul whose best friend is a 6-foot-3 ½-inch-tall white rabbit — proves that his career has legs.

The reviews have been outstanding: "Mr. Parsons carries the weight of a role immortalized on film by the inimitable James Stewart as lightly as Elwood does the hat and coat he keeps on hand for his furry companion," said critic Charles Isherwood in *The New York Times*. "His quirky line readings and courtly, unfailingly chipper manner bring just the right mix of graciousness and oddball eccentricity," gushed David Rooney in *The Hollywood Reporter*.

At a mid-week matinee last July, Parsons lived up to, even surpassed, those stellar reviews. The play — which somewhat notoriously

won the Pulitzer Prize for Drama in 1945 over Tennessee Williams' "The Glass Menagerie" — is a charming period piece about an endearing oddball with a penchant for cocktails and, of course, that aforementioned furry, invisible bunny.

Parsons has an authentic niceness about him that made him a perfect fit for leading the cast of "Harvey." Elwood P. Dowd wants nothing more than to truly connect with everyone he meets, from solicitors on the phone to sanitarium nurses to taxicab drivers. The actor's timing and dynamic range served him well in his performance in the play, a gentle madcap comedy of errors in which Dowd's sister, Veta (played by Jessica Hecht), attempts to have him committed to an institution and winds up locked up herself through a series of misunderstandings.

Through it all, the character maintains his fundamental sweetness. In answer to a question about what he does, the character replies: "Oh, Harvey and I sit in the bars and have a drink or two, play the jukebox. And soon the faces of all the other people turn toward mine, and they smile. And they're saying, 'We don't know your name, mister, but you're a lovely fellow.'"

Clearly, Parsons is in his element on stage, and to hear him tell it, he's loved the spotlight since his breakout role as the Kolokolo Bird in a first-grade production of "The Elephant's Child."

"It's come to hit me that it was some sort of divine intervention, because looking back, it crystallized a lot of desires for me. I've known from roughly that age that that's what I wanted to do." Of course, being center stage in bright yellow tights and a breastplate his mother made out of paper feathers didn't hurt.

Parsons sees any number of parallels between the work he does on "Big Bang" and his longtime love for the stage, especially since the TV show is filmed before a live audience. "It's so similar to doing theater, in a lot of ways. But it's not like that thing with theater where you work and work and work on a play for four weeks, then little things really land, like plot lines and moments when the audience is right there. That always surprised me, but it surprises me more that it was a surprise to me. I mean, duh!" His work ethic clearly keeps him plenty busy; "Harvey" closed on Aug. 5, and he was back in Los Angeles taping "Big Bang" by Aug. 14.

Back in 2009, Parsons spoke at length with *USD Magazine* about his career trajectory. During that conversation, he waxed nostalgic about his time in New York, where he had moved immediately after completing his MFA at USD in 2001. "I miss New York in a lot of ways. As the saying goes, 'there's no place like it,' and that's really true. Even though it can be very hard." But as far as developing a sense of home? "Well, I feel pretty comfortable anywhere that I'm working."

Still, when he took his leave of Broadway for the second time — in 2011 he portrayed Tommy Boatwright in a production of "The Normal Heart" — and headed back to L.A., it's easy to imagine that a little piece of him remained in the Big Apple, perhaps wearing a fedora with two holes cut in it, the better to fit the long floppy ears. — *Julene Snyder*



# The Honest Artist

CLAUDIA DOMINGUEZ IS EXPLORING  
WHAT IT MEANS TO BE FEMALE

[SOUTH CAROLINA] Striking shapes and colors, boldly rendered. That's the hallmark of Claudia Dominguez '03, a visual artist whose work tells tales of her own story as an immigrant and a feminist. Change and transformation are recurring themes, which is apt; this past summer found her earning her graduate degree before packing up to move to South Carolina to start a teaching job at Coastal Carolina University.

Moving from Apex, N.C., to Myrtle Beach, S.C., may sound like a short hop to most of us, but it was no small matter for Dominguez, given the large quantity of marble and granite she keeps on hand to use when inspiration strikes. But even in the midst of upheaval, she had to have a creative project going. So she started a still-untitled series exploring another side of feminine identity.

"It's about my relationship with my own mom, and also all women's relationships with their own mothers. If we could all somehow change together, we could help each other break through the glass ceiling," she says. "This series focuses on embroidery, which is something I'm trying to get more proficient at. I'm already good at stone. Embroidery is very slow, but it's something I seem to turn to at times when I'm changing and moving."

Dominguez came to USD from her native Mexico to study art and she fit right in academically. Socially, however, she found America to be very different from Mexico's overt patriarchy. David Smith, then chairman of USD's art department, told her, "There are people who do what they want and they find a way to do that." It was valuable advice, since being a self-starter was a skill she had to work to learn.

"I thought America was so crazy that way, but now I get it," she says. "It was a big moment in my life, in this culture so strange with values I had such a hard time understanding. USD was a place where I could figure that out."

After earning her BA in fine arts from USD in 2003, Dominguez did a stonework apprenticeship in Italy. That's where she met her husband, an academic who teaches Italian. She came to North Carolina State University's School of Design when he was at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill earning a master's, and then followed him again to Myrtle Beach and a position of her own at Coastal Carolina (where her husband is, Dominguez quips, "the entire

Italian department"). Coming to the Carolinas after living in Southern California, Italy and Mexico brought on a much more intense level of culture shock than her previous move from Mexico to San Diego.

"It's a very different experience to be Mexican in the South than in California, so there was definitely some culture shock," Dominguez says. "In general, Southerners tend to think of minorities as African-Americans and not much else. Of course, there's been a lot of work in the South from African-Americans about minority roles in society, which was a rich thing for me to discover. And feeling like I was more on my own here also made me work harder at searching for who I was."

Eventually, Dominguez found her artistic identity on a series of trips home to Mexico, where she reconnected with her heritage — and felt like an immigrant in two places. Themes of connection and self-discovery dominated her NC State master's thesis, an ambitious seven-image visual memoir titled, "Transcending Cultural Boundaries," which used a variety of materials including marble, cotton, tree-bark paper, silk, felt, dried beans, corn husks and even burned pages from a Bible.

"She was very specific in choosing materials that convey meaning along with the imagery," says North Carolina State Professor Susan Brandeis, one of Dominguez's thesis advisors. "She made some really unusual choices, but each is embedded in her meaning. It's very strong work that tells her own story, as well as the story of people with lives in two different cultures, challenging assumptions about the role of women."

In "Transcending Cultural Boundaries," Dominguez depicted herself, as well as various figures from Mexico, including Sor Juana Indes de la Cruz (a 17th-century writer and nun, and the first Mexican feminist) and La Malinche (another historical figure, and a term that has come to be a derogatory term for those perceived to place too much value on foreign ideals). The in-progress series about Dominguez's mother is more personal in its outlook.

"When My Mother Was Everything" represents Dominguez's mother as an iconic, towering figure — almost like a pyramid, framed by a halo. It's based on Coatlicue, the "Mother of Gods"; Dominguez herself is represented as a small figure inside her. Another piece, "Hysteria," looks like the product of a bad fever dream from Dominguez's stormy adolescence.

"In that one, I'm a monster ripping my mom apart," she says. "She and I did have kind of a horrible relationship when I was growing up. Your mother is usually the first person to tell you what you can and cannot do, and that was definitely the case with mine."

So what does Dominguez's mother think of this?

"Oh, she loves it," Dominguez says, laughing. "She's so excited I'm an artist. She grew up in a small town and was a chemist, but she couldn't find a job, which she figured was because she's a woman. So she left for Mexico City to find a job. Even though I did not know this while growing up, she had her own struggle. And we've been able to mend some things through my art." — David Menconi







# The Creative Scientist

FOR **KEVIN PETTI**, THE SURFACE IS  
JUST THE **BEGINNING**

**[ITALY]** The room is a lot smaller than one would think. It's old; it's not well lit, humble at best. Still, just walking through the door of that unprepossessing chamber in Ospedale Santo Spirito, near the Vatican, was enough to take Kevin Petti's breath away. And his reaction had nothing to do with the fact that back in the late 15th century, the smell of unpreserved cadavers would have been pungent.

"The sense of history alone is enough to make you gasp," he says. "To be in the room where Leonardo da Vinci performed dissections, well, everybody gets very quiet. Of course, that's the thing about Italy. It's too much to digest all at once. That's why you have to keep coming back."

While the group of anatomy and physiology professors from the U.S. and Canada that Petti shepherded around Italy for 11 days this summer did hit the usual tourist spots — Rome, Florence, Venice — sightseeing was just a side dish to the main course: Petti's "Anatomia Italiana 2012," tailor-made to provide a below-the-surface anatomical and cultural tour of the Italian Peninsula. "People go to Rome, and flock to the Vatican, go in droves to the Uffizi," says Petti '06 (PhD). "But when we go to the Museo di Palazzo Poggi at the University of Bologna, we're the only ones there."

If he has his way, there will be at least one group of tourists coming through every summer from now on, eager to wander through cool rooms filled with wax models of human organs and bodies — with skin peeled away to reveal the mysteries beneath. Why? Well, to hear Petti tell it, Michelangelo's Pietà couldn't have existed without late-night forays to Florence's Church of Santo Spirito, where the then 17-year-old prodigy first explored human dissection in hopes of uncovering the secrets of the body. It's fascinating stuff, and Petti revels in getting others as excited about the intersection of art and anatomy as he is.

"Italy is the fountainhead of the Renaissance, but it's also the fountainhead of the life sciences," he explains. "When you look at the Renaissance masters, there's no way that Michelangelo's David could have been done without the study of anatomy. That was knowledge that stayed with him throughout his career."

Petti is a dapper fast-talker with a neatly trimmed goatee and piercing eyes. At a summer lecture for life-learners at USD's University of the Third Age, he offered up a rapid-fire overview of the many culturally

significant spots in Italy he's toured, such as the Luigi Cattaneo Anatomic Wax Museum at the University of Bologna and the University of Padua's Anatomic Theatre.

While of course the delights of Italy's wine, fresh pasta and historic beauty are legend, can learning about the history of anatomy along the way compare to more mainstream tourist spots? Absolutely, says Petti, who holds dual U.S./Italian citizenship.

"The University of Padua, outside of Venice, has the oldest dissection theater in the world, dating from 1594. William Harvey, the father of cardiovascular physiology, did his dissection in that room," Petti says. "All these great people that we teach our students about, this is where they worked. I mean, I stood at Galileo's podium. That's one of the big things that people take home from a trip like this. They were in the actual rooms, at the actual institutions that are still doing this work. And we're doing it too, now, in another part of the world. It gives us a connection to the history of our discipline. I think that's very meaningful."

How did Petti, a professor in the departments of science and health at San Diego Miramar College, come to make the leap from musculature to the masters? As it turns out, it's really not that much of a stretch. "I was part of the first cohort to earn their PhD from the School of Leadership and Education Sciences in 2006," he explains. "And I took full advantage of the interdisciplinary option. Dean Paula Cordeiro is a big proponent of that approach; fully a third of my units were earned through the School of Nursing."

The notion that seemingly disparate studies are connected is interlaced through the courses he teaches at Miramar as well. "With everything I do, every course I teach, I really emphasize the multicultural, the interdisciplinary aspect. It's all interconnected," Petti says that for as long as he can remember, he's been intensely interested in bodies, in sport and in fitness. He had initially planned to spend his career working with athletes, but once he started teaching, he quickly changed his trajectory.

"My dissertation was really the impetus for Anatomia Italiana," he recalls. "That's when I started really thinking about weaving interdisciplinary studies into the undergraduate curriculum."

And his 2012 tour built upon the groundwork he'd laid on a 2009 trip to the Italian Peninsula. "I was astonished at how well it went this time," he says. "Everyone seemed to find it really meaningful, really impactful."

One of the 2012 participants, Peggy LePage, a professor at North Hennepin College in Minnesota, agrees. "It is difficult to describe how we felt standing in the exact spot [da Vinci] stood. In awe only comes close," she said in a blog post about her experience.

For Petti, it's really all threads from the same vast tapestry. "Look, anatomy as a science, it permeates art, culture, literature. Regardless of your faith, among all the world's religions, what's the greatest of God's creations? The body. And what is the body? Is it the vessel of the soul? If you're Christian, is it the vehicle for the Resurrection?" He pauses, waiting, then answers his own question. "Well, that's a big deal." — *Julene Snyder*



# The Genuine Article

## TARA SHIROFF'S LEGAL ACUMEN HITS THE SMALL SCREEN

[LAS VEGAS] Since the early days of grainy, black-and-white images and rabbit-ear antennas, television crime dramas have alternately startled, confounded and captivated generations of small-screen audiences. And perhaps no series in the genre's history has been more effective in glamorizing the science of catching bad guys than "CSI: Crime Scene Investigation." Strange though it may seem, the state-of-the-art technology employed by characters Dr. Gil Grissom and Catherine Willows in their pursuit of justice has made the formally esoteric and, occasionally, macabre practice of gathering crime scene evidence seem ... well, downright cool.

For Tara (Hamilton) Shiroff '02, a legal consultant for "CSI: Las Vegas," that perception has its benefits — and its drawbacks. "I enjoy researching the questions the show writers have about the correlations between developing an interesting script, and following the guidelines of the law." She pauses, acutely aware of the paradox her career path has provided. "As a lawyer, I notice that jurors want to know where the DNA evidence is, and all the cool stuff they see on TV shows that are brought into court cases. It's known as the 'CSI Effect,' and it tends to create an unreasonable expectation on the value of forensic evidence in some cases."

For the past six years, Shiroff has adroitly balanced the demands of a successful career in civil litigation with her work on "CSI," a gig that the Las Vegas native adamantly declares "is really not as glamorous as it sounds. I'm not on the set chatting with the actors. It's more research than anything." Ah yes, but it's intriguing research — like determining whether or not casino chips discovered in concrete can be cashed in 50 years after their issuing (yes), or how many women in a house constitutes a brothel (depends on the county in which it's located).

And it all began with a casual afternoon visit to her law school campus. Back in 2006, Shiroff was just a year removed from receiving her JD from UNLV's William S. Boyd School of Law. While perusing an alumni newsletter, she came across an ad for an on-campus presentation discussing the CSI effect, which would be led by two of the show's researchers. While she found the presentation informative, what really grabbed her attention was the fact that the show's researchers, David Berman and John Wellner, were also supporting cast members.

Reserved by nature, Shiroff suppressed an initial urge to head for the exit and struck up a conversation with Berman and Wellner. Turns out the chat also served as a mini audition. "They asked me what I did, then told me that they really needed a Nevada attorney who could advise them on the consistency and the authenticity of their scripts, and asked me if that would be something I'd be interested in. I figured I'd never hear from them, but I got a call the next day." Since then, she's spoken with one or both of them several times a week. The experience has been incredibly rewarding on a variety of levels. "They ask me everything under the sun in terms of making sure things are authentic, and it's a challenge to keep up with all the topics the writers want to cover."

Truth be told, Shiroff would've been perfectly content focusing her energies on her responsibilities with law firm Lewis Brisbois Bisgaard & Smith LLP, and if the folks at "CSI" happened to call, she'd have been more than happy to help. However, in 2009, Berman and Wellner — who had started their own Los Angeles-based legal research firm — were singing Shiroff's praises to a group of executives at the Lifetime Network who were developing a legal comedy-drama called, "Drop Dead Diva." The story centered on a plus-sized female lawyer whose body becomes inhabited by the soul of a recently deceased fashion model, and a whole host of hijinks ensue. Sound like a stretch? Shiroff and her husband thought so. At least at first.

"I was reading the initial script with my husband, and he was telling me how he thought it would never fly, how it was a crazy premise," she recalls, laughing. "But the characters are very relatable, and what do you know? It's become one of the most successful shows the network has ever produced." Now into its fourth season, "Drop Dead Diva" and its life-affirming plot lines have struck a chord with a broad viewership, and Shiroff, who serves as the show's lead legal consultant, feels its success is attributable to a universal axiom that she embraced during her undergraduate years as a political science major at USD.

"It really comes down to feeling comfortable in your own skin, and that's one of my treasured memories of USD — just how comfortable and happy I was while I was there," she says. Shiroff graduated summa cum laude with a degree in political science, but perhaps even more importantly, she walked away from Alcalá Park with a heightened understanding of what it takes to be successful in law — and in life.

"I would absolutely credit Del Dickson, my faculty advisor at the time, for some great advice he gave me about pursuing a career in law. He told me that networking is absolutely critical to the opportunities you create for yourself, and that you need to be aware of when to make those connections."

And right there, Tara Shiroff's journey from USD classrooms to Hollywood courtrooms is perfectly encapsulated: "Who knows? If I didn't take that advice to heart, I may not have gone up to the podium and introduced myself six years ago." — *Mike Sauer*





[generosity]

# KEEP ON PAYING IT FORWARD

## Alumni Endowed Scholarship Fund reaches \$1 million goal

by Krystn Shrieve

**M**ark Hoekstra '86 knows the importance of scholarships from every angle — as a student, as a parent of a daughter who graduated in 2012, as an alumnus on USD's Alumni Association Board of Directors, and even as someone who reads scholarship applications from students in the Burnham-Moores Center for Real Estate.

Each year, from among the many deserving students, Hoekstra must pick one to receive a scholarship through the California Homebuilding Foundation from the Ernest W. Hahn Endowment. The scholarship, which is named for Hoekstra's grandfather, a trustee emeritus for whom the Hahn University Center is named, was established in 1990, prior to the launch of the real estate program in 1993 and well before the Burnham-Moores Center for Real Estate was named in 2004.

"The world is in great hands if these students are an example of our future," Hoekstra says. "The achievements they have experienced and the obstacles they have overcome in their short lives are inspiring and motivating to me."

It was the stories of so many students that inspired Hoekstra to think big and challenge his fellow alumni board members to raise \$1 million for alumni endowed scholarships — a goal they reached during the summer of 2012.

"Achieving this milestone shows the power of the Alumni Association, our alumni leaders and the



LAUREN RADACK

love that they have for this university," says Charles Bass, director of alumni relations. "It also shows how every gift, no matter the size, can add up to benefit our students for a lifetime."

The ambitious seven-figure quest started in 2006 when Shannon Smith '86 first established the Alumni Endowed Scholarship

The USD Wine Classic has helped the Alumni Endowed Scholarship reach its \$1 million goal. Nearly 70 percent of students at the university benefit from some sort of financial aid.

Fund. The next year, while the board discussed its annual goals, Hoekstra, then the chair of its finance committee, suggested the board commit to a \$1 million goal.

To make it happen, board member Kevin Dooley '93 established the Wine Classic in 2009; with proceeds supporting the Alumni Endowed Scholarship Fund.

Hoekstra says there are several things that make USD's Wine Classic special — and different from other wine-tasting events.

First, all of the vineyards are connected in some way to USD. The dozens of owners or vintners are USD alumni, USD parents or have some other close tie to the university. Also, the people who are

pouring the wines aren't sales staff; rather, they're owners, vintners or others who are involved in the winemaking process. The setting — the Joan B. Kroc Institute of Peace & Justice's scenic Garden of the Sea, which overlooks the Pacific Ocean — is arguably one of the most beautiful in San Diego. And finally, the fundraising component is an integral part of the event. At least half of the guests are alumni, who understand the importance of scholarships.

"Nearly 70 percent of the students at USD are on some sort of financial aid," Hoekstra says. "The rallying cry, the thing that resonates with everyone, is scholarships. The biggest growth in our alumni population was from the late 70s to the early 90s. They all recognize the value and importance of scholarships."

In its inaugural year, the Wine Classic drew 400 guests and raised \$20,000. In four short years, the numbers skyrocketed to 700 and the event has brought in a combined total of more than \$150,000 to help reach the \$1 million mark.

"As founder of the Wine Classic, I am extremely proud of how the university's administration, the Board of Trustees, the alumni office, our amazing faculty and my fellow alumni have been so supportive of the event and its goals," says Dooley. "This is my final year on the Alumni Board, but USD is a part of my foundation that can't be removed."

Dooley says it was his parents who inspired him to make a difference as a donor and as an active alumnus. He also volunteers at Homecoming Weekend and attends Alumni Honors.

"Today, it is the students and faculty of USD that inspire me, knowing that even a gift of \$100 toward the Alumni Endowed Scholarship Fund, volunteering at Homecoming, or championing the USD Wine Classic can help a student fulfill their dream of a college degree. I hope that my involvement will help future Toreros." 🍷

[fighter]

## SECOND WIND

### Alumna Anna Young's quest to breathe

by Krystn Shrieve

**O**nce, Anna Young could sprint 200 meters in 28 seconds. Now she struggles to walk 250 meters in six minutes.

She fights for each breath. It started when she was 8 years old. She noticed, out on the soccer field, that she couldn't seem to catch her breath. Doctors thought it was asthma and gave her an inhaler. She'd use it before gym class and it seemed to work — for a while.

Young, 31, has a rare, degenerative lung disease. Each breath is excruciating. When most people breathe in, the diaphragm pulls down so the lungs can inflate. When they breathe out, the diaphragm goes up, shrinking the size of the lungs and pushing air out. Young's diaphragm is extremely weak and works against her — pulling up when it should be pulling down. So every breath is like a tug of war.

Young made it through high school, often hiding when she couldn't breathe and pretending she was okay when she wasn't. She graduated from USD in 2006, sometimes testing her body to see if she could make it up a flight of stairs only to wind up in the hospital. She went on to work in the media relations office for the San Diego Padres. Eventually, working even part time became too difficult.

Through the years, her need to use the inhaler became more frequent. Her list of medications grew longer and visits to the doctor turned into long stays in the hospital. Her life has been a series of adaptations. She's tried every type of medication and given traditional and alternative therapies a shot. She

can't say more than a few words at a time without stopping to gasp for air — and the oxygen tank is never far away.

Now her best hope is a double lung transplant. She's fourth on the list for her blood type at the UCLA Medical Center.

"The day I found out was one of the best days of my life," says Young. "I'm blessed that the doctors are giving me this chance. It's what keeps me going."

Young, an organ donor herself, can't express just how grateful she'll be to the donor she'll never know. "I know someone will be dying so that I can have a new life," she says. "After a year, I can write to the donor's family, maybe meet them and learn about the person who gave me the chance to breathe."

Finding the perfect donor — who's the right age, blood type, and even the right height — could take anywhere from two months to three years. The procedure will cost \$1.1 million, and Young has applied for grants and is raising money to pay for the procedure, follow-up care and pricey medications.

"It's amazing to see the love and support, and it's inspiring to know that even strangers want to help," says Young, who someday hopes to establish a foundation for others, like her, who are looking for someone who understands what they're going through. "I can't wait for the day when I don't have to think about breathing. I want everyone to know that I'll appreciate each breath, each day, for the rest of my life." 🌬️

To learn more, please go to [www.annassecondwind.com](http://www.annassecondwind.com).

## ALUMNI BRIEFS

### Homecoming and Family

**Weekend 2012** takes place Oct. 12-14. Events planned for this popular celebration include tours, talks, open houses and a variety of alumni reunion celebrations. Be sure to attend the tailgate and football game, where the Toreros will face-off with the Campbell Camels at Torero Stadium. For more information, go to [www.sandiego.edu/hfw](http://www.sandiego.edu/hfw) or call (619) 260-4819.

### The Young Alumni Network

(YAN), in collaboration with the University of San Diego Alumni Association, aims to create and maintain an association dedicated to serving the social and professional networking needs of alumni who've graduated within the past 10 years. Over the past year, YAN has made great efforts in meeting its goals through webinars and creating a growing social media presence. Connect with us via Facebook at [www.facebook.com/usdyan](http://www.facebook.com/usdyan) or follow us on Twitter, @USDYoungAlumni.


### The Alumni Association is

currently developing other targeted programs for alumni. If you would like to be involved in the development of a mid-career alumni group for alumni who are 11 to 40 years out, please email [alumni@sandiego.edu](mailto:alumni@sandiego.edu).

### Toreros are sharing

their life experiences and adventures by submitting class notes to [classnotes@sandiego.edu](mailto:classnotes@sandiego.edu). Each issue of *USD Magazine* is built around the inspiring exploits of amazing alumni. Submit your class note today for the Summer 2013 issue online at [www.sandiego.edu/publications/classnotes](http://www.sandiego.edu/publications/classnotes).



Nothing could make Ashworth  
happier. 



1960s

[1960] **JANET (NAIDL) SILER (BA)** is a retired anesthesiologist and has been a member of the Burlington County Medical Reserve Corps since 2007. She was named the organization's 2010 Volunteer of the Year. Her volunteer assignments have included flu clinics, a homeless count, a Red Cross shelter for flood victims and more. She also has served as a chaplain's aide at Virtua Hospital, as a community member on an oncology research board, and assists with family genealogy research in New Jersey and Pennsylvania.

[1964] **DELLE WILLETT** is planning an alumni reunion at Homecoming for all past members of USD's cheer/spirit/dance teams.

[1965] **AGNES WEST-KOHLER (BA)** writes, "I'm loving being back in San Diego!" She has participated in a second session with USD's University of the Third Age and is involved with the choir and the office at St. Paul's Cathedral. "All three children have been to visit and I've been to visit them, too, in New York; Helena, Mont.; and San Francisco."

[1966] **ARDEL NELSON (BA)** retired as a professor of management and chair of the management department at American River College due to a medical disability.

1970s

[1970] **RICHARD GARDNER (BS)** is an urgent care physician as part of the VCMC network, affiliated with the University of California, Los Angeles. He also has been involved in sleep medicine since receiving board certification in 2007. Previously, he was a solo practice physician in Moorpark, Calif., for 25 years.

[1973] **TIMOTHY HERMSEN (BA, MS '75)** and his wife, Mary (Kennedy) '72, celebrated their 38th wedding anniversary on Feb. 1, 2012.

[1977] **HEATHER WISHIK (JD)** co-au-

thored three chapters in a new book by Martin N. Davidson titled, *The End of Diversity as We Know It: Why Managing Diversity Fails and How Leveraging Difference Can Succeed*, which was published in 2011.

1980s

[1981] **FATHER HENRY RODRIGUEZ (BA)** is pastor of St. Jude Shrine of the West, a community organizer with the San Diego Organizing Project, a police and fire department chaplain, and former FBI chaplain.

[1982] **DONNA (HAFF) SKAHILL (BA)** and her husband, Vince '83, joined the Peace Corps and planned to travel to Micronesia/Palau in June 2012 to teach for three years.

[1984] **JACQUELINE (FARNAN) AKERBLOM (BBA)** relocated from San Jose, Calif., in February 2012 to become the Southern California managing partner at Grant Thornton LLP, responsible for the firm's Los Angeles, Irvine and San Diego offices.

**VICTOR TORRES (BA, JD '88)** was recognized as Attorney of the Year by San Diego La Raza Lawyers in October 2011. He also was awarded the Pro Bono Service Award by Legal Services Corporation for his work with California Rural Legal Assistance. Victor is the 2011-12 treasurer for the San Diego County Board of Directors and he is the spokesperson for El Grupo, a coalition of human rights organizations in San Diego's North County.

[1985] **MATT MCGOWAN (BA)** and his wife, Jacinta, have a 7-year-old daughter who is learning piano and participating in school drama performances. Matt is a devout Nichiren Shoshu Buddhist.

**ROBERTO SANTILLAN (MA)** is a guidance counselor for the Bullhead City Elementary School District in Arizona. He has accepted a school psychologist position in the district for the 2012-13 school year.

[1986] **MONICA VAN DER WERF (BBA)** earned an MBA in finance from San

Diego State University. She lives with her 13-year-old daughter in Phoenix and says they just returned from an adventure in Uganda. She is a contractor administrator for San Diego's Genesis Healthcare Partners, a multi-specialty group of 30 physicians. She is also on the board of directors for Efforts to Educate the Needy Children of Uganda.

[1987] **ROBERTO RODRIGUEZ (BA, MA '92)** recently celebrated his 25-year anniversary as a high school teacher. He is vice president of the Sweetwater Education Association. "My passion as an advocate for public education has led me to run for office," he says. "I am a candidate for the Palomar College Governing Board."

1990s

[1991] **DIANA (DUDOIT) RAICHE (MA)** graduated from The Catholic University of America in May 2011 with a PhD in religious education/catechetics. She served as visiting assistant professor of theology in the School of Ministry at the University of Dallas for 2011-12 and was recently appointed assistant professor of theology (a tenure-track position) for the 2012-13 academic year. From 2003 to 2011, she was executive director of the department of religious education at the National Catholic Educational Association.

[1992] **BARBARA MCNAIR (MA)** has served as executive director of the East County Council on Aging, and as chair and vice chair of the Catholic Charities Foster Grandparent Program Advisory Council for San Diego and Imperial counties since 1992. She also has been president of Pug Rescue of San Diego County since 1996. Last year, Pug Rescue celebrated 20 years of service and received proclamations from both the San Diego County Board of Supervisors and the Office of the Mayor of the City of San Diego. Barbara and her partner recently returned from an 11-day cruise in the Southern Caribbean, where they celebrated their 10th anniversary.

**KRISTIN INGRAO RUDE (BA)** has been married for 16 years and has two children: a son, 4, and a daughter, 2. Kristin is the owner

and center director of FasTrackKids Preschool in Del Mar, Calif.

**MARINA (CLINE) SMALLEY (BBA)** writes, "2011 was a big year for the Smalley family." On May 10, 2011, they welcomed Isabella Sofia into the world and in late September, the family relocated to Houston.

[1993] **SUSAN NUGENT (BA)** teaches fourth grade at Pepper Drive Elementary in El Cajon, Calif., where she also is working with master gardeners to bring native habitat to the school. Susan has seven beautiful grandchildren and recently celebrated her 35th wedding anniversary.

**BRIAN POWERS (BA)** and his wife, Elizabeth, welcomed a new baby, Primrose Christine, on Jan. 23, 2011.

[1994] **SCOTT CARR (BBA)** and his wife, Heather Rosing, welcomed their first child, Archer Preston, on Aug. 15, 2011, in San Diego. Scott reports that mother and son are doing well, and requests any alumni who work at Starbucks, The Coffee Bean, or any other establishment that serves caffeine to please contact him immediately.

**KEVIN SCHULTZ (BA)** is preparing to depart on his second patrol as commanding officer of the nuclear ballistic missile submarine, *USS Alabama*, homeported in Bangor, Wash. "No, I don't have a Jack Russell Terrier," he writes. "Yes, I do get questions about the movie 'Crimson Tide' from just about everybody who visits the boat." Schultz lives in Bremerton, Wash., with his wife, Amy, and their two sons, Brian and Greg. "We love the Pacific Northwest environment, especially hiking, snowshoeing and kayaking. Back in November 2011, I had the privilege to visit USD and talk to the NROTC midshipmen about my career in the submarine force. It was great to see USD and how much the campus has changed."

[1995] **MICHELLE (MAROOT) DIEBERT (BA, MEd '98)** and her husband, Stan, have twin sons, Rocky and Max, who were born on July 13, 2011.

**LAURA HOFFMAN ROPPE (JD)** and her husband, Brad '95, graduated from USD's School of Law together. Laura is now a singer-songwriter;

in December 2011 she was named No. 5 on Billboard's Best of 2011 chart for the top 50 emerging artists in the world. In March 2012, her book, *Rocking the Pink*, became available at all bookstores (both online and brick-and-mortar). Her website is [www.lauraroppe.com](http://www.lauraroppe.com).

[1997] **KELLY (KREISLE) BURKE (BBA)** and her husband, Ashley, welcomed their second child, Evan James, on Nov. 30, 2011. The family lives in Orange County, Calif.

**ASHRAF KASTO (BA)** is an emergency room (ER) doctor at Sharp Grossmont Emergency Room, the largest and busiest ER in San Diego County.

[1998] **JEFF CHAPMAN (BA)** and his wife, Lisa Nicola '98, live in the Los Angeles community of Eagle Rock, and they recently welcomed their second child, Ryder. Jeff is the director of an environmental education center in East Los Angeles.

**ANGELA (KIGGINS) DI'LORENZO (BA)** works in the legal field of the film and television industry.

**BRIAN SANCHEZ (BA)** owns a non-medical in-home care company in Orange County and Los Angeles County.

[1999] **CHRISTINA (SMITH) GIBSON (BBA)** and her husband, Lee, welcomed a daughter, Emma, on Jan. 24, 2012, in England.

**NICOLE (NICKOLOFF) HUMPHRY (BA)** and her husband, Tim, own and operate Humphry's in San Clemente, Calif. They offer specialty sandwiches, salads, wraps, burgers and brew. Nicole is a fourth-generation restaurateur and is looking forward to opening more locations with her husband. The couple lives in San Clemente with their sons, Cole, 9, and Bryce, 7.

**SHERI ANN FORBES MURRAY (JD)** joined the Nevada Attorney General's Office on March 19, 2012, where she is in the Bureau of Consumer Protection and is working to redress the mortgage fraud cases that have contributed to Nevada's high foreclosure rate.



BARBARA FERGUSON

[sugar and spice]

**JOHN VANDERVEEN '09 (MBA)** and his wife, Erin, an assistant director of university events and promotions at USD, are overjoyed to announce the birth of their daughter, Audrey Marie, on April 16. She was 7 pounds, 1 ounce and 20.5 inches. Audrey joins proud big brother, William, who is almost 3. "Welcome to the world, Audrey!," say the proud parents. If you'd like to share a photo of your own new arrival or other milestone occasion for consideration for the print edition of *USD Magazine*, email your class note (along with a high resolution photo) to [classnotes@sandiego.edu](mailto:classnotes@sandiego.edu). Please note that while we are unable to print every photo we receive, we can certainly share your photo and class note with fellow Toreros in the magazine's Web edition.

**J. KENT THURSTON (MBA)** is the owner and chef of three restaurants in Palm Beach, Fla.: Cucina Dell'Arte, Nick & Johnnie's and Cha Cha's, "a tapas place partly inspired by time spent at Olé Madrid in the Gaslamp, where I met my wife, Trish, while attending USD!"

boys — ages 3, 6 and 8 — while he attends Loma Linda University Dental School (Class of 2015).

**MELISSA (MERIWETHER) SIPOWICZ (BA)** and her husband, Tim, proudly welcomed another daughter, Mila Kate, on Nov. 15, 2011. Big sister Meg Rorie was born on March 15, 2010.

Ryan Elizabeth, 2; and London Kathleen, 6 months. Justin and Denise both joined the North County San Diego Alumni Group recently.

**MICHELLE (RICHMAN) SU (BA)** and her husband, Kevin, welcomed their second child, Colin Alexander, on Nov. 28, 2011.

**CHRISTINE MOTSCHMAN WANNER (BA, BBA '01)** moved to Washington, D.C., after earning a master's degree in nursing from the University of California, San Francisco. She is a pediatric, neonatal and pediatric cardiac intensive care nurse at Children's National Medical in the critical care float pool. She also volunteers as a pediatric intensive care nurse during her vacations with International Children's Heart Foun-

[2001] **BRETT BANDUCCI (BA, MA '09)** returned to California in July 2011 after spending two years teaching history at the International School of Panama in Panama City, Panama. He is now working at a private day school in Irvine, Calif.

**JUSTIN PEEK (BA)** and his wife, Denise '01, have been living in Carlsbad, Calif., since 2004 and are the proud parents of two young girls:

2000s

[2000] **JAYMIE GONZAGA (MA)** is an adjunct counselor at Miramar, Palomar and Mira Costa community colleges. Jaymie teaches college success skills at the schools as well.

**CHARLES SCHEIN (BBA)** writes that his wife, Monica (Escobedo) '00, is busy taking care of their three





[visionary]

## WHERE THE POSSIBILITIES ARE ENDLESS

Jamal Al Sharif is helping Dubai become a major global player

by Mike Sauer

In the span of just a few decades, the Emirate of Dubai has grown from a sparsely populated principality into one of the planet's most prolific business hubs. Its crown jewel, Dubai City, glimmers like an oasis at the edge of the Arabian Desert; offering the promise of prosperity through an ever-expanding economy.

Jamal Al Sharif '99 has had a front-row seat to Dubai's meteoric rise since the turn of the 21st century. And when it comes to encapsulating the spirit and vibrancy of his beloved home city, he shares a phrase that just might become the region's rallying cry: In Dubai, everything is possible, and nothing is impossible.

"His Highness (United Arab Emirates Vice President and Prime Minister Sheikh Mohamed bin Rashid Al Maktoum) once said that, and it resonated with me," Al Sharif says. "He isn't afraid to take chances, and his commitment to Dubai's development is one of the reasons I'm where I am today."

Where he is today is at the helm of Dubai Media City (DMC), a government-built business park that has become the central media hub of the Arab world. More than 1,800 companies occupy space in the DMC, and big-name media outlets, such as Reuter's and CNBC, use the facility as the base of their operations in

the region. The 37-year-old Al Sharif also oversees Dubai Studio City, a subsidiary of Dubai Media City that caters to film and TV companies around the world by providing studios, sound stages and other industry-related infrastructure for production purposes.

Not too shabby for a fellow who, 20 years ago, left Dubai for San Diego with little money ... and even less of an idea of where his future would lead him. "When I came to the U.S., I did so with the intention of advancing my education," he recalls. "I struggled with the language, I didn't have a lot of money, and it was a very challenging time, as I'm sure it is for a lot of international students."

After arriving stateside, Al Sharif spent time studying English, ultimately finding his way to Alcalá Park in 1997. Originally interested in engineering, he decided to take a few business courses at the urging of mentor and Associate Professor of Finance Dan Rivetti. Today, he is quick to credit Rivetti for helping him find his academic footing. "He really challenged me, but he also went out of his way to help me. I'll never forget that."

Al Sharif was also impressed by the work ethic of his peers in the business administration program, specifically the students who, like him, were not just learning new ideas, but a new

language. "In several of my business classes, we would work in teams. It really helped me understand the importance of connection, and why connection is such a wonderful idea to carry forward into business."

With his business administration degree in hand, Al Sharif then pursued a real estate license and began buying and selling properties in and around San Diego. The endeavor proved a profitable one, but in 2001, a life-changing opportunity appeared, and Al Sharif was soon packing his bags for a return trip to Dubai to work as a junior account manager for DMC.

Just over a decade later, Al Sharif has risen to the apex of Dubai's communication division, and recently was named chairman of the board of the Dubai Film Commission. He also serves as the film and TV commissioner for the Dubai government, while still

holding down his executive responsibilities with DMC, which include orchestrating their strategic and financial objectives, as well as making sure that each and every company within the massive, 22 million square-foot business park have optimized operational and technical support. That mountain of professional responsibility would be enough to keep several people working full time, but Al Sharif remains unfailingly positive, and seems to relish the challenge.

"I've got a lot of responsibilities, but I've also got a lot of really intelligent, talented people working for me. We work together, establish goals and organize a plan to achieve those goals." He exhales heavily, perhaps reflecting on the enormity of the challenge facing him, then adds with a laugh, "Remember, in Dubai, everything is possible, and nothing is impossible!" 🇦🇪

dition ([www.babyheart.org](http://www.babyheart.org)), which provides free heart surgeries for children with congenital heart disease and teaches local nurses, doctors and health care professionals how to care for these patients. This work has taken her to Nasiriyah, Iraq (July 2011 and January 2012); Guayaquil, Ecuador (December 2012); Al Najaf, Iraq (February 2012); and Benghazi, Libya (March 2012). Christine will be volunteering with ICHF again starting in mid-November 2012.

[2002] 🎓

**JESSICA DeVREEZE (BA)** transitioned from her job at USAID, Office of Iraq Reconstruction, in Washington, D.C., to manager of business development at the Justice Institute of British Columbia in Vancouver, Canada.

**ROBERT PINTARIC (BA)** and his wife, Elizabeth, welcomed their first child, Leah Hoffmann, into the world on July 15, 2011. They live in Monterey, Calif.

**TARA (HAMILTON) SHIROFF (BA)** recently joined the law firm of Lewis Brisbois Bisgaard & Smith as an associate. She practices in all areas of civil litigation, including commercial litigation, product and premises liability, and insurance defense. Tara has spent her legal career defending insurance companies, businesses, casinos, hospitals, nursing professionals and physicians. Since 2006, she has been the legal consultant for the CBS television series "CSI: Crime Scene Investigation" and since 2009, she has served as lead legal consultant for "Drop Dead Diva." (See story on page 22.)

[2003]

**WINDUS FERNANDEZ BRINK-KORD (BA)** and her husband, Kurt, adopted two babies who are siblings, just eleven months apart in age.

**BASIL CONSIDINE (BA)** has been awarded a fellowship to conduct ethnographic research on the island of Mauritius. He is currently a doctoral student in musicology at Boston University.

**EMILY COONFIELD (MEd)** is a PhD student in the educational leadership and policy studies program at the University of Kansas and is currently writing her dissertation. She teaches the fifth grade at Eugene Ware Elementary School in Kansas

City, Kan., and is a beginning teacher-mentor. Emily was recently nominated Kansas Star Teacher of the Year. She and her fiancé, Daniel Lalich, a cytopathology fellow at the University of Kansas Medical Center, live in Kansas City.

**BONNIE ANN DOWD (EdD)** was appointed by the Board of Trustees of the San Diego Community College District as the new executive vice chancellor for business services. She brings 22 years of experience as a faculty member and administrator in California community colleges, and served most recently as vice president of finance and administrative services. Bonnie taught business at Palomar College for 16 years and now holds faculty emeritus status. She also is president of the California Community Colleges' Association of Chief Business Officials.

**RYAN HAMILTON (BBA)** says his exotic car dealership, Celebrity Cars Las Vegas, is inside the Palazzo Hotel on the Las Vegas strip. He also has an Italian restaurant, Dal Toro, which is part of the facility. His website is [www.celebritycarslasvegas.com](http://www.celebritycarslasvegas.com).

**VANESSA (VITELA) JACOBS (BA)** moved across the country after graduation with her husband-to-be, Mike. They were married at USD in November 2006 and are now raising their 4-year-old twin daughters and new baby daughter, 19 months, in Chula Vista, Calif.

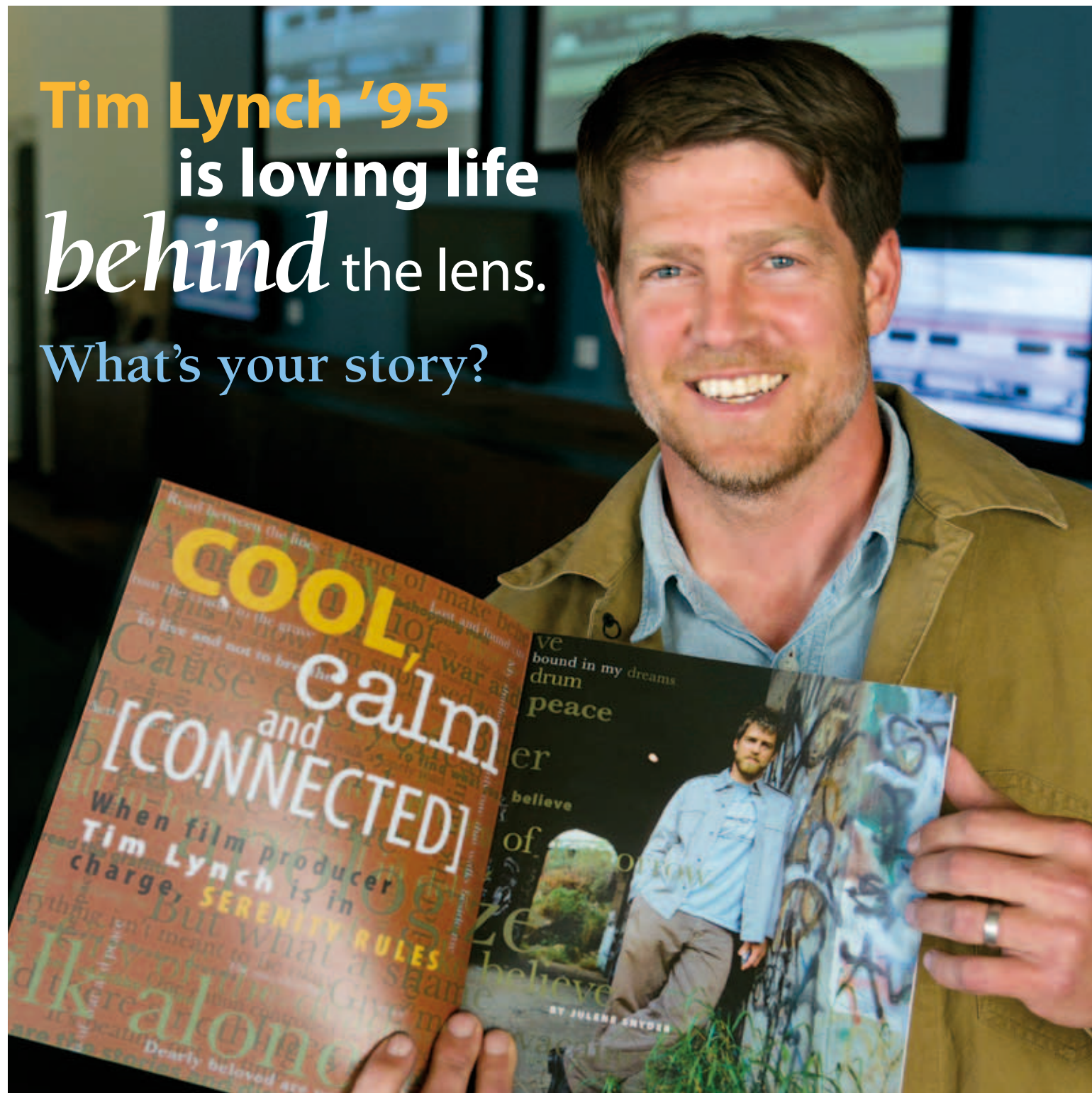
**KATE NASMAN REIDEL (BS)** and her husband, Chris, welcomed a baby boy, Lincoln Vedder, on Nov. 8, 2010. The family lives in Yorba Linda, Calif. Kate works for Fontaney Woods in Orange County.

**RYAN STACK (BA, JD '06)** and his wife, Heather (Barnes) '04, welcomed their second daughter, Madelyn Mae, into the world on April 22, 2012. Madelyn weighed 8 pounds, 1 ounce, and was 20.5 inches long.

**COURTNEY CRUMMEL SUMMERS (BA, MA '04)** joined Consuro Managed Technology in Fort Worth, Texas, as marketing director. Most recently, she was a senior account executive for Concussion, an advertising agency. At Consuro, she is in charge of marketing, advertising, public relations and partner relations for the company.



# Tim Lynch '95 is loving life behind the lens. What's your story?



**When Tim Lynch '95 submitted a class note, he wanted to let his fellow alumni know** he'd found a foothold in the film industry. What Lynch didn't know is that a whole lot of the story ideas for *USD Magazine* come from class notes just like his. Just weeks later, he was being interviewed for a feature story.

**Now an award-winning producer and documentarian for major musical acts like Green Day** Lynch is traveling the globe in search of the compelling stories that define our times, and he's loving the journey.

**Submit a class note today:** Email [classnotes@sandiego.edu](mailto:classnotes@sandiego.edu) or go to [www.sandiego.edu/publications/classnotes](http://www.sandiego.edu/publications/classnotes).

## [2004]

**MELISSA (HERRERA) KUDO (BA)** married Ross Kudo in Kauai, Hawaii, on Sept. 10, 2011. USD alumni in attendance or in the wedding party were Natalia Clark, Sarah (Gillis) McPherson and Lisa (Roehl) Walle. Melissa and Ross live in San Diego.

**DANIELLE (DEBLIEUX) McCONNELL (BA)** and her husband, Brian, were married on Oct. 29, 2011, at St. Vincent de Paul Catholic Church in Huntington Beach, Calif., followed by a reception at SeaCliff Country Club. Danielle has worked for The Walt Disney Company for 13 years and is currently manager of global documentation. She and Brian live in Anaheim, Calif., across from Angel Stadium. "Go Toreros!" she writes.

**STEVE PIRO (BA)** is an energy efficiency consultant in Bali, Indonesia, with Synergy Carbon, a company he founded three years ago.

**TAYLOR ERICKSON WORTMAN (BA, MA '06)** and her husband, Jeremy Wortman, were married on Feb. 19, 2011, by USD's Monsignor Dan Dillabough in Taylor's hometown of Big Sky, Mont. The ceremony was outdoors on a snowy hill. Taylor's maid of honor was Beth Brandsford, a floor mate from Founders Hall. Taylor teaches middle school and plans to begin work on her PhD in educational leadership.

## [2005]

**SAMIN VALI BERINGER (JD)** opened The Beringer Law Firm in Carlsbad, Calif., specializing in a range of family law matters, including divorce, annulment, child support, child custody, visitation and domestic violence. "After spending several years working for some of the largest family law firms in San Diego County, I realized that the 'big firm' method of operation would never allow me to give my clients and their cases the time and attention they deserved," she says. "By opening my own firm, I gave myself the freedom and flexibility to treat each case as though it was my own, and to give each client the individualized attention they deserve." Beringer is licensed to practice in California state and federal courts.

**JENNA BIAGINI (BA)** returned to San Diego in January 2012. "I'm thrilled to be home," she says. She lives in Golden Hill and has joined the devel-

opment team for TKF, a nonprofit organization that works to stop violence.

**KRISTOPHER CARTER (BA)** is a general medical officer and aviation medical examiner in the United States Navy, currently stationed at MCAS Miramar. He graduated from Western University of Health Sciences with a doctorate of osteopathy in 2010 and completed an obstetrics and gynecology internship at Balboa Naval Hospital in 2011. When he completes his term at MCAS Miramar, he plans to complete a residency in obstetrics and gynecology at Balboa.

**JONATHAN BANNON MAHER (BBA)** is a candidate for the United States Senate in New Jersey. He recently wrote a book, *The Destiny of Humanity*, and sent it to the leaders of every country in the world.

**JONATHAN NOWLING (BA)** and his wife, Nicole, were married in the fall of 2011. Jonathan also plans to start his own business.

**JOSEPH TONEY (BA)** accepted a new position as a budget and policy analyst with the City of Long Beach.

## [2006]

**TINA (NOVAK) BURGESS (BA)** and her husband, Dan, were married in July 2011. Tina joined RE/MAX in November 2011.

**DETGEN (BANNIGAN) GREEFF (BA)** was accepted into Columbia University's School of International and Public Affairs and plans to begin a two-year master's degree in international affairs in September 2012.

**JASPER MALLARD (BBA)** moved to Santa Barbara, Calif., and is a financial advisor with PlanMember Securities, where he specializes in retirement planning for nonprofits and school districts.

**SERENA PECK MCKINNEY (BA)** married her husband, Ben, on Aug. 14, 2010. They live in the same Dana Point, Calif., neighborhood as fellow alumna Adriana (Rios) Collins and her husband. Serena has been an English teacher and ASB director for five years at a middle school in Irvine, Calif. "This year was especially rewarding because I was honored as Teacher of the Year!" she writes.

**SARAH WHITAKER (DNSc)** lives in Memphis, Tenn., where she is starting



## [happily ever after]

**KARA MARSH '04** married Brendan Proffitt on April 21, 2012, in Founders Chapel. Kara works in USD's Office of Alumni Relations and Brendan works at Hunter Industries in San Marcos, Calif. Fellow Toreros who attended the wedding included Marisa (Wilson) Liss '08, Sorana (Dobrota) Petersen '04, Jerad Petersen '04, Leah (Bode) Guzenski '04, Andy Guzenski '04, Jack Kelly '87, Sue (Ventimiglia) Kelly '89, Kindra Brownlee '04, Kathryn Blair '04, Erin (Parnagian) Melkonian '04, Jennifer Wagner '03, Annemarie Scalzo '04, Jennifer (Franklin) Lipinski '04, Leslie (Johnson) Helmbacher '03, Amanda (Thoday) O'Rourke '03, Sarah (Evenskaas) Garro '97, Molly Dishman '07 MA, Valerie Attisha '94, and Shaunessy Reidy '03.





BOB YOUNGER

[e u p h o n i o u s]

# DULCET TONES

Sacha Boutros hits all the right notes

by Sandra Millers Younger

It's a warm Southern California night in La Jolla, Calif., but nonetheless the fire in the seaside salon of the venerable La Valencia Hotel is glowing. It's a perfect reflection of the cozy ambiance jazz singer Sacha Boutros '02 creates as she eases effortlessly into a set of vintage love songs. Her voice is intoxicating and elastic, sometimes popping into weightless syncopation, sometimes smoothing

one silky phrase into the next.

"The way you wear your hat ... the way you sip your tea ..."

About 20 appreciative guests, tucked into sofas and armchairs, sip drinks and nibble hors d'oeuvres under the massive crossbeams of a brick-red Spanish ceiling splashed with painted flowers.

"I've always wanted to play this room," Boutros says when she, her

pianist, drummer and bassist take a break. "So I finally called them."

What to say when hoping to land a gig at the famous "Pink Lady," a perennial favorite of tycoons and movie stars? Just the basics: "I'm a Grammy-nominated artist who lives in San Diego. I tour all over the world, and I'd like to sing for you."

Frankly, it's hard to imagine anyone turning Boutros down.

For starters, she's beautiful; all dark hair and smoky eyes. She greets you with a warm hug, as if you've been friends for decades, since the songs she sings debuted. And her passion for music, especially classic and Latin jazz, is contagious.

"I just love the old jazz songs," she explains. "Nowadays, it's all so explicit. Back then they told love stories with insinuations. It was romantic and sentimental."

Boutros never expected a career in music, though she'd loved singing since she was a little girl practicing harmonies in church with her grandfather. At home, she'd put on a hat and pretend to be Frank Sinatra. But when she left for USD, her parents urged her to study something practical.

Boutros chose business and took a first job in marketing. By 2005, she'd already had enough. She recalls her exact turning point: "One day I said, 'I'm just going to do music.'"

Suddenly, Boutros discovered a better use for all those business courses. The strategy, the PR, the advertising — it all came in handy promoting herself as a jazz singer. She opened a booking agency, too, and then a production company.

"I've used every single thing I learned at USD," she says.

But the fire, the grit, the drive? All pure Boutros. When she started out, she called a San Diego jazz club and asked for a performance date; she got it. Emboldened, she went to New York, told club owners, "I'm a jazz singer," and they gave her a try.

"I just kept singing and singing and singing," she says.

In 2008, Boutros submitted her self-produced CD, "Simply Sacha," for Grammy consideration and earned a nomination for "best jazz album." Doors began to open. Now she tours in Europe, Japan and Hawaii, where last year she recorded her latest album, "Sacha, Live in Hawaii."

Although she's clearly savoring her jazz journey, Boutros does have a definite destination in mind.

"My goal is to be in every jazz lover's house," she says. "I want to bring them something very special. I want to bring romantic old music to their hearts, to make them feel wonderful things." 🎧

up a new nursing program at Concorde Career College. She also is involved with the Medical Reserve Corps for Shelby County, Tenn. "For fun, I belong to the Grande Krewe of Phoenix, which is part of Carnival Memphis, supporting children's charities," she says.

[2007] 🎓

**REGINA (PEREZ) KUTCHES (BA)** and her husband, Chris, were married on Nov. 11, 2011, in Santa Rosa, Calif. They bought a home in the area and report that they are the "proud parents of two dogs and two cats."

**BENJAMIN LEE (BA)** is a youth minister in Los Angeles at St. Philip the Apostle Church. He is a speaker, community developer and worship leader in the Los Angeles Archdiocese and the Orange County Diocese. Benjamin is also studying full time for a BFA in graphic design/interactive design at Art Center College in Pasadena, Calif., and expects to be completed in the fall of 2013.

**DIEGO MANZETTI (LLM)** joined Chartis in May 2011 as head of legal for the Italian branch. Previously, he was an associate for the United Kingdom law firm, Norton Rose.

**BRIAN MCCARTHY (BA)** has a new job with Allergan in Irvine, Calif. His previous employer, Biogen Idec in San Diego, closed its facility in June 2011. "I have been very fortunate with this new opportunity," he says.

**TWILA NOBLE (MSN)** writes, "Morning sunrise across the high desert with views of mesas, buttes and hoodoos ... Horses in the quad of the high school. These are the images I see now every day. And people who are varying shades of color, some tall, and some not so tall, speaking Hopi, Navajo, Spanish, Tagalog, Farsi and some other languages I can't identify." Twila left San Diego in January 2012 to work as an adult nurse practitioner at Tuba City Regional Healthcare Corporation. "My job is very satisfying. The benefits are remarkable. And the life experience is unmatched. I would recommend it for anyone who wants immersion in a different culture, and for anyone who wants to make a difference. Thank you, USD, for preparing me for this fascinating and fulfilling work."

[2008]

**EMILY D'AMICO (BAcc, MS '11)**

recently accepted a position with Northwestern Mutual Financial Network as vice president of finance for the San Diego Group.

**AMY EPSTEN (BAcc)** and Daniel Magness '08 were married on Dec. 11, 2010.

**KRISTEN FORD (BA)** works in human resources in Carlsbad, Calif., while she's in graduate school earning a master's degree from Pepperdine in clinical psychology with an emphasis in marriage and family therapy.

**LAUREN (GYLLENBORG) GOLDEN (BA)** and her husband, Justin, are overjoyed to announce the arrival of their first baby, Daphne Elise, on April 2, 2012, in Kansas City, Mo. Lauren is the alumni director of Notre Dame de Sion School.

**JOANNA PETERS (BA)** is a doctoral candidate in clinical psychology with a neuropsychology concentration in the cognitive behavioral therapy track, Ferkauf Graduate School of Psychology, Yeshiva University.

[2009]

**BRITTANY (WHITE) STRUCK (BA)** completed a master's degree in marine affairs at the University of Rhode Island in May 2011. She works for the National Marine Fisheries Service in the Protected Resources Division in Long Beach, Calif. Brittany's team works under the Endangered Species Act, managing and protecting threatened and endangered steelhead trout.

## 2010s

[2010]

**STEPHAN DUPOURQUE (JD)** has become owner of Amtech Litigation Technologies, an e-discovery litigation services provider in San Diego.

**STEPHANIE LEUNG (BBA)** recently moved from New York City to San Francisco and was promoted to project manager at Insight Express.

**CHRISTOPHER LIEPMAN (BA)** is pursuing a master's degree in accounting and finance at the London School of Economics and Political Science.

[2011]

**GIBRAN CHAVEZ-GUDINO (BA)**

finished his first year of graduate study at Harvard Divinity School.

**ALLISON (VanDeGINSTE)**

**McCLINTICK (MA)** completed her master's degree at USD and then returned to her home state, Michigan, with her husband and daughter for his Marine recruiting duty. Motivated by her work with wounded Marines from Afghanistan at Miramar, she is concentrating on empowering others to make the most of their lives through coaching and leadership training programs. In Michigan, she started FlightLead Leader Development, leadership coaching for professional women, and has a life coaching business for teen girls. Allison was a guest speaker at a women's conference in Lansing, Mich., in February 2012, she's been featured on local radio twice, and has been hired to train vice presidents of the country's largest credit union on leadership and change management. Allison is also in Stanford University's Strategic Decision and Risk Management program, an executive development program offered on campus and via the Internet. "USD changed my life," she says.

**CAREY MOELLER (BBA)** writes, "After graduating in May 2011, I moved around the U.S. for a little while, enjoying new places and beginning to look for a job. I had been in a long-distance relationship for quite a while, so I finally decided to settle down and eliminate the distance." Carey works for Bacardi USA and reports that she and her boyfriend just bought a house in Allen, Texas.

**MICHAEL NALAN (JD)** joined the professional liability practice group at Klindinst PC. While at USD, Michael served as comments editor and associates editor, social relations, on the San Diego Law Review Board, and as an associate member on the San Diego Moot Court Board. During law school, he also spent many hours with USD's legal clinics assisting low-income individuals in small claims and civil litigation cases.

**GABBY OBEJI (BA)** lives in San Francisco, where she is a marketing development manager for Coca-Cola. She says there are a lot of USD alumni living in the area.

**CAPT. JON WILKINS (MS)** recently received the Navy and Marine Corps Achievement Medal for outstanding

performance as course manager and primary instructor of the Rapid Response Planning Process Primer, Expeditionary Warfare Group, Pacific, San Diego, Calif. Jon consumed volumes of publications and endured countless learning hours to master the process of fire support coordination as well as the Marine Corps planning process, tremendously impacting the unit's competencies. His efforts resulted in comprehensive instruction for 26 courses and to more than 670 students. His mentoring and superb knowledge led to his selection as the 2011 Expeditionary Warfare Training Group Pacific Marine Officer Instructor of the Year.

## In Memoriam

**CHRISTOPHER D. BURCH '01 (BA)** passed away in his sleep on June 18, 2012, in Alexandria, Va. He was 33. A San Diego native, he moved to Sacramento after graduation to work as a fellow for the California State Legislature, then earned his law degree from William and Mary Law School in Williamsburg, Va. Chris interned at the White House and for the last three years worked in the Office of the General Counsel for the Department of Defense. He was an avid traveler and is survived by his parents, girlfriend, a large family and many friends.

**LORI MURRAY '83 (BBA)** passed away on May 3, 2012.

**MIKE RAMIREZ '79 (BBA)** passed away on April 22, 2012 at the age of 56, after fighting a valiant battle with ALS (Lou Gehrig's disease). He leaves behind his wife, Maureen '81 (BBA), and two children. The family rallied together with friends in hopes of finding a cure for ALS by forming "Team Godfather," which to date has raised more than \$350,000 toward that cause.

**JUDITH ANN (STRICKLAND) STUTZ '76 (JD)** died of cancer on April 19, 2011, at age 64. Following graduation, she served as the first attorney clients' rights advocate for the San Diego Regional Center for the Developmentally Disabled, and then embarked on a career as a mother and grandmother. She is deeply missed by her family, friends and colleagues.





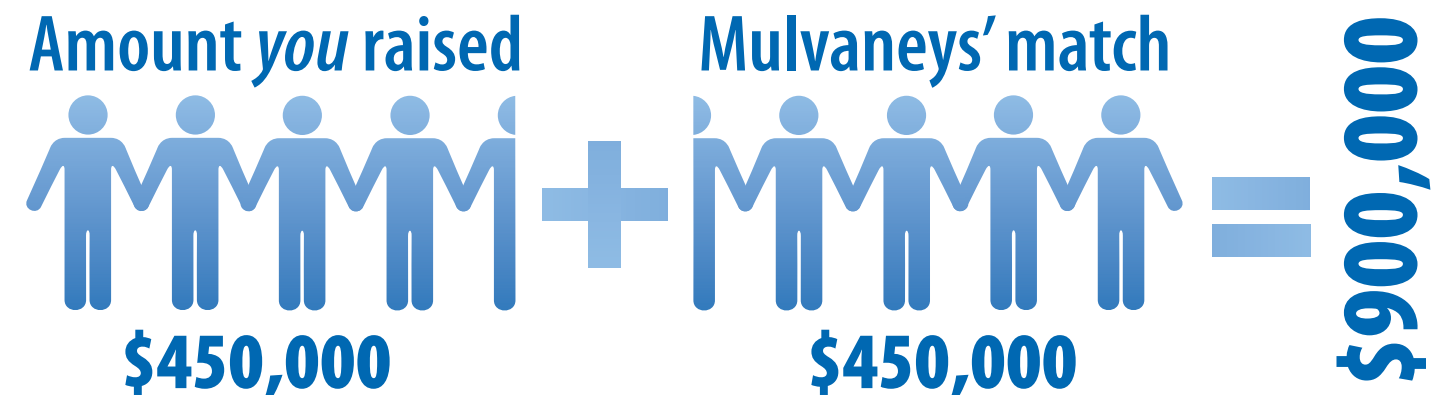
**VOICE OVER THE TOP** If renowned actor Martin Sheen sounds like the natural voice of USD's new "Changemaker" video, it might be because he's already got a connection with the university. He first visited campus in 2007 to receive the USD Peace Medal from the Joan B. Kroc School of Peace Studies for his efforts in support of human rights. Sheen has a history of using his celebrity to advance causes close to his heart. Among those is the work of Monsignor Michael Dolan, pastor of the Sacred Heart Church in Camden, N.J. Sheen donated the modest honorarium for his involvement with the latest USD TV spot to support Dolan's work in one of the poorest communities in the United States.

TIM MANTOANI

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