

# USD MAGAZINE

UNIVERSITY OF SAN DIEGO / SPRING 2010

WHILE THERE ARE MANY WAYS TO BE ADVENTUROUS OPENING A DOOR IS THE FIRST STEP.



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[re invention]

## BE KIND, REWIND

Who among us hasn't wished for a do-over?



I was flying. Legs pumping, hair a wild whipping nimbus, going faster than I ever had. A moment earlier, when I'd finally reached the top of the hill, a bit out of breath, I'd barely paused before I took a deep breath, pointed the front wheel of my beloved gold Schwinn in a downward direction, leaned forward and let gravity do the rest.

Like I said: flying. I kept up with, and then passed, the cars alongside me. My teeth clattered together with every bump in the road; my feet were a cartoonish blur as they pedaled, faster, ever faster. I was flying and wild and free and my grin might well have split my face in two, right up until the moment I realized there was no way I was going to be able to stop in time to avoid the tall wooden fence at the bottom. Uh oh.

I must have made a sound of some sort, but all I remember is my mouth in a perfect "o" and my handlebars refusing to head in any direction except straight down.

It was very quiet there in the leaves. I could see my bike's glittery gold banana seat about 10 feet away, I could hear that the wheels were still spinning. Then, somewhere, way off in the distance, running footsteps, getting closer. I closed my eyes for just a minute and listened to my wildly pounding heart begin to slow.

"Are you all right?"

Good question. This being the olden days, of course I wasn't wearing a helmet. My head had miraculously escaped slamming into anything solid, instead bouncing harmlessly off of a pile of leaves that the wind had eddied next to the fence. The rest of me hadn't gotten off so lucky.

"I'm not sure," I answered. My brand new jeans were ripped, my elbows were embedded with pebbles and dirt, and my left knee felt like it was swelling up as big as a Halloween pumpkin.

"I saw the whole thing," the lady said. "I was stopped right over there at that stop sign and I saw you come flying down that sidewalk as fast as could be. I thought you were going awful fast, too fast really. I guess you hit a rock or something, because then you were flying through the air, right before you would've gone full-force into that fence. I pulled my car over and came over here to see if you were all right."

Something about her voice, or maybe hearing exactly what the whole thing had looked like from the outside, made it more real. All of a sudden I realized I really wasn't all right. In fact, my knee was looking pretty gosh-darned gory. There was blood, sure, but I didn't want to look too much closer to see what else might be going on to make it feel like it was scraped as raw and clean as a hollowed out seashell.

I still have that scar; from certain angles, it sort of looks like Portugal. My bike, though, was a total loss, which was a bitter blow since I never had another one that I loved quite as much. My mom, of course, wanted to know what I'd been thinking, and my dad, of course, pointed out the value of a dollar and that bikes don't grow on trees. Me, I'd lie awake after lights-out, reliving the moment when I'd been flying, wishing that I could go back in time, just once, and adjust my front wheel enough so that I'd stay on the sidewalk long enough to keep control, apply the brakes, come to a stop all on my own.

But of course, it was too late for all that.

This issue is filled with people who've found their true calling. Some have always known which way to go, others have taken a more circuitous route. And no doubt, more than one of them has wished, at least once, for a do-over. But in the end, we usually realize that even our most bone-headed moves have a purpose, even if that purpose turns out to be to teach us not to be such a knucklehead next time around.

But you know what? Even all these years later, flying dreams are still my favorite.

— Julene Snyder, Editor

## [counterpoints]



### Details Great and Small

USD Magazine is always outstanding, but this time I simply must mention and congratulate you on the photography. The portrait photos by Tim Mantoani and others, which reveal such character; the little boy by Susan Graunke, with every hair shining and even the knitting on the shirt underscoring the tenderness of the photo; and the incredible photograph of Elizabeth Olinger by Richard Wood, with all the detail of grass and old wood and dog's fur were truly wonderful. The magazine always makes me proud to have been associated with USD.

— Alice Hayes  
Former USD President

### Hard Work So Worth It

I just wanted to say how much I enjoyed reading the most recent editorial in USD Magazine ("When Nothing is Easy," Fall 2009). I could relate 100 percent to everything from being the smart kid, to going through those insufferable teenage years where putting any value on your education takes the back seat, and then being truly inspired in college. However, this article wasn't just about re-igniting the

mind, this was about working hard and how wonderful it feels to accomplish your goal.

I read this to our oldest daughter who is in graduate school, and also to another daughter who is an undergrad. I too, felt inspired to finish some unfinished tasks in my life. Thank you for the inspiration and the wonderful reminder about studying and working hard, and the sweet reward of doing so.

— Jennifer MacLaggan

### Every Little Nuance

A word of thanks to Nathan Dinsdale for the excellent article concerning Juan José Alfonso ("Wide World of Deportes," Fall 2009). He has captured my former student's personality and speech patterns right down to the commas and ellipses.

Although years may pass before we educators hear how well a student has succeeded in the "real world," not once have we doubted, not once have we lost faith in them. We merely



regret how conditions do not permit us to tell them personally of our pride.

Thanks to your article and this response, at least Juan will have

no doubts concerning his former mentor — or is it taskmaster? — in French and journalism.

— Paul Reed Arigan

### Dedication Pays Off

I enjoyed Dr. Malachowski's "point of view" ("That Eureka Moment," Fall 2009). Just as Dr. Williams influenced Dr. Malachowski, I would like to point out that Dr. Malachowski has undoubtedly influenced many of his students — including myself — to work



hard and realize our potential. I was one of his "over 100" research students that passed through his laboratory; it's hard to believe he's been there 25 years. I would bet a lot of money that nearly all of his former "researchers" are successful today, no matter what field they have chosen. I am constantly amazed by the high level of success of so many USD graduates around the globe in the arts, sciences, medicine and more.

My experience with organic chemistry led me to be a research assistant with Dr. M. After USD, I worked as a chemist for a year before I went into medicine. Although I did not stay involved in chemistry, the hard work required to succeed in organic chemistry helped get

through graduate school and residency. I recall classmates frequently asking me how I was able to do well in a class like organic chemistry when they struggled. Though some of them thought I was really bright, I think they were wrong. It was really just hard work and dedicating time to learning the material; these developed into habits that have helped me for 11 years in podiatric medicine and surgery.

In studies of true expertise, researchers have settled on what they believe is the magic number: 10,000 hours. I would take a guess that Dr. M. probably has spent more than 10,000 in his lab and classroom!

Dr. Malachowski deserves some props, and USD is lucky to still have him!

— Greg Still, DPM '91

### Opportunity Knocks

I was so pleased to read the article about Nick Yorchak ("Just a Click Away," Fall 2009), since he is my son! As a USD alum myself, I am hearing from my fellow classmates who also saw and read the article.

One of the keys to Nick's success after graduation was his internship while at USD. We hope more USD students will take advantage of the opportunities that internships can offer them.

— John Yorchak '78

## Write us ...

**We welcome letters to the editor about articles in the magazine. Letters may be edited for length and clarity, and must include a daytime phone number. Write: Editor, USD Magazine, 5998 Alcalá Park, San Diego, CA 92110. E-mail: [letters@sandiego.edu](mailto:letters@sandiego.edu).**



# USD MAGAZINE

UNIVERSITY OF SAN DIEGO / SPRING 2010

## FEATURES

WE START AND END WITH FAMILY.

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It's a grave new world for those entrusted with protecting a vulnerable populace in our hyper-tech society, but USD graduates-turned-FBI agents are combatting online criminals and shaping national cyber-security policies with the click of a mouse. Though they've taken different routes to get there, these four alumni share a common purpose in their mission to protect and serve.

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New IPJ Executive Director Milburn Line knows all about navigating the intricacies of peace.



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College of Arts and Sciences Dean Mary Boyd sees keeping the lines of communication open as crucial to her work.

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Photo by Tim Mantoani

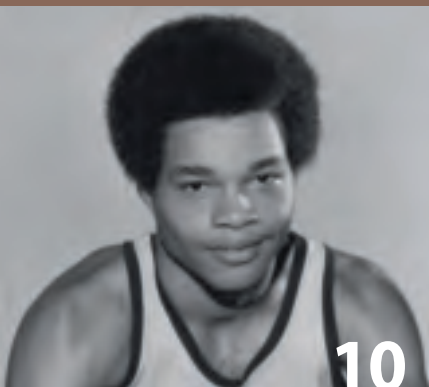
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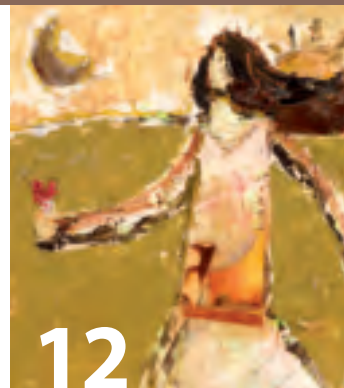


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[thorny issues]

## A COMPLEX FORMULA

Milburn Line navigates the intricacies of peace

by Kelly Knufken

Peace. The word sounds simple, but don't let that fool you.

"I think peace is actually really complicated. I think it's a hard-core subject," says Milburn Line, who took the helm of the Joan B. Kroc Institute for Peace & Justice in August. "Peace gets written off as, 'Flower Power, Birkenstocks, we should all just get along,' and it is much more complex than that. It requires a much more studied approach and a much more political approach."

Line is up to the task, having

spent more than 15 years "on the ground," working for peace and justice on human rights projects at the local level in a number of hot spots around the world.

Most recently, he directed a \$37 million human rights program in Colombia funded by the U.S. Agency for International Development. He also worked on the Bosnian conflict in the 1990s and has spent years in Guatemala, including a stint as director of a USAID-funded human rights and reconciliation program.

All of that work — especially

getting to know people trapped in conflict — has helped him forge his ideas about the best way to achieve the complicated balance of peace and justice.

"It's not just a simple vision of coexistence; it's a forged and locally owned, consensus-building process for coexistence. And that's much more complicated and hard to achieve."

The way he sees it, now is the time to explore the intricacies of peace.

"As a species, we have spent a tremendous amount of our time dedi-





NICK ABADELLA

“The institute tries to do a mix of conflict prevention, trying to be involved in some of the ongoing conflicts and post-conflicts. Guatemala is really almost not a post-conflict country — it’s a terribly unsafe and insecure place to be now.”

With a surprising number of people at the University of San Diego with strong ties to that country — including Elaine Elliott of the Center for Community Service-Learning — momentum is building for a sustained, multi-disciplinary effort from USD. The aim is to “really build a long-term relationship on a variety of issues, not just any single peace and justice issue or any single community service-learning project,” Line says. “If we pick a regional area, we might be able to have a larger package and more impact.”

Line also wants to nurture some of the IPJ’s most well-known programs, like the Distinguished Lecture Series, WorldLink for youth and Women PeaceMakers. Each fall, the last of these brings four women to USD from various countries to document their stories and share information.

“We now have this core of 28 women, and we want to see how we can project them into gender empowerment processes around the world,” Line says.

As he settles into his job, living in the United States again for the first prolonged time in two decades, Line is also exploring life as a father to his new daughter, born in 2008. She and his wife often come to events at the IPJ, and a stroller is at the ready in Line’s office. But it doesn’t take long for the topic to turn from the child he calls “our youngest peacemaker” back to the business of making peace.

“The thing that’s exciting about this is it’s kind of a new field, and it’s kind of a field where we’re trying to learn and think about the sustained well-being of our species — a biological, hard-sciences view of peace.”

# [aid and comfort]

## Prayers and compassion offered for Haitian earthquake victims

by Ryan T. Blystone

The overwhelming damage left in the wake of Haiti’s January 12 earthquake and subsequent aftershocks is staggering. Tens of thousands are dead, untold numbers are injured, and survivors face unbelievable hardship.

While the news of the tragedy is distressing in the extreme to all of us, it hit one retired University of San Diego employee on a deeply personal level.

“I’m devastated,” Sister Virginia McMonagle RSCJ, a former assistant vice president for University Relations, said. “My heart has been there ever since it happened.”

McMonagle, now 88 and living in Atherton, Calif., traveled to Haiti six months out of each year for 21 years, dating back to the late 1970s. In 1987, she was part of a group service project that ultimately resulted in the creation of a mountain orphanage in Kenscoff and a hospital in Petionville, now operated by Nuestros Pequeños Hermanos (NPH).

January’s 7.0-magnitude earthquake caused the collapse of the hospital in Petionville and resulted in the death of at least two volunteers. McMonagle is still mightily concerned about other friends that she knew were in Haiti at the time of the earthquake.

She finds some comfort in the knowledge that one of her friends is not only alive and well, but is on the ground providing aid and comfort to the afflicted.

Father Rick Frechette, regional director for NPH, was in the U.S. visiting his terminally-ill mother at the time of the earthquake. With her blessing, Frechette returned to Haiti to care for the injured.

Frechette first met McMonagle when he was able to complete some courses through USD while working abroad in Haiti doing mission work prior to being accepted into medical school.

“He’s my best friend,” McMonagle said of Frechette, who speaks with her via phone regularly and visits once a year. Her admiration for the physician Frechette runs deep. “Haiti means the land of mountains. I think he’s a saint in those mountains.”



CHRIS HONDROS

cated to the study and implementation of war, and we’re quite expert at it, actually. We have tremendous military power. And we haven’t thought systematically about peace — not peace in the fluffy sense, but how do you achieve coexistence? What is authentic representation and accountability for the disparate groups in society and their grievances? Those are tough questions. They’re not just questions for Afghanistan — these are questions for governing cities in the United States.”

Beyond our borders, Line is passionate about Guatemala and excited about the prospects of USD projects in that country he knows so well. Although a peace agreement has technically ended the conflict, Line says Guatemala still needs help.

[tweeter]

## WHAT'S THE BUZZ?

### Dean Mary Boyd is plugged in

by Kelly Knufken

She surrounds herself — literally — with the work of USD College of Arts and Sciences students and faculty.

On this particular day, that means Dean Mary Boyd's office is dominated by, among others, two huge photographic works by art studio technician Joe Yorty: a collage of images from the familiar orange shelves of Home Depot and another composed of pictures of free couches featured on Craigslist. The latter resembles a vast grouping of thumbnail photos, with hundreds of — dare we say it? — ugly couches that could be had for free.

"Everybody comes in and laughs when they see it," she says, delighted with the piece herself. "It's witty, and it's compelling, and people understand automatically what it means and how funny some of the sofas are — there's so much plaid and floral when you put them all together."

Boyd sees her office as a chance to showcase what the students, faculty and alumni of the college are up to. Her bookcase is filled with their books and music. The artwork can be switched out periodically, to make room for new pieces.

Boyd arrived at USD in August 2008 from a stint as professor and chemistry chair at Georgia Southern University and spent her first year here learning from faculty about the history and traditions of the college and the university. Now she's looking to them to

help her create a vision for the college's future.

"I think it's really important to work with the faculty," she says. "I have seen a really strong movement toward (interdisciplinary approaches), finding ways to create new majors, new minors and programs which integrate the different disciplines."

With her own background as a chemist who came close to studying music in college, it seems Boyd couldn't have found a better career.

"I tell people I have the greatest job because I have art and physics and everything in between. This position gives me the opportunity to engage in all the things I am passionate about," she says. That includes undergraduate research, a particular passion and something of a push in recent years on the science side of the college. A book on the subject that she co-edited, "Broadening Participation in Undergraduate Research," came out last May.

"It's wonderful to be in an institution which shares the same values and supports the same direction in undergraduate education," she says. USD also offered a return to the faith-based education that she so enjoyed during her 15 years at Loyola University Chicago..

Since arriving at USD, Boyd has become known for her tweets, the short communications that make up the banter on the social networking site Twitter.

"I think Twitter is a great opportunity to be able to com-



municate with so many different people. Some people say, 'Doesn't it take up a lot of your time?' It takes no time at all, at 140 characters, so when some great news comes into the college or the university, I can just send it out just like that. I think that's great."

Her updates comprise a mix

of business and personal observations. She may share information and a link from an interesting new study or promote a USD arts reception. Boyd also enjoys sharing a little bit of her personality to make connections. Indeed, some of her more memorable tweets have been the irreverent ones, like when



[eye-opening]

# HARNESSING HER POWER

New study finds women engineering majors graduate at the same rate as men

by Liz Harman

Everybody knows that women can't make it as engineers, right?

USD electrical engineering professor Susan Lord heard that perception so often at meetings of engineering professors from around the country that she began to believe it herself, even though it was contrary to her own experience. The popular belief was that women "don't go into it" and "don't persist in it," she says.

But guess what? A research study by Lord and another USD professor has found that in fact, women who major in engineering graduate at rates comparable to those of men.

"This belief that women are more likely to drop out of engineering is the academic equivalent of an urban myth," says associate professor of sociology Michelle Madsen Camacho.

The results of the study show that women could help solve an engineering shortage that threatens the ability of the United States to meet the economic and technological challenges of the 21st century.

The study by Lord and Madsen Camacho, published in the "Journal of Women and Minorities in Science and Engineering," looked at more than 79,000 students who majored in engineering at nine public universities in the Southeast between 1987 and 2004. Overall, the study found that women persist in engineering through four years at the rate of 54 percent, compared to 55 percent for men.

Researchers from Purdue University and the Rose-Hulman Institute of Technology also contributed to the study, which suggests that the real problem is that

fewer women decide to major in engineering.


The problem "is not rates of attrition but simply getting them through the door in the first place," Madsen Camacho says. Women make up nearly 58 percent of all college graduates but only 17 percent of engineering students. Women look at the gains made in other fields and think "something must be wrong in engineering," Lord says.

Both professors say that more efforts are needed to attract women into the profession. Indeed, two USD students who chose to major in engineering say they did so largely because of efforts to make them aware of the possibilities in the field.

Tiara Chapel's high school in Mississippi offered presentations on careers in engineering, and she also has a family member in the profession. In California, a high school advisor helped make Renee Thomashow aware of the field.

"It just sort of made sense," says Chapel, who likes solving problems using math and science. Thomashow recalls seeing a college engineering textbook and thinking, "This fits what I want to do to a 'T'."

Both are juniors in industrial engineering, looking forward to working in the field that involves creating and improving systems to efficiently move around materials, equipment, energy, information and people.

Engineering needs better promotion, Lord concludes: "Not all engineering is building cars. Engineers play a critical role in shaping our society. It is imperative that all the best minds be involved in this endeavor." 

## GIFTS AT WORK

### The 2009 Founders' Gala,

held on Nov. 14, was a black-tie affair designed to provide much-needed scholarship support to current USD students and future Toreros through the newly established Founders' Endowed Scholarship Fund. The evening included unique silent and live auction items as well as a Fund-A-Torero opportunity to give directly to the scholarship fund. The inaugural event exceeded its \$250,000 goal by generating \$520,000. Underwriting by Donald and Darlene Shiley and corporate sponsors including Bartell Hotels provided all of the production costs.


### USD's science faculty

has received a \$211,900 grant from the ALSAM Foundation to design and deliver a science outreach program to students of the Academy of Science at Mater Dei Catholic High School. A team of university faculty will conduct workshops on site, as well as lead area field studies. Additionally, Mater Dei students will participate in labs and seminars at USD.

**The School of Law's** legal clinics have received \$400,000 to support their work. The money is part of a settlement from a 2002 anti-trust and unfair competition case against a producer of smokeless tobacco products. The funds were directed to USD from several law school alumni who worked on the case, including Dan Mogin '80, Alex Schack '81 and Rhonda Holmes '91.


### Engraved paver stones

for the Student Life Pavilion's Plaza Mayor have garnered \$307,500 to date. Well over 100 friends, parents, alumni, students and staff have purchased personalized stones, leaving a permanent legacy at USD while paving the way for future Toreros. To learn more, call (619) 260-4724 or go to [www.sandiego.edu/giving](http://www.sandiego.edu/giving).



she tweeted a picture of her office staff dressed in pink for Breast Cancer Awareness Day. That one drew more than 100 page views, she says.

"It breaks down barriers."

And keeping lines of communication open is crucial, especially when you're dean of art and physics and everything in between. 

NICK ABADILLA AND GUY CHAN

Children of soldiers surround Cally Evanhoff '12 on a British garrison in Paderborn, Germany, a joyful snapshot from a day at Camp Adventure.

[uplift]

## OPERATION MAGIC MOMENTS

### Youth camp for military families changes lives



COURTESY OF CALLY EVANOFF

by Trisha J. Ratledge

The picture in Walt Heinecke's USD office shows all he wants to articulate about Camp Adventure: young girls and their camp counselor in a bear-hug, unable to hold back tears. It captures what Heinecke calls "the worst day." No one wants to say goodbye.

Looking at that image of the last

day of summer camp on a military base in Naples, Italy, sophomore Cally Evanoff smiles. Her eyes brighten as she recalls her own campers in Paderborn, Germany, last summer. "I miss them a lot," she says. "There are crazy bonds."

Camp Adventure is a program conceived in 1985 for military and State Department families around

the world who lacked meaningful youth activities. Today, 900 college students staff more than 200 program locations in 16 countries.

USD is home to Camp Adventure's Southern California training site, run by Heinecke through the School of Leadership and Education Sciences Global Center. It's a natural fit for the center,

which encourages students to experience other cultures and expand their world perspectives with international study and internships. Through Camp Adventure, USD offers the two-fold benefit of global education and service-learning for college students throughout Southern California, and, because the program provides travel and living stipends, it opens up the opportunity to a wider range of students.

Heinecke discovered Camp Adventure in 1989, when his staff brought it onto the Long Beach Naval Base, where he was chief commanding officer.

"It was very uplifting for the families," says Heinecke, who was so impressed with Camp Adventure that he joined the staff when he retired from the Navy in 1992.

"People not only loved having the college students take care of the children in a professional way, but they enjoyed just having them there, because with that comes a whole bunch of enthusiasm."

On base, the counselors create magic moments with the children as they develop new skills and leadership competencies. They also learn quickly about a child's life in the military.

"We were at a base for a week and on the last day of camp, the military was deploying to Afghanistan," says Evanoff, an international relations and Spanish major who hopes to work as an interpreter for the CIA. "The dads came in and said goodbye to their kids at camp. It was so



emotional; the kids came crying to us, and we were there to cheer them up. I felt like I was there for a reason. I had a purpose."

It's that stability and care that makes the program wildly popular. But the benefits go both ways. For the college students, Camp Adventure provides transportation to and from their assigned site, a living stipend, housing and the opportunity to earn 12 units of college credit at a reduced rate.

Once settled into their assignments, counselors often spend weekends exploring their host country together.

"I think we traveled eight of the 10 weeks we were there," says Christine McAuliffe '06, USD Alumni Relations volunteer coordinator, who was one of seven counselors on an Army/Air Force base in Germany in 2006. Traveling to the Netherlands, France, Austria, Venice and throughout Germany, the co-workers became friends. "I still keep in touch with all of the counselors I worked with," she adds.

Students can sign up for 10-week summer programs that include day camps, resident camps and such specialized camps as sports, cheerleading or the arts. Internships in early childhood development are also offered year-round for sessions lasting 17 weeks.

Up to 40 percent of counselors return for another assignment, Heinecke says. In fact, his own daughter signed up six times. While the opportunity for travel is a clear incentive, it's the core experience with the children and the inevitable personal growth that brings students back.

"It really is a life-changing opportunity," says Evanoff. "You are abroad, and the interactions you have with the children, the military and your co-workers will change your life. Honestly, I don't know how else to describe it. I want to go back." 🌐

To learn more, go to [www.uni.edu/campadv](http://www.uni.edu/campadv).

## [edification]

# KEEPING THE FAITH

## USD's Alumni Endowed Scholarship supports students in tough times

by Ryan T. Blystone

**R**ita Magliocco '10 and Karissa Smith '12 know the value of a college education. A shared drive for academic excellence, desire to be involved in on-campus organizations and urge to contribute through community service prove they're fully committed to enjoying a complete USD experience.

Those successes are just a few of the reasons that Magliocco (at right, below) and Smith were the inaugural recipients of the Alumni Endowed Scholarship. The \$2,500 scholarships came at a critical time for both.

"Money is tight, and getting the scholarship was a blessing," says Smith, a first-generation college student. She's an integral part of USD's Campus Ministry and is active with the Peace Club, Students for Life, and the Sustainability and Environmental Club. She also took part in the Oscar Romero Center's service trip to El Salvador during Inter-session her freshman year. "I'm determined to get the most out of my education," she says.

Magliocco, an accounting major and daughter of Frank

Magliocco '81, came to USD after a year at a university in Connecticut. One of three college-age siblings, for her, securing financial assistance is vitally important.

"The scholarship helped me a lot. I know I couldn't be here without the support," she says. A whirlwind of activity keeps Magliocco busy: She's been on the dean's list since 2007 and is active in the Accounting Society, USD TV, Beta Alpha Phi and Residential Life.

While Magliocco and Smith are the first to receive funds from the Alumni Endowed Scholarship, the goal is to increase its impact and build the endowment to \$1 million by 2012.

"Now more than ever, students need support, and we want to keep students at USD," says Alumni Relations Associate Director Sarah Evenskaas. The fund's balance is currently \$450,000, and 90 percent of the gifts to the fund are through donations of \$250 or less. "Every gift matters. Even a modest gift helps, because it all adds up." 🌐



FRED GREAVES

# [etc.]

**Poet Jericho Brown**, an assistant professor at USD, was recently awarded the prestigious Whiting Award, which recognizes young writers for extraordinary talent. His debut book of poetry, "Please," received the 2009 American Book Award from the Before Columbus Foundation. He is currently working on his next book while on a fellowship at Harvard's Radcliffe Institute for Advanced Studies.

**The 2009 Kyoto Prize** laureate in arts and philosophy was awarded in mid-November to Maestro Pierre Boulez, an internationally acclaimed composer, conductor and author. In addition to daring innovations in musical composition, Maestro Boulez has devoted himself to the development of software and hardware for computer-based real-time audio processing, and is considered a pioneer in the advancement of computer music. He will be featured at the annual Kyoto Prize Symposium at USD on April 22 in Shiley Theatre. Along with Boulez, prizes were awarded to Isamu Akasaki (advanced technology), Peter Grant and Rosemary Grant (basic sciences).

**USD's new vice president** for business services and administration is retired rear admiral, Leendert "Len" Hering Sr. He served in the Navy for 32 years and was responsible for all fleet support within the Southwest United States. Hering is a nationally recognized leader in sustainability efforts; he was directly responsible for a Navy program that reduced energy consumption by nearly 42 percent, diverting 75 percent of Navy waste from landfills and reducing water consumption by more than one billion gallons within a three-year period.



[ Legacy ]

# MR. WASHINGTON GOES TO THE HALL

**Basketball great takes his place among Torero legends**

by Nathan Dinsdale

It all started at the Watts Branch Playground. Stan Washington '74 practically grew up on those rugged courts in northeast Washington, D.C., famed for producing basketball legends like Elgin Baylor and Dave Bing.

"I probably spent more time on the playground than I did at home," Washington says. "If anybody needed to find me, that's where I'd be."

The 6-foot-4-inch guard forged his talent in the fires of pickup basketball, fashioning his game after greats like Oscar Robertson and Walt Frazier, and starred at Spingarn High School before it came time to select a college.

"I wanted to get as far away as I could," Washington says. "Things never seemed to work out for guys who stayed close to home."

Two friends from D.C., Bernie Williams and Curtis Perry, were playing for the San Diego Rockets at the time and urged Washington to pay USD a visit.

"I remember getting off the plane and seeing palm trees for the first time," he recalls. "I was an inner-city kid who hadn't traveled much, and I saw those palm trees and I was like, 'Oooh, this is Hawaii 5-0.'"

Among those greeting him at

the airport were Perry, Williams and then-USD head coach Bernie Bickerstaff. Now a Chicago Bulls assistant coach, Bickerstaff didn't exactly strike a formidable first impression.

"I thought he was one of the players," Washington laughs. "I was like, 'Aw, man! This guy isn't much older than I am.'"

Washington spent his first year under the tutelage of John Cunningham before becoming a three-time All-American who averaged 18.2 points and 5.6 assists while etching his name all over the USD record books.

Washington was selected in the fourth round of the 1974 NBA Draft by his hometown Capital Bullets, but just making the roster of a team featuring future NBA Hall-of-Famers Elvin Hayes and Wes Unseld meant that his work was cut out for him.

"You had to really fight for a spot," Washington says. "They didn't give you anything. You had to earn it."

Washington scraped and clawed his way onto the team, and soon found himself guarding Julius Erving in an exhibition game against the New York Nets.

"I remember Dr. J coming at me with the ball and I was like, 'Ohhhkay, I'm not going to let him dunk on me. It was great



PHOTO COURTESY OF USD ATHLETICS ARCHIVES

just to be on the floor with those guys."

Washington played in one regular-season game before he was released by the Bullets. He had brief stints in the ABA and on a travelling team in Belgium before the realization set in that his professional career was over.

"You try to latch on wherever you can and when things don't work out you just have to say 'Okay, I've got to get that 9-to-5,'" Washington says. "You just have to try and replace that part

of your life with something that's hopefully just as rewarding."

Washington has worked in the social services arena for about 30 years, and currently helps people get on a path to owning their own home as a case manager for the Charlotte Housing Authority in North Carolina.

"That really has been my calling," Washington says. "You may think your gift is one thing but then you find out what your real gift is. I can still shoot a free

# SPORTS BRIEFS

**Brian Matusz**, a starting pitcher for USD from 2006 to 2008, made his Major League Baseball debut Aug. 4 against Detroit. He won his debut and posted a 5-2 record, 4.63 earned-run average and struck out 38 batters in 44 2/3 innings. The left-hander was the Baltimore Orioles' No. 1 pick, fourth overall, in the 2008 draft.

**Men's and women's basketball** began West Coast Conference play in January after challenging nonconference schedules. Both teams are guaranteed to participate in the WCC Tournament, March 5-8, at the Orleans Arena in Las Vegas. Learn more at [usdtoreros.com](http://usdtoreros.com).

**Josh Johnson**, who set several passing records in his USD career (2004-07), made his first NFL start for Tampa Bay on Oct. 4 in a loss to Washington. He started four games as quarterback, including an Oct. 18 game against New England that was played in London. Johnson was the first Torero player ever drafted by an NFL team when he was selected in the fifth round by the Tampa Bay Buccaneers in 2008.

**The women's softball team** will host a pair of spring tournaments in March. The San Diego Classic I is March 5-7; the San Diego Classic 2 is March 18-21. Ninth-year coach Melissa McElvain's team is led by returning All-Pacific Coast Softball Conference honorees Jennifer Ellenbeck, Kristen Gensler and Cathy Wineinger.

**Men's and women's tennis** will host the West Coast Conference championships April 23-25 at the Barnes Tennis Center in San Diego. The men's team, under the direction of new head coach Brett Masi, is led by junior Dean Jackson. Sophomore Juliette Coupez is among the key players for veteran USD women's coach Sherri Stephens.



**IN A PHOTO FROM 1974,** Ben Thompson (left) and Robert Smith (right) flank this year's Chet and Marguerite Pagni Family Athletics Hall of Fame inductee Stan Washington (center).

throw but this is what God wants me to do. This is where I excel."

Washington has reconnected with USD thanks in part to former teammate Tommy Davis. On one visit, he found time to play H-O-R-S-E with Gyno Pomare '09 ("He beat me," Washington laughs), who surpassed Washington's all-time scoring record of 1,472 points last season.

"Records come and go, but

what I've found over the years is that the relationships you developed are what's really important," Washington says. "You grow into a family on and off the court. That reaches far beyond athletics."

Now, what began in Watts will culminate with Washington becoming the 2010 inductee into USD's Chet and Marguerite Pagni Family Athletics Hall of Fame. Ever the team player, he

says the honor is as much about his former coaches and teammates as it is about him.

"I'm extremely grateful and honored," Washington says. "It makes you reflect on those times and how special they were. I look back at that young man and how he's grown into the guy I am now, and a lot of that is a direct result of what happened during my four years at the university." 🏀



[lifesaver]

# BLOOD RELATIVES

A single e-mail led Liz Jordan '05 to make a decision that would affect any number of lives for years to come

When he whispered in my ear, "Thank you for giving me my daughter back," I knew that the sentiment came from the most pure place of love in his heart.

It all started in the fall of 2002, when I was a sophomore. One day I received an e-mail from a fellow USD student looking for a bone marrow match for a friend with leukemia. To be perfectly honest, I am not the type of person who reads mass e-mails with great diligence, but this really touched me, so I decided to become a registered bone marrow donor. It was easy: I joined that week by providing a blood sample via finger prick. Sadly, it turned out that I was not a match.

Five years later, as a 25-year-old graduate student living in Los Angeles, I'd nearly forgotten all about it. Then one day, the phone rang. It seemed that a person was suffering from acute myeloid leukemia and needed a bone marrow transplant to have a chance at survival. I was a perfect match. Of course, I felt compelled to help, but when I told friends about the call — including some working in the health care field — their responses were negative. They all pointed out how painful bone marrow donation is; not uncommonly, they believed the process was surgical and invasive. None of them was aware that there is another donation method called peripheral blood stem cell (PBSC).

After further testing, I heard nothing for three months, and assumed my blood cells weren't a perfect match after all. Then I got another phone call from the City of Hope telling me they wanted me to donate through the PBSC method. I went into the hospital for a

daylong physical to ensure I was healthy enough to donate. The National Marrow Donor Program staff gave me a private orientation, and I also learned two things about the recipient: she was 45 years old and a female. That was all I was allowed to know.

The procedure was non-surgical and took about five hours. Any feelings of mild discomfort were eliminated when I looked around at the cancer patients around me receiving transfusions.

Within a few months, the news came that the transplant had been successful; my stem cells were quickly healing this unknown woman. The rules of the National Marrow Donor Program require anonymity for one year; however, donor and recipient may exchange letters within the first year if both parties agree. We struck up a written correspondence and I learned that finding the transplant was her last chance at survival; she'd spent over 70 nights in the hospital over the past year.


Finally, in June 2009, I learned her name: Rhonda Walker Christensen of Dallas, Texas. A wife and mother of two children, Rhonda had a family and led an accomplished professional life as a research scientist in education. A month later, I flew to Dallas to meet her for the first time. As soon as I stepped off the plane and into the terminal, I was bombarded with news media and a crowd of people, but all I saw was Rhonda, with her large yellow "Welcome Elizabeth" sign.

Tears welled for us both when we embraced. Rhonda introduced me to her husband, sons and parents. Her father's choked-up thanks sunk deep, and I immediately felt the gravity of my deci-

sion to donate. I also instantaneously became part of the Christensen family. They took me back to their home, where I stayed the weekend. For days, I sat around the kitchen table with her parents, her brother, her sister, her children, her husband, her brother and her sister-in law. I spent time getting to know her close circle of friends and neighbors.

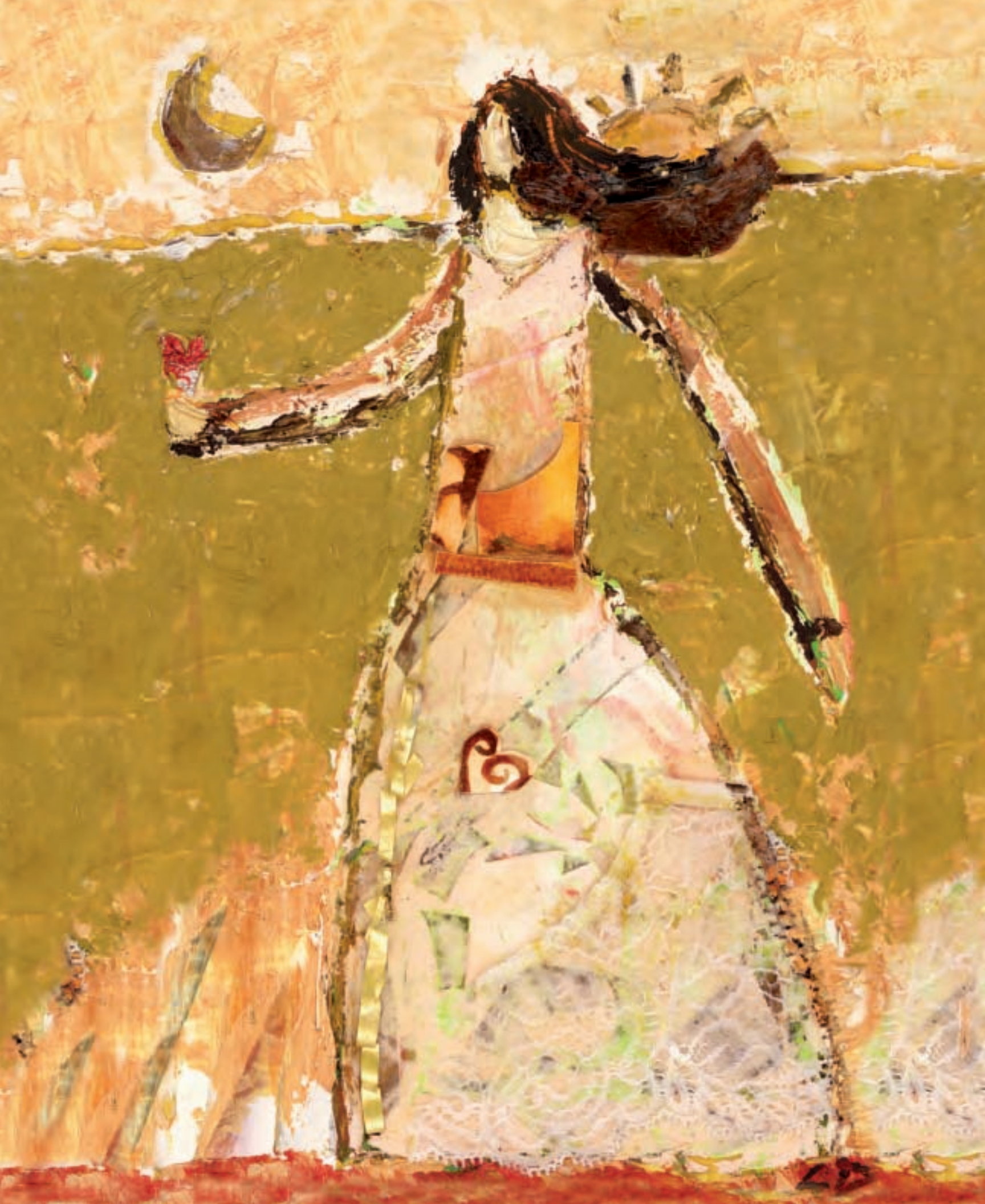
After that weekend, I returned home to Los Angeles, leaving behind this second family. Through journals I recorded all of the thoughts, feelings and details that I wanted to be sure not to forget. For example, when I was introduced to her 11-year-old nephew Noah, he put his arms around my waist, hugged me tightly and said, "Thank you for saving my aunt." My heart just about broke. Later that weekend, he composed a song on the piano for me and played it for us.

Since then, I've been volunteering with the National Marrow Donor Program at the City of Hope Cancer Center and have coordinated a marrow registration drive at USC, where I earned my master's in education. Rhonda was able to make the trip to Los Angeles to host it with me.

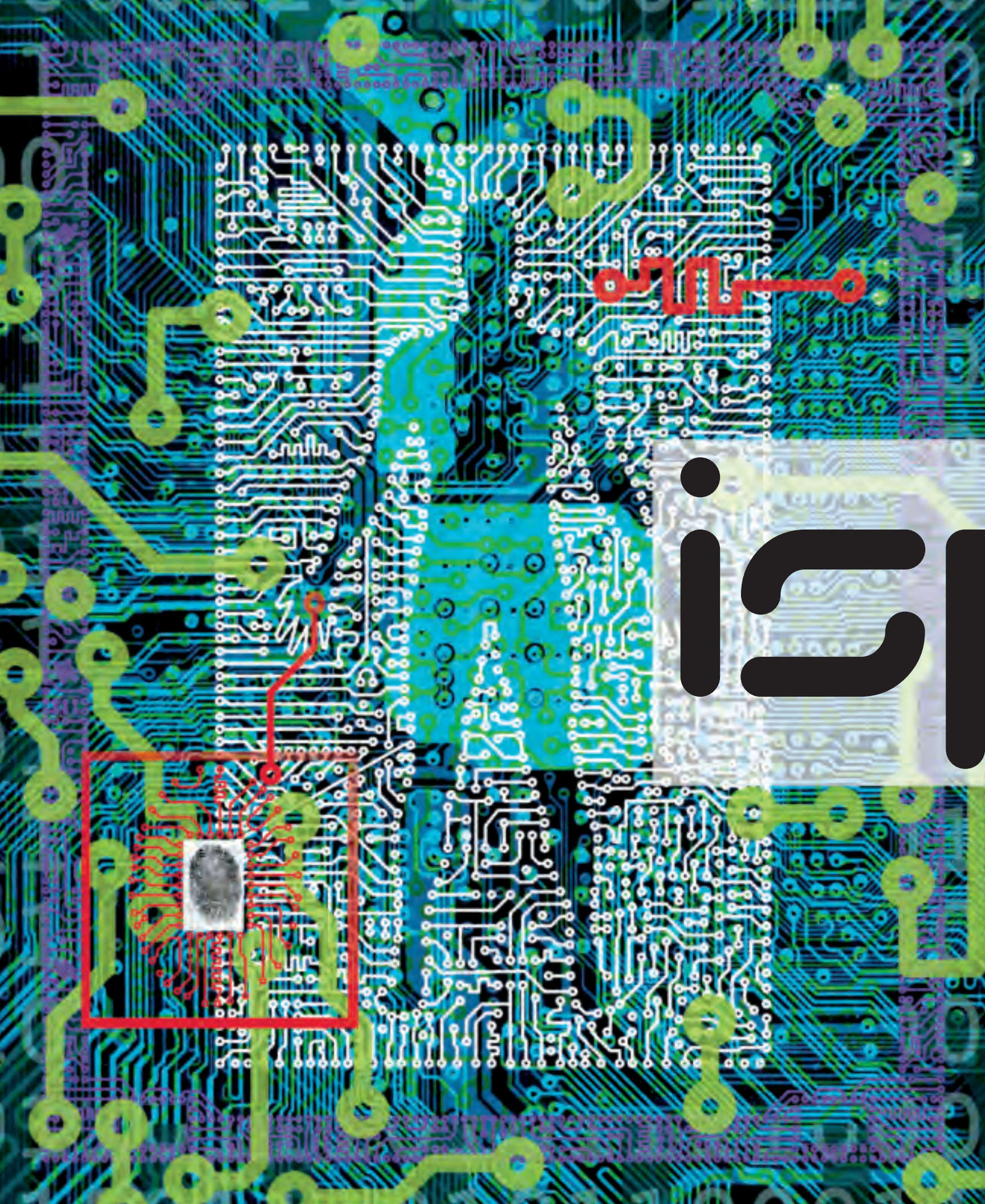
The impact of one act is truly remarkable. I've never felt more strongly that the true lesson behind giving is that it is a gift in itself. There is a deep sense of joy in knowing that other people's lives are better because of me. 

*To learn how you can register for the National Marrow Donor Program, go to [www.marrow.org](http://www.marrow.org). The painting at right by Lindsay Dailey was commissioned by Rhonda Walker Christensen as a thank you gift for her donor, Liz Jordan.*







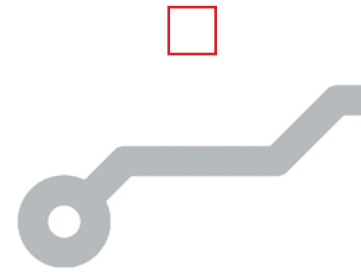


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# ispny



## Virtual sleuths combat online criminals with the click of a mouse

by Nathan Dinsdale

A computer hacker in Seattle deftly pilfers credit card numbers from an online retailer based in Texas. An identity thief at an Internet café in Moscow steals social security numbers from a temp agency in Tucson. A child pornographer in Anaheim e-mails illicit images to Beijing. An extremist in Peshawar uses his laptop to try to sabotage the electrical grid in Washington, D.C.

Each potentially has at least one thing in common: They'll have Toreros to reckon with. The modus operandi for the next generation of nefarious minds has expanded far beyond the brutish methods of traditional crime into the murky ether of the virtual world. After all, there's no need to rob a bank at gunpoint or launch a terrorist attack on, say, the New York Stock Exchange if you can effectively do both from your home computer.

It's a grave new world for those entrusted with protecting a vulnerable populace in a hyper-tech society. Nevertheless, that's the heady task that USD graduates have seized as FBI agents hunting online criminals and shaping national cyber-security policies.

They've taken different routes to the FBI, but the paths of four alums in particular have converged at the trailhead of a precarious battle between cutting-edge criminality and avant-garde policing, a place where each shares a common purpose, driven by relentless faith in their mission to protect and serve.

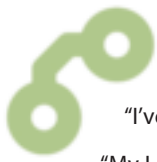
Andrew Leithead '92 (J.D. '95) wasn't the first — or the last — USD graduate to enter the ranks of the nation's premier federal law enforcement agency. But he may very well have been the youngest when he first aspired to his future career.

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"I've wanted to work for the FBI ever since I was a kid," Leithead says. "My Little League baseball coach was an FBI agent. I remember thinking that there must be nothing better than going to work every day and putting bad guys away."

His first opportunity came as a USD undergraduate when he was accepted into the prestigious FBI Honors internship program after his junior year and was assigned to the organized crime section at FBI headquarters. Among the projects he worked on was helping to write a "white paper" on Britain returning control of Hong Kong to China and the effects the transfer could have on organized crime.

"That was a terrific summer," Leithead says. "It was very exciting and just a great all-around experience. The supervisors I worked with were great role models for me."

Among them, John Iannarelli '93 (J.D.), who had become the first USD student to earn a spot in the FBI internship program two years prior with encouragement from Larry Campbell '63 (J.D.), a special agent who oversaw FBI recruiting in San Diego.

"I was very interested in the FBI going into the internship," Iannarelli says. "Coming out of it, I never had a doubt. I never looked back."

Eric Schramm '96 (J.D.) and Ramyar Tabatabaian '96 (J.D.) took slightly more circuitous routes. Schramm first studied political science at UCLA, then economics, before eventually graduating with a degree in physiology. Rather than enter medical school, he opted to study law at USD. Even then his career arc was far from certain.

"I had this sinking suspicion that I might have a hard time being a litigator for 25 to 30 years," Schramm says. There are some people who want to be FBI agents from an early age, but for me it never really crossed my mind until law school."

Tabatabaian started his post-undergrad life in the corporate world working for a broker, Charles Schwab & Company, after majoring in economics at Cal. But something was missing.

"I found out pretty quick that you have to find a job that you love," he says. "I decided that I wanted something more than just a job where I'd make a few bucks."

Tabatabaian enrolled in law school at Northern Illinois University before transferring to USD where, with Campbell's encouragement, he set his sights on the FBI.

"Larry Campbell told me that this was the best job in America,"

Tabatabaian says. "That just kind of helped solidify in my own mind that I was making the right choice."

Within a span of five years, all had graduated from USD and joined the FBI, with Tabatabaian stationed in Los Angeles, Leithead in New York, Schramm in Washington, D.C., and Iannarelli in Flint, Mich.

Tabatabaian helped recover underwater evidence as a member of the FBI's dive team in Los Angeles when he wasn't investigating bank fraud and public corruption cases, including working undercover to catch prison guards accepting bribes to smuggle everything from cigarettes to cell phones into a California penitentiary.

Schramm worked in the Washington, D.C., Field Office for two years before transferring to Los Angeles, where his wife was also an agent. His primary focus was on counterintelligence and counterterrorism, a realm where the well-worn trope, "I could tell you, but I'd have to kill you" holds slightly more resonance.

"I've worked national security matters my entire career, so discussing cases is a challenge," he says. "Most of the work I've done has never really seen the light of day."

Early in his career, Iannarelli worked several kidnapping cases in and around Detroit, although one of his very first assignments was helping chase Michigan leads in the months after the Oklahoma City bombing.

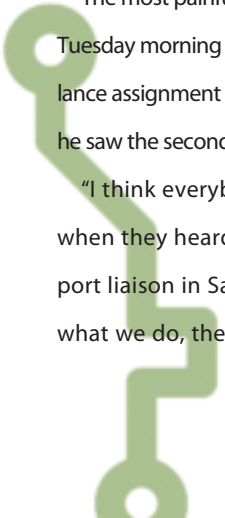
"I was just a small cog in the wheel," Iannarelli says, "but I was excited to be a part of something much bigger than myself."

Leithead was assigned to the New York City Field Office and worked counterintelligence, counterterrorism, violent crime and several high-profile bank robbery cases (including the so-called "Sleepover Bandit" case, which netted him a "Federal Investigator of the Year" award). Like Schramm, his public résumé is scant.

"I've been privileged to be a part of a lot of great investigations," Leithead says, adding with a chuckle, "I just can't talk about most of them."

The most painful unfolded suddenly, vividly for the world to see on a Tuesday morning in September 2001. Leithead had just broken off a surveillance assignment in Staten Island and was waiting at the ferry landing when he saw the second plane hit the World Trade Center and both towers fall.

"I think everybody in the FBI remembers exactly where they were when they heard the news," says Iannarelli, who was the FBI's airport liaison in San Diego that day. "But, because of who we are and what we do, there wasn't a whole lot of time to think about how we



felt about it personally. We had work to do.”

Leithead and his partner caught a ferry for emergency personnel across New York Harbor and slowly made their way toward the FBI offices at Federal Plaza a few blocks away from Ground Zero.

“I remember it being very silent,” Leithead says. “You’re in the middle of lower Manhattan and there’s just ... silence. There was a lot of debris in the air and we were walking through six or eight inches of ash that covered everyone and everything.

“It was a horrific day,” Leithead says. “It changed everything.”

**T**abatabaian was already on the front lines before the attacks caused a turbulent, seismic shift in the ideology and methodology of federal law enforcement. In 1999, he joined a small team of agents investigating computer crimes in Los Angeles, one of the seeds that would eventually grow into the FBI’s national Cyber Division.

“When I first started, we had to wait in line for a laptop computer,” Tabatabaian says. “There wasn’t Internet access at our desks or anything like that. Instead we just had one computer room where we could go to access the Internet.”

Tabatabaian tackled one of the first major cyber cases in August 2000 with a securities fraud investigation that became known as the “Emulex hoax,” in which a stock trader named Mark Jakob disseminated a fake press release about the Emulex Corp. that caused the high-tech company’s stock to hemorrhage more than \$2 billion in market capitalization in one hour of trading, while Jakob netted himself some \$250,000 in profits.

After the hoax was uncovered, Tabatabaian quickly cobbled together a team. Within hours, they had traced the fake document to a local community college computer lab, and within a week they were executing a search warrant before arresting Jakob.

“The tools that we were using and the things that we were doing were low-tech, relative to now, but it was groundbreaking at the time,” Tabatabaian says. “Cyber Division didn’t even exist yet. We were really kind of making it up as we went along.”

Iannarelli joined the newly formed Cyber Division in 2003 as a supervisory special agent (SSA) with the division’s management-level executive staff.

“I saw it as a challenging opportunity to create something new that now has become a part of what every agent does every day,” says

Iannarelli, who now heads a squad of cyber agents in the Phoenix Field Office. “I absolutely love it. It’s one of the most challenging jobs I’ve had the good fortune of doing at the bureau.”

Challenging is an understatement in a field where technology and the criminal methodology used to exploit it are constantly evolving at a breakneck pace.

“It’s definitely an arms race,” says Tabatabaian, now an SSA who oversees one of several cyber squads in Los Angeles. “Criminals develop new tools to commit their crimes, and you have to develop new tools to combat them. They get better and then we get better, they change their methods and technology and then we have to adapt. You never stop learning.”

In the last decade, cyber crime has gone from a relative afterthought to what President Barack Obama has called “one of the most serious economic and national security challenges we face as a nation.” To help meet that challenge, both Leithead and Schramm joined the Cyber Division executive staff at FBI headquarters in Washington, D.C., as SSAs, with Schramm working primarily on policy issues and Leithead serving as Special Assistant to Cyber Division Assistant Director Shawn Henry and Chief of the Executive Staff.

“We are now seeing the threat recognized at a high level, whereas maybe it wasn’t paid as much attention in prior years,” Leithead says. “Cyber is at the forefront of all of our priorities at the FBI because it cuts across so many different areas.”

Everything from identity theft, child pornography and fraud to computer intrusion (hackers), cyber-espionage and cyber-terrorism now falls under the cyber jurisdiction.

“Where there’s a computer, there’s a potential criminal nexus,” Iannarelli says. “Gone is the day when the bank robber sits down and scribbles out a note. Instead you have people sending extortion threats over e-mail or trying to hack into financial institutions on their computers.”

While cyber agents patrol the vast reaches of the online world, much of their day-to-day work involves traditional boots-in-the-mud investigations that include following leads, conducting surveillance, analyzing paper trails and compiling evidence for prosecutors to use at trial.

“People may have the image that we’re all a bunch of computer geeks sitting behind our desks staring at the computer screen all day and nothing else,” Iannarelli says. “Whether you’re working cyber or



not, you're still an agent of the FBI and a lot of what we do carries a certain amount of risk and potential for violence."

That includes executing search and arrest warrants with riot shields raised, guns drawn and bullet-proof vests cinched tight. In particular, Iannarelli says individuals involved with the online peddling of child pornography tend to be among the suspects most resistant to apprehension.

"They are often people that you'd never suspect," Iannarelli says. "As a result, they stand to lose a lot."

Further complicating the work of policing online criminals is the fact that, as Leithead says, "cyber knows no boundaries," a point that Tabatabaian has experienced extensively firsthand by working international cyber crime cases in nearly a dozen countries, ranging from Iceland and Thailand to Russia and Japan. He served with colleagues Jason Smolanoff and Todd Munoz, as part of the first FBI team to travel operationally throughout China during "Operation Summer Solstice," an investigation that resulted in dozens of arrests and the seizure of more than \$500 million worth of counterfeit software. For their work in Operation Summer Solstice, they received the 2008 Attorney's General Award for Excellence in Law Enforcement.

"There is a very real international component to cyber-crime," Tabatabaian says. "It can cross borders in seconds and attack from anywhere around the world."

And you thought your workload was daunting. But extraordinarily high demands and expectations simply come with the FBI business card.

"There isn't any FBI agent who's going to say they're underworked," Iannarelli chuckles. "But our job is to protect people; the fact that there are a lot of criminals out there just means there are a lot of people who need protection."

Earning the trust, if not the respect, of the people they protect isn't always easy — especially in a turbulent, even paranoid, era of global politics and cultural upheaval.

The FBI, among other federal agencies, has endured heavy scrutiny and often scathing criticism in recent years, an unavoidable reality that's not lost on even the most dedicated and driven of public servants.

"It can be challenging when public perception and politics and emotions play a part in people's expectations of how good a job

you're doing," Schramm says. "But despite all the challenges, there's nowhere else I'd rather be. At the end of the day, this is an organization that's full of exceptional individuals. We could probably go off and work other jobs, but we stay here because we believe in the mission."


It's a mantra oft-repeated by these agents, so much so that a cynic might wonder what sort of Kool-Aid is being served in the FBI cafeteria. But, in reality, it simply takes an extraordinary amount of dedication to devote yourself to a profession that, by its very nature, is often shrouded in secrecy.

"When you're on the inside you have a much different view of things," Iannarelli says. "I can tell you that I have not met anybody in the FBI who isn't dedicated to the mission and who doesn't give the full 100 percent. It's an organization that looks for and employs the very best."

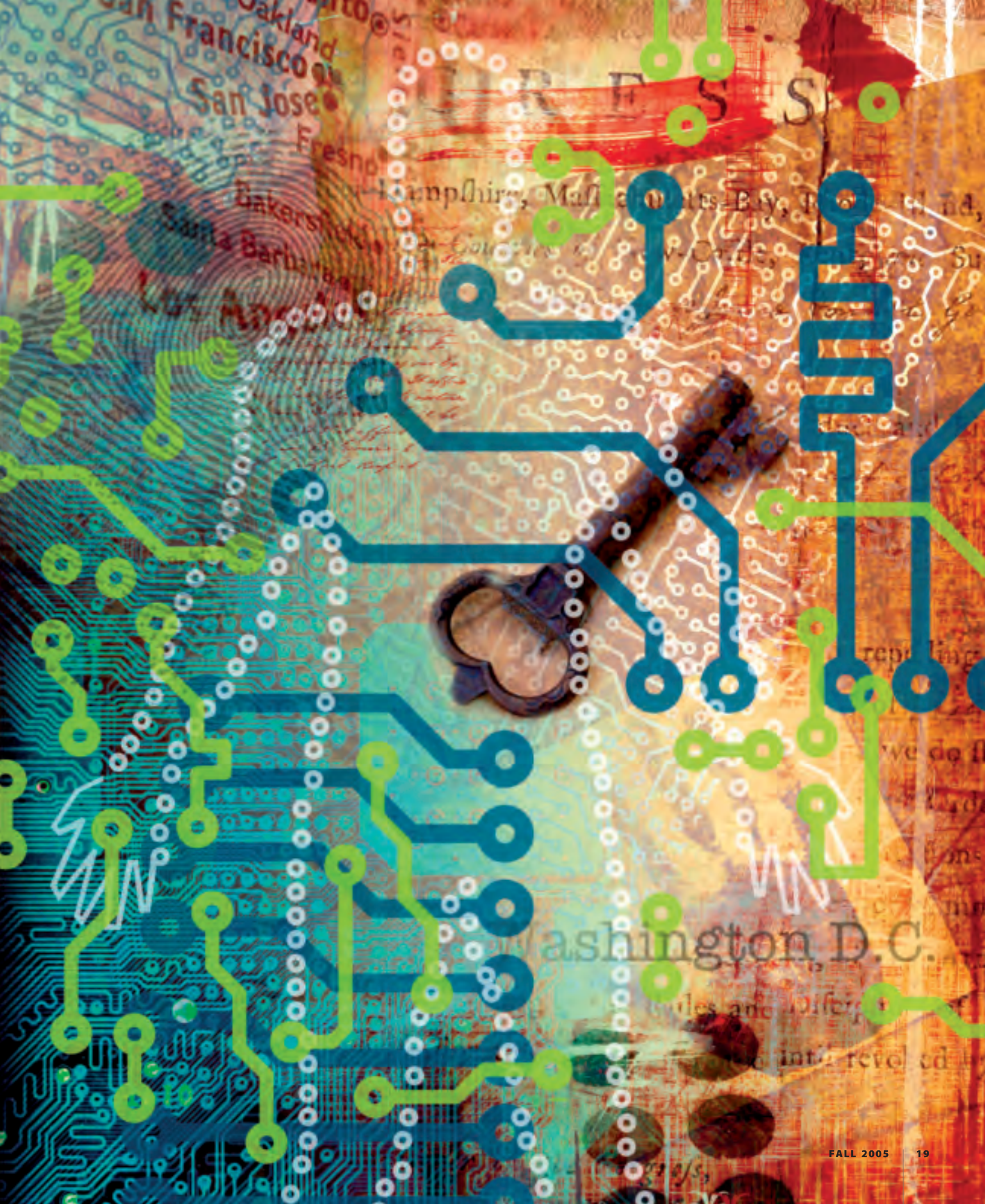
That includes recruiting the very best as well. Third-year law student Anna Russell '10 recently became the latest USD student to complete the FBI Honors Internship program. She worked in the Cyber Division, in part under the supervision of both Leithead and Schramm, and now interns for the Chief Division Counsel at the San Diego Field Office while she completes her studies at USD.

"They say when you're doing intelligence work that your best days are when nothing happens," Russell says. "I really gained an appreciation for all the work that goes on behind the scenes that's impossible to showcase."

In a climate where the traditional parameters of law enforcement have become more malleable, both by necessity and design, the agents credit their USD education for helping them navigate the rocky legal and moral shores. But, above all, it's a foundation of unified purpose and faith in their work, the system and the mission.

"I go home at the end of every day and I feel very satisfied that the taxpayers are getting absolute value from what we do, which is to defend the United States and uphold the Constitution," Leithead says. "You come to work every day and do the right things for the right reasons. It's a little corny, red, white and blue probably, but it's certainly who I am and what USD helped to inspire in me." 





San Jose

REFERENCES

Fresno

Hampshire, Mass

Bakersfield

Watts Bay, T

Santa Barbara

Washington, D.C.

Washington, D.C.



*Lift Up Your Voice*

# How Can I Keep From Singing?

by *Julene Snyder*

*photography by Luis Garcia*

The piano waits, silent now. On three risers, empty chairs are staggered, shoved aside, askew. The only noise — besides the lazy “flap flap flap” of a sturdy ceiling fan — is a muffled banging from the theater workshop next door and the sound of a lawnmower somewhere in the distance.

Golden stripes of sunlight stream between the slats of old-school venetian blinds, highlighting dust motes that dance a lazy airborne path. The room has a particular smell, a specific mixture that’s both earthy and refined; ammonia and fresh-cut grass and PB&J mixed together into an ever-so-faint bouquet.

But the sleepy ambiance is temporary. In just a moment, 13 chairs in two rows will fill: seven young women in front, six young men in back. The still air will stir, wakened by laughter and talking and papers rustling and coffee cups draining and backpacks being kicked under chairs. And then, with a glance or a word or the slightest gesture of a hand, the students will snap to attention, open their mouths and sing. And it will sound like perfection.

Some things in life resonate like tuning forks, reverberating through the years and rippling in unexpected directions. By all accounts, the Choral Scholars program is like that: life-changing.







**R**obert Benda '94 is laughing, but he's not kidding. "I don't remember the last four years of my current life, but I definitely remember those four years," he says. "Those people are what I remember. When I reminisce about college, what I think about is my experience with the group."

Benda, one of the inaugural members of USD's Choral Scholars, was on campus for a reunion during Homecoming Weekend. Among the two dozen who opted to come back were those who'd sung together for years in school as well as those from different eras who'd never met one another.

Just like back in the day, they gathered for rehearsal in their familiar stomping grounds, Camino 153, and prepared to sing for the campus community. "We're excited," says Kim Farris-Berg '98. "Because of the common ground, there's this connection between us. We thought there might be little cliques, but people are gelling together really well."

"We had heard all about these older members, we knew all about them, but this is the first time that we're meeting them," Gina Pavlov '98 says with a laugh. "They don't know anything about us, but we know all about them."

"For example, Kristi [Kuster] composed all the music that was passed down, so we sang those songs. I knew who Kristi was, but she'd graduated by the time I came along," Farris-Berg recalls. "But the stories got passed down."

Supremely self-confident, Kuster sports an effortless cool. After graduating from USD in 1995, she hit the ground sprinting: Now a renowned composer and professor of composition at the University of Michigan, she's had a commissioned piece performed in Carnegie Hall. The New York Times said she "writes commandingly for the orchestra" and that her music "has an invitingly tart edge." She recalls her undergraduate days at USD with fervent appreciation.

"Looking back, I can't believe that experience," she says. "At the age of 18, it was so incredible to be thrown into it and be singing and performing and just 'on' constantly. We were performing all the time — on campus, off campus, it was really remarkable."

Kuster was tapped as a freshman to join Choral Scholars. "I had a friend that was going to audition, and he said, 'Why don't you audition when we're down there?' because I was going to accompany him on the piano. The night before the audition, the director, Rob Campbell, called me up and said his accompanist was ill and couldn't play, so could I sight-read 20 auditions the next day. He had seen on my application that I had a lot of piano experience." She laughs at her own youthful folly. "To this day, I really can't quite believe that I had the nerve at such a young age."

She wound up being selected as the 11th member of what was originally a 10-member choir, each coupled with a full scholarship endowed by a major gift by the late music lover Agnes Crippin. Although singers aren't required to be music majors — in fact, an unscientific poll shows a somewhat surprising number of them major in math-related fields — Kuster did ultimately elect to major in music.

"I got lucky because Stephen Sturk came in as a new conductor at the beginning of my junior year," she recalls. "He made me the student assistant conductor, and he gave me half the rehearsals every week to just do my music. So I wrote pieces and arranged pop tunes for the group, it was like a lab." And she reveled in the freedom to really stretch her musical wings. "I knew all of these people's voices inside and out, so I could write something, bring it in, try it out, and if that didn't work, bring something else. I would never have gotten that at a bigger school."

Being selected as a Choral Scholar is quite a coup; only a few spots open up each year, and competition is fierce. "We had people from all different areas of campus," Pavlov recalls. "We were singing all the time. We had two-hour rehearsals every day, most of us were in the university

choir and in between we hung out with each other."

There's a definite comrade-in-arms mentality among the graduates; they've been through something the rest of us can't quite comprehend.

"Musically, we were held to high standards," Pavlov says, emphatic. She's a fast talker, which appears to be a fairly common trait among Choral Scholars, past and present. "It wasn't just that you had to have a certain level of musicianship, it was, 'You *will* do the work, you *will* be prepared before you come into class.' It was also highly academic in the caliber of the music we were doing at the time."

Katie Wilson '94 couldn't agree more. "There was a very high performance standard. We were there to be the face of USD. We had to take etiquette classes. They actually took us to Aromas and had us study etiquette because we were going to be sitting with the donors."

Nods of agreement. "They would teach us what subjects not to touch — you know, avoid politics or religion — and teach us how to gracefully bow out of those," Farris-Berg recalls. "A lot of the people that we were sitting with were schooled in manners, so we had to be too."

"Yes, the men were told to stand until the women sat," Wilson says. "They covered all the bases."

"Our job was to sing, then charm them and let them see what the students were like. I think when [former USD President] Art Hughes started it, that was his mission," Farris-Berg remembers. "He wanted us to be ambassadors for the university."

Ellen Johnson, who was the Choral Scholars' first vocal coach ("I first interviewed for that job when the program was a twinkle in their eye.") said that while all of the students loved music, some of them also loved something else. And that was okay; the beauty of the concept was that non-music majors were accepted.

"For me, the importance of that program was that it helped them no matter what they did," she says. Johnson says she was thrilled to meet up with some of her former students during Homecoming. "It was amazing. I felt like back then they were already the essence of what they'd become, but to see them now was a delight."

Johnson, who stayed with the program from its inception in 1989 until 1997, thinks that the Choral Scholars served a pivotal role. "They best served the university in a diplomatic way," she says. "They showed a side of the university in a way that was artistic and professional. All of them were very good at reaching out in a more personal way."

Katie Wilson continues to tout the program. Now director of both the drama program and glee club of Cathedral Catholic High School, Wilson has worked steadily as an actress in numerous shows throughout Southern California since graduation, as well as writing two original musicals and directing more than 100 shows. She credits much of her music/acting/teaching career to the foundation laid by Choral Scholars.

"I have had so many wonderful influences in my life," she wrote in an e-mail lauding USD professors and benefactors a few days after the reunion. "They made my education, and ultimately my career in the arts and arts education, possible."

Johnson recalls that first graduating class of Choral Scholars with equal fondness. "This group was really special, and I'm not saying that just to be nostalgic. I really think that this program is character-building. I really believe that it turns out genuinely good people."

**W**ith youth's casual, rubber-limbed flexibility, the early arrivals are played in implausible postures on the floor outside the classroom. As usual, Camino 153 is locked before rehearsal, but the Choral Scholars' musical director, Ed Basilio, is expected any minute



now. In the meantime, there is conversation about the upcoming weekend, inside jokes and the occasional abrupt trill of song.

Once Dr. B. arrives and unlocks the door, within 90 seconds the 13 singers have arranged themselves in their familiar two-row formation, pulled out heaps of tattered songbooks and fixed their eyes on Basilio. As the students work through some tricky phrasing, the light seems to become a hint more golden, and for an instant, the singers resemble an illustration from an illuminated medieval book.

The voices weave and dance around one another, pure and unadorned, and Basilio urges them on with whatever it takes: facial expressions, swinging arms, imploring fingers. When they finish, 13 pairs of eyes look at him, expectant. "That was great! Great!" he enthuses. "Right up until we got to that key change."

With a flurry of performances scheduled for the remainder of the semester — ranging from Homecoming to major donor luncheons to the inaugural Founders Gala — there's no time to agonize over every error. "Look, if you crash and burn, you just smile and say, 'Thank you very much,'" he tells them. Of course, they won't crash and burn, at least not so the audience will notice, but nonetheless the students nod, solemn. And then the hour is up, rehearsal is finished, and they gather up their things and scatter as quickly as they came, off to their next obligation.

"Being in the Choral Scholars really matures the students," Basilio says. He should know: over the past five years, he's practically become a member of their family. After all, they see one another nearly every day. "By the time they're seniors, their musicianship gets really sharp. They leave here as high-functioning, professional musicians." He's a snappy dresser, and has the seemingly obligatory perfect posture. During performances, he looks at least as sharp in his tux as any of his students.

There have been a number of musical directors over the years — including founding director Robert Campbell and the much-beloved Stephen Sturk — and while the position is funded as part-time, it certainly sounds like a ton of work. There are applications to wade through, and tapes to listen to, and auditions, of course, and the accompanying decisions to be made every year as students graduate and spots open up. There are performances galore, the careful selection of the repertoire, endless rehearsals, and perhaps the meat of the matter, the actual teaching that's involved. "Foremost, they are a Choral Scholar organization," Basilio says. "We perform a high-quality, classical choral literature. While some of what we do is entertainment, and requires lighter pieces, the majority of our diet is classical."

"Dr. B. is very talented, musically," says Tony Kzmarzick, who earned a double major in Theology and Music in 2008. "He's a great piano player, and as a director he has high expectations. He'll push you to try and be your best."

When new students come in, they have to get up to speed in a hurry. "Sure, they can be intimidated," Basilio admits. "At first, they feel like they're drowning in music." While it can be an emotional experience to watch the students master their craft, mature and move on, in general he says it's reminiscent of other life experiences. "By the time they're ready to graduate, it's sort of like when your own child goes off to college," he says with a rueful laugh. "You're ready for them to leave. I'm sure they're happy to get away from me too."

**A** few days later, Shannon Cajka has managed to find time to talk, but carving out even half an hour wasn't easy. "We have no life," she says with a grin. Cajka's not complaining, just explaining her day-to-day reality. Quick to smile, the fresh-faced junior speaks quickly, perhaps at least in part because of her jam-packed

schedule. Or maybe she's just permanently stuck on full throttle.

"I grew up singing in church choirs and participated in youth community theater," she explains. "Musical theater is where I really developed my voice. In high school, I switched over to choral singing and fell in love with it. Then I auditioned for the Choral Scholars program during my senior year of high school."

Although she says that her commitment to Choral Scholars is paramount — "All of your organizations have to know, first thing, that this is going to come first" — she's managed to join a sorority, serve as an R.A. and be involved with the investors club. Like most of the past and present members of the group, she knows that as much as she loves singing, her career path lies elsewhere.

"We all had the dream at one point. I know when I was at the heart of my musical theater childhood, all I wanted to do was go to NYU and be on Broadway by the time I was 24." She flashes her million-dollar smile and shakes her head ruefully.

Senior Kate Christman knows all about that dream. "I was in drama, dance, music, all of that," she says, recalling her childhood. "I was all about character shoes and jazz hands."

But when it comes down to it, loving music isn't necessarily enough. "You realize that you have to make a lot of sacrifices for those types of careers," Cajka points out. "I don't think I'd be able to function with an artist's kind of life. But since you're not required to be a music major to be a Choral Scholar, it brings people together that might not have been able to continue studying music. Getting a Choral Scholarship let me continue doing something that I'm passionate about but don't necessarily want to make into a career."

And of course, there are other perks. "We're like a type of family," says senior Megan Klarich. "When I was a freshman, we went to Italy, Eastern Europe, France. We performed in Notre Dame, very impromptu, we sang Stephen Foster's version of 'Ave Maria.' Her bright smile lights up her face. 'It's on YouTube.'"

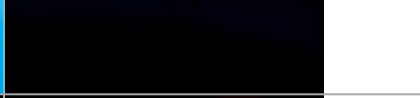
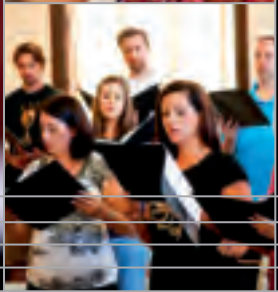
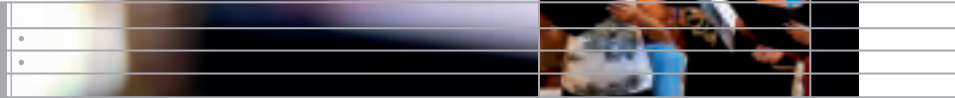
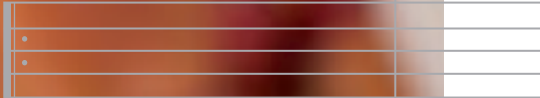
Internet aside, that moment is etched deep in memory. "It was something I never, ever thought I'd do coming into college," she says, eyes a bit dreamy. "Maybe I'd do it later in life, but it just wasn't the typical experience you'd expect as a college student."

It all translates into life lessons. "Working with these people has forced me into a leadership role," Christman says. "As a junior, all of a sudden I was a veteran. Every year the group completely changes; it gets a new personality. And that's the sort of thing that happens all the time, in business and in life."

Of course, there is some fun to be had as a Choral Scholar. To hear Andy Dahl '99 tell it, the spring of 1997 was the apex, at least for his particular era. "We were a dynamic group, we had lots of student leaders, and for our annual concert, we did Queen's 'Somebody to Love.'" He looks absolutely delighted at the memory. "Stephen Sturk said he'd do the Freddie Mercury solo." His eyes have a faraway gleam. "That was one of the highlights for me. I'll never forget it."

**T**he endowment initially provided recipients with full tuition, but today's Choral Scholars have about a third of their tuition expenses covered, along with private voice instruction, advanced choral training and ongoing music theory development. While they're in school, the commitment required of them isn't just about time, it's about putting themselves out there, front and center.

"No matter your skill level, once you're in, there's a bar level that says, 'You're a Choral Scholar, get on the treadmill and go,'" Cajka says. "We







have performances right off the bat. My freshman year, I met the scholars, and then within the hour, I sang with them in front of my entire freshman class at convocation. Once you're in it, you're in it."

Established in 1989 through a \$1 million endowment from Agnes Crippen, the fair market value of the principal and its earnings has more than tripled. Although the criteria for recipients appear stringent today, alumni say that outside activities were once even more restricted.

"We couldn't do other things," Chris Stephens says flatly. "This was our activity." He's tall, broad, square-jawed, clear-eyed. Gina Pavlov nods. "Right. We couldn't study abroad, remember? I was going to do student teaching, but I wasn't allowed to miss days from Choral Scholars."

"Sure, you had to make those sacrifices, but Choral Scholars was just as big a commitment as any other sort of activity on campus," Stephens says. "There just wasn't time to do both. I gather that's changed now, that students even take a semester off to go abroad, but maybe they don't have the same focus as we did."

Now an eighth-grade algebra teacher, Stephens is — surprise! — supremely busy. Active in the local music scene, a few of his credits include being a member of the chorus of the San Diego Opera since 2000, serving as area rep for the American Guild of Musical Artists, and taking the stage in numerous performances at San Diego's Starlight Theater and Lyric Opera San Diego.

Like most of the others, for Stephens, singing isn't just hardwired, it's as essential as air and sunlight: "I've always sung. I started with the children's choir in church when I was seven and never really stopped. But I also always knew I wanted to work with kids."

What about the call of bright lights, big city? "I considered a full-time singing career," he admits. "But you just can't do that in San Diego. My family is here, and I have no desire to live in L.A. or New York. None." He smiles, serene that he's made the right choice.

"Choral Scholars was an amazing experience for me," he says, intent. "I really want everyone in the program to have the same experience that I had, and I'm worried that the current students just don't." He thinks that the current Choral Scholars are missing out on crucial aspects of what made belonging so special. "The group was originally formed to serve as ambassadors of the university, to talk to people, to form a connection across the years."

Looking back, those days still shimmer. "I felt such a sense of joy and pride then," Stephens recalls. "We were given the task of making sure that the university's reputation was upheld. To sit and talk to people like Darlene Shiley and Agnes Crippen and share with them what the experience meant to us ... " His voice trails off. "Well, it really made me so happy. All of us, really."

**S**ome things never change. For example, warm-up exercises. Whether it's the rising notes of "mee may maw" or the building scale of "I know, I know, I know, I know, I know," or the diction-clearing thrum of "bumble bee, bumble bee, bumble bee," Choral Scholars both past and present have internalized the routine: pay attention to breathing, to posture, to articulation, to volume.

Sure, there's a certain amount of chatting at rehearsals — mostly between partners — and sophomore Paul Christman sports a mischievous grin when he admits that it's not all work, all the time. "It's easier to talk to the people who have the same voice part because you can pretend like you're going over the music. Plus when you have the same part, you can complain about the same lines."

But in truth, there is remarkably little complaining. Even though the

students have to perform at three events in two days, and it's the middle of midterms, and they're trying to, you know, have some kind of social life, they show up to rehearsal on time, every time. And when it's time to perform? Well, they show up not just at the appointed hour, but all gussied up, the men in tuxes, the women in heels and tea-length cocktail dresses. And when time is really crunched, they have been known to show up in their fancy duds to class. Hey, sometimes a Choral Scholar's got to do what a Choral Scholar's got to do.

The alumni have their own memories about the clothes they wore to perform. Some of the women recall unflattering, wrinkle-free sacks that were one-size-fits-all and could be easily stuffed into a backpack. There was a notorious men's white crew sweater with blue trim and a shield on the chest with a Choral Scholars insignia, now recalled with good-humored disdain. But when Kim Farris-Berg shows up at the IPJ to sing the night of the 2009 President's Dinner, her floor length gown from her student days still fits her like a glove. Frankly, she looks like a million bucks.

In fact, everyone cleans up nicely. In the room where they've gathered to wait for their cue, women have kicked off their high heels, padding about in bare feet, flip-flops, Ugg boots.

"You sound good!" enthuses Jennifer Hollar Halliburton '96, cheering on the students who've broken into an impromptu chorus. Her eyes are gleaming, lustrous auburn locks glowing. Just like the old days, she'll be singing a solo alongside her old classmate, Robert Benda, and just like the old days, they'll be singing Kuster's composition "One Day." Kuster manages to simultaneously be both proud of the piece and self-deprecating, noting that it's been years since she wrote it. "I was very deep," she explains to the group. "Very, very deep."

Under Dr. B.'s direction, the two groups merge, form a large circle and introduce themselves. After deciding who will stand where on risers and rehearsing yet again the three songs they'll be performing during the intimate Homecoming President's Dinner, they mingle and chat, waiting to be called to perform, ready to go and happy to stay. When the female students offer up an impromptu rendition of "Ave Maria," everyone stops talking. Some listeners are solemn, some are smiling, more than a few are crying.

"Oh my. You are so beautiful," says Halliburton. "Oh my."

The time has come. Hair is smoothed, shoes are swapped, a tidy line is formed, and the group walks down the corridor toward the stairway, all tuxes and taffeta, more than ready, at last, to sing.

After words are spoken — some by Basilio, some by Kuster — the lights dim and the room goes silent. A moment later, the voices meld, coming together, standing alone, breaking apart, rising and falling, returning as one. At this moment, it seems that this particular rendition of "I'll Be Seeing You" may well be the saddest version ever performed ("the children's carousel/the chestnut trees/the wishing well"), and as the last note fades the audience sighs as one.

And just like that, it's all over. Time now to kick off those uncomfortable shoes for good. One and all are invited to come hang out at the Mission Beach house that some of the alumni rented for the weekend, tell a few stories, play some Beatles Rock Star, and, no doubt, indulge in a little more singing and a whole lot of laughing.

On the way out of the IPJ, footsteps thunder past. It's a student, dressed in jeans and sneakers. She's running full-tilt, her black dress flung over one shoulder. "Got to go!" she hollers. "I'm late!"

"I remember that," someone says. "I so remember what that felt like. There never did seem to be quite enough time to fit it all in." Nods all around. Yes. They remember. They'll always remember. 🎵







# Home Away

Trading spaces pays off in family's adventure of a lifetime

by Kelly Knufken

photography by Tim Mantoani

Shelley Miller is downplaying the view.

This isn't easy. When you enter her Point Loma home, the gorgeous sight of downtown San Diego and the Coronado Bridge beckoning from her living room window immediately draws you in.

"I want you to know that you don't have to have a view to do this," she says. Indeed, her family of four didn't even live in this showstopper of a house when they put their normal life on hold for five months in 2000 to embark on a home exchange vacation that would take them to six countries over five months. It turned out to be the trip of a lifetime.

Miller '03 (MSEL) has become an ambassador of sorts for home exchange, the practice of trading homes with people all over the world. She opens the guidebook, asks where you'd like to go. She tells you how, after a total of eight such trips, they've never returned home to find so much as a broken glass. She tells you having faith in people has let her family have amazing travel experiences, the kind you just can't get in a hotel. But first things first.

## It's not about the house.

The Millers' home is listed in the HomeLink International guidebook like this: "Lovely, casual home on Point Loma, quiet family area near many attractions."

There are any number of reasons someone may be looking for a home exchange vacation. For example, the family from Italy that they first swapped houses with, near the town Miller's grandmother hailed from, had a brother in San Diego.

And for their part, on the first leg of the family's "European Adventure" (as Miller dubbed it in her carefully assembled itinerary), they were staying in a Tudor home in England built in 1485. Quite a contrast to say, San Diego, which was established as a city in 1850.

At age 8, daughter Michele was shy and introverted. But on that first misty morning in England, she got up before her mom, put on

rainboots that the other family kept by the door, donned a jacket over her pajamas, and went outside to feed the geese. "I was surprised and thrilled," Miller recalls. "At that time, she was full of fear at home. She had difficulty sleeping through the night, evil things lurked outside and they were going to come in and hurt us. The fact that she got up on her own while we were all asleep was outside her comfort zone, but she did it."

Miller smiles at the power of her memory. "We were privately jubilant. We took these kids out of their neighborhood world and transplanted them to these many countries. And especially with someone like Michele, who was so fearful, well, some might have thought travel was the wrong move. But in fact, in that very first country we realized that this was the right move."

The extended trip allowed Miller and her husband to see new facets of both her children. Unlike Michele, her son Dillon was outgoing and relatively fearless, but one day in England, Miller found out just how extroverted he really was. "We were touring King Henry the VIII's home, Hampton Court Palace, which has the most famous maze in the world," she recalls "Across a grass courtyard, I spotted a juggler." It turned out to be her 12-year-old son, his father's baseball cap serving as a repository for coins and pound notes from the appreciative crowd surrounding him.

"The kids learned about themselves during this trip, and Stan and I got to watch them as they opened up to who they are, as they came into their own."

It was growth experiences like that — seeing what her children were capable of and interacting with them absent the family's everyday routine — that sealed the trip in Miller's memory.

## You gotta have faith.

"A lot of people can't get past the fact that we don't know these people we trade houses with." But for Miller, there are ways of getting to know their partners in this adventure without meeting them in person.



The leap of faith becomes a little easier, she says, when you receive an e-mail like this from Ireland: "This offer has created quite a stir, and we are very keen to exchange."

"Well, mass murderers don't talk like that," Miller asserts. The writer had gone on to mention the christening of her sister's twin boys.

They stayed in a "teeny town" on the southwest coast of Ireland, playing card games in the evenings as they burned peat in the fireplace. Dillon, then 12, played hurling — a game played with sticks and a ball — with the boy next door, which helped him to get past a sudden and somewhat extreme bout of homesickness.

"Dillon asked Stan to see the trip itinerary. He looked at it as if he'd never seen it before, as if it hadn't been posted in our kitchen in San Diego for three months, as if I hadn't made 84 copies for family and friends and him," she recalls. "He studied it, and told Stan, 'I want to go home.'" Miller sighs, the memory still fresh.

"It had been about five weeks at that point, and I took him aside for a heart-to-heart. It was April, and we weren't due home until August. I told him, 'All these people are coming to our house, and they'll be really sad if they can't see San Diego.' Later, we sat down to play cards or something, and he looked across the courtyard and saw Edward and Luke. He saw these kids, and looked at me, and it was like he'd seen a mirage. I said, 'go!' and he did. And that was it."

Another memorable moment came during the family's sojourn to Italy. They stayed in Florence, but Miller was after more than art and shopping. Her grandmother hailed from Barga, Italy, and Miller wanted to find her great-great-grandparents' grave. She had only this clue, from a letter her great aunt wrote in 1980: "It's the most beautiful monument in the cemetery."

Her parents and an uncle had searched for the gravestone on past trips to no avail. Miller, too, searched for some time on her first visit to the cemetery and had to leave without finding her forebears' resting place. Undaunted, she and her family returned the next day with tools from the local hardware store: a bucket, scrub tools and cleaning fluid to neutralize the lichen that clung to the old stones, obscuring names.

Clutching the old letter like a treasure map, Miller went from stone to stone, searching for Antonio Gonnella's marker. A caretaker got in on the hunt, but it was looking like Miller would come up empty again. Each lichen scraped from a stone revealed another family's ancestor. Finally the caretaker pointed her toward some catacombs. Still no luck, but upon emerging, Miller saw a 12-foot tall monument partially hidden by an evergreen archway. An angel rested on a post. The post read 1912, with the name Antonio Gonnella — her great-great-grandfather.

"It's a miracle," proclaimed the caretaker. He joined the Millers in the Lord's Prayer.

## Serendipity happens.

In retrospect, she sees that the entire trip was even more profound than it seemed at the time.

"It was important to my husband and me for our children to learn that there was a world beyond San Diego," Miller says.

She knew they were on the right track when, in Spain, Dillon commented, "Everybody here speaks Spanish." Thinking fast, she answered, "That's why we think it's so important that *you* learn Spanish."

The children actually attended school in Spain, becoming little stars that the other children pelted with questions. There, they learned even more about the differences in culture.

"You were allowed to go home for lunch, and they did long division upside down, or maybe we have it wrong, who knows?" Dillon remembers now.

And there was a shiver-inducing moment on a later home exchange trip to Hong Kong in 2005. The Millers lived in Hong Kong when Dillon was born and had always promised him they would return so he could see the country where he'd spent his first days.

On that return trip, Miller's husband Stan had to have some stitches removed. They ended up at the hospital where Dillon was born, and mentioned to the doctor that Dillon was delivered there by Dr. Tsai. He's right down the hall, they were told, and Dillon — then a senior in high school — ended up meeting and having his picture taken with the doctor who delivered him. "I think the doctor was genuinely thrilled," Miller says.

## It's all about new beginnings.

But it was on that first, meandering European trip — at a little cafe in Paris over breakfast with her husband — that Miller decided to pursue her master's in a program she'd been mulling, USD's Master's of Science in Executive Leadership program.

"When you hear about something like that, it spoke to me. I had in the back of my head that maybe someday, someday, someday. Those five months were a magical time, and it allowed my brain to wander and not think of the stuff that normally eats up our day. On this trip, the words actually came out of my mouth to my husband. Then you start owning it."

When she returned, she applied and was accepted. And USD's architecture reminded her of her time in Spain. "It warmed my heart because it was so familiar to me."

She put her new leadership training to work at her position as executive director of a local business revitalization district for Pacific Beach, then moved in 2004 to the San Diego-Imperial Counties chapter of the American Red Cross, where she headed up the Women, Infants and Children program, overseeing six outside offices and 100 employees for four years.

In spite of her busy schedule, they've managed to take seven more trips since the grand five-month adventure that started their house-trading escapes. Each time, Miller leaves a tour guide notebook for the family that will inhabit their home. Often, they meet the other family in the course of the trade. Friends of the Millers sometimes have the vacationing families over for dinner in San Diego.

If you trade homes with people in big cities like Paris, you can generally expect a smaller flat, Miller says. But there are advantages.

"If a place is clean, you can live anywhere. The bed in Paris was on the floor, but it was around the corner from where Hemingway wrote 'Moveable Feast.'"

Miller and her family kept journals during that 2000 trip; she's







using this raw material as the basis for a book, “Postcards from Home: One Family, Five European Home Exchanges, Five Months.”

## Celebrating common ground.

The pages that make up the latest draft of the book that Miller’s writing are neatly organized in a three-ring binder. A chapter about Schull — the “teeny town” in Ireland where the family became immersed in the community — recounts Michele’s First Holy Communion, which took place in the local church:

“The priest invites our family to receive communion first,” Miller writes. “He steps down from the sanctuary and we move into the aisle; Michele’s at the head of the line, a most rare position for my shy daughter. Her unsmiling face appears calm. She folds her hands and moves forward with deliberate steps.

Father Nolan looks down at her with kind eyes and a warm smile. He says, ‘The body of Christ.’

‘Amen,’ Michele replies. She extends the palm of her small hand. Father Nolan rests the host into it. She places the holy wafer in her mouth and makes the sign of the cross. The rest of us receive communion. We arrive back to our pew. Michele beams. Stan and I place ourselves on each side of her. It’s hard not to grab her hands and push them into the air like she’s a prizefighter.

Michele tugs on my sleeve, cups her hand over my ear, and whispers: ‘Mama, it tasted like a fortune cookie.’

The altar is cleared and Father Nolan says, ‘The Lord be with you.’ ‘And also with you.’

‘The Mass is ended. Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.’

Parishioners begin filing out of the church. An older lady in a plaid coat approaches our pew. She stands before Michele. ‘Congratulations to you, child.’ The lady crinkles her eyes and shakes my daughter’s hand. Michele blushes and directs a smile towards her Mary Janes.

A man in a brown coat and newsboy cap walks over and says, ‘Welcome to Schull!’ He offers me his burlap hand. He looks at Michele with sparkling blue eyes and says, ‘What a grand place to celebrate your communion.’ He tips his cap and exits the church.

Another woman comes over and I suddenly feel like we’re in a receiving line and my daughter is the guest of honor. She shakes Michele’s hand and coos, ‘Bless you, wee one.’

In the Roman Catholic Church, a sacrament is considered ‘a rite in which God is uniquely active.’ God danced the jig at Michele’s sacrament of First Holy Communion.”

## The real meaning of home.

The experience of traveling with her nearest and dearest while leaving her own house to relative strangers has deepened Miller’s views on home and family and faith.

“Home is not a place. It’s a feeling.” Her eyes well with tears. The words get harder to say — this is big for her. “The shell is shelter. My home is my husband and children. I traveled with my home. I had what was precious with me.”

Clearly, the family’s shared adventure has changed all of their lives. Even Dillon, now 22 and away at college, still expects that

the family will travel together for home exchange vacations.

He credits that first trip as expanding his worldview and remembers it as a time when his parents “broke me out of the comfort of my little bubble.”

“It was an amazing, eye-opening experience for a boy who celebrated his 13th birthday in Germany and was allowed to eat ice cream for breakfast,” Dillon says now.

But getting the okay from the kids’ school to miss 10 weeks wasn’t easy. The principal strongly discouraged Miller from the family’s plans, even though the couple planned to homeschool Michele and Dillon on their travels while, of course, immersing them in other cultures.

“She was not very positive,” Miller says with wry understatement. “In fact, she said it was highly irregular and that she couldn’t promise that they’d be promoted to the next grade.” In some ways, that negative attitude made her more determined than ever to carry out their plans for the grand tour.

“We were still on the fence about whether we were going to do it, but her reaction to the plan brought out such strong emotion that it made it clear that we should do this.”

In the end, of course, the children learned at least as much as they would have in the classroom. “Eventually you realize that you don’t have to be rigid with how you teach them. In Germany, we visited Dachau. That’s a pretty important class trip. In Amsterdam, we went to Anne Frank’s house. I mean, come on.”


Miller recalls that Dillon’s teacher reacted to their plans with much greater enthusiasm; in fact, it was very nearly a polar opposite. “She was so positive, and she verbalized all of the things that were in my head. It was important to hear a teacher say these things. She said that she thought our trip sounded fantastic.” In fact, the teacher gushed so effusively over what a life-changing experience it would be that Miller still remembers how much the encouragement meant to her.

Once home from a trip where the family had only each other to lean on as they learned a new town, a new language, Miller finds it doesn’t take long until everyday life creeps back in. Back home, there is school, Boy Scouts, work, friends, activities, all the bustle of modern American life. “You slowly let your family go again. You just say, ‘Thank you God,’ for those five months,” Miller reflects.

She always knew that the trip they took in 2000 would be one of the best experiences of her life. But with time comes perspective.

“The trip was about searching for roots. It was about educating the children. It was about family — carving out five months with my family. Looking back now, that was the Number One experience of my life.”

Well, at least so far. To celebrate Michele’s graduation from high school, the family is planning a trip to Italy this summer. While their plans are still fluid, what’s certain is that once again, the Millers will be on the move, and once again, their journey will take them to places they’ll remember for the rest of their lives.

“What could be better?” Miller asks. “I mean, these three are my favorite people, the most important people in my life, and we’ll be discovering the world together all over again.” 

*To learn more about home exchange, go to [www.homelink.org](http://www.homelink.org).*









TIM MANTOANI

## 1960s

**[1960]**  **CHARLES HANLEN (B.A.)** was inducted into *La Societe des Quarante Hommes et Huit Cheveux* (The Society of 40 Men and Eight Horses), an honor organization of male and female U.S. military veterans. The term "40/8" originated during World War I, when the sides of French railroad cars were stenciled with those numerals, denoting that each boxcar carried 40 men and eight horses. The uncomfortable railroad cars transported American soldiers to the trenches at the front from 1917 until a few weeks before the Armistice on Nov. 11, 1918. Hanlen is a former National Alumni Board member.

**[1966]** **VERN SCHOOLEY (J.D.)** was elected to a second term as president of the Los Angeles Intellectual Property Inn of Court and is counselor of the Ball/Hunt Inn of Court. He also serves on the American Inn of Court President's Council, is program co-chair of the Long Beach Bar Association and is in the process of organizing an Intellectual Property Law American Inn of Court in Seattle. Since graduation, Vern has specialized in patent and trademark litigation with the law firm Fulwider Patton. He lives in Long Beach with his wife, Trish, and daughter, Kelly.

## 1970s

**[1970]**  **IDA (DeGIORGIO) SCANLON (BSN)** has retired from her position as a school nurse in the Oceanside Unified School District for 12 years. She has been attending literature and Bible classes since 1986.

**[1972]** **GARY GRAMLING (J.D.)** was appointed to the city of San Diego Housing Commission by Mayor Jerry Sanders. Gary is president of Gramling Construction Co. and Desert Development Co., specializing in single-family homes, general contracting services, construction management and land development in Imperial County. He has served on the board of trustees for Meals on Wheels for more than 20 years and is a director of the San

Diego Building Industry Association's Home Builders Council.

**[1975]**  **RICHARD BERG (J.D.)** is semi-retired and living in eastern Idaho near Grand Teton National Park. "I enjoy wonderful skiing in winter, hiking and biking in summer in a wonderful outdoor setting, and great neighbors and friends," he writes. Prior to retiring, he was a managing partner of Cadas & Perry, a multi-national intellectual property law firm. Before joining Cadas, he was a patent attorney, with most of his time spent at Texas Instruments in Dallas. "Nice place to work, but Texas is Texas," he says. "Big, flat and hot. I enjoy outdoor sports, and I prefer living near the Tetons to Texas any day of the week!"

**CONNIE (ROZMUS) CAHILL (B.A.)** received the 2009 Award of Excellence from the Greater San Diego Reading Association, a group of teaching professionals dedicated to improving reading skills and opportunities for elementary and high school students. Connie has been an elementary school teacher in the Bonsall Union School District since 1976.

**[1979]** **STEVE COHN (J.D.)** and his wife, Catherine Travers, have lived in Sacramento since 1979. Steve serves on the Sacramento City Council and is in-house counsel for the Sacramento Municipal Utility District. The couple has two children: Nicole, 26, a graduate of UCLA and of Hunter College in New York (master's degree in social work); and Adam, 23, a student at Sacramento City College.

**ABBY SILVERMAN (J.D.)** opened a new practice to work exclusively on mediations and arbitrations, concentrating on employment and employment-related business disputes. Abby retired from Baker & McKenzie after 20 years as a partner. Abby offers her expertise to many nonprofit and community organizations, including serving on the employment law panel and the complex litigation panel of the American Arbitration Association, San Diego district attorney's Women's Advisory Council, the board of trustees for Scripps Health and the Episcopal Community Services Board. She is listed in the Best Lawyers in America and the Southern California Super Lawyers lists.

just a small crew now, reflecting the state of the real estate market these days.

"If you don't have a big family, you have to create your family. We need each other on this planet," he says.

Toward that end, he mentors Tiffany, a fellow leukemia survivor who wants to attend USD and become a nurse.

"She's like a daughter," he says. "I got sick when I was 46. One day I was feeling really bad for myself. She said, 'Hang in there, buddy, I've been dealing with cancer since I was 6, so you can make it.'"

He's now coaching her for a triathlon, a sport that has touched all areas of his life, not least his recovery.


"The elite competition — and just getting the most out of your body and the mind — you become

more educated on what you're capable of. It gave me a greater sense of focus and endurance."

That newfound single-mindedness will come in handy, as he's about to embark on a two-year project to look at how various cultures deal with cancer survivorship.

Giving back is big with Dudek. He donated a rehabilitation gym at the City of Hope, where he received a bone marrow transplant from his brother.

Whereas before leukemia struck he was all about finishing in the top three for his age group, now Dudek is happy to have finished 171st out of 500 in the Los Angeles Triathlon.

"I'm not fast anymore. I was like a Porsche, and now I'm like a good Chevy truck. I may not be at the front of the pack, but I'm still in the pack." 



## 1980s

[1980] 

**JEANNIE SCARVELIS CONSTANTINOU (B.A., M.A. '92)** completed her Ph.D. from Université Laval and is teaching at USD as a postdoctoral fellow in the Theology and Religious Studies Department. Her dissertation topic was "Andrew of Caesarea and the Apocalypse in the Ancient Church of the East." Previously, she earned a J.D. from Pepperdine School of Law and practiced in Ventura County and San Diego. Jeannie and her husband then moved to the East Coast, where she earned master's degrees in theology from both Holy Cross Greek Orthodox School of Theology and Harvard.

[1981]

**KIM (PANE) SANDERS (B.A.)** and her husband, Bruce, have a 10-year-old son and a 1-year-old puppy.

[1982]

**MARGRET TIMPSON (BSN)** recently celebrated 30 years in nursing, 25 of which have been in the emergency department at Scripps Encinitas. She is currently the lead R.N. in the department.

**THE REV. CARMEN WARNER-ROBBINS (MSN)** is the executive director and founder of Welcome Home/Prison Re-entry Ministries in Oceanside, Calif. She is also the issue editor and an author for the fall 2009 issue of "Journal of Family and Community Health" and president and publisher of the newly formed Restorative Press, which produces publications for the special concerns of women. Carmen received the Wheaton College/Billy Graham Institute national award for outstanding work in the area of prison reform and innovation.

[1983]

**THOMAS OERTEL (MSN)** received his Doctor of Nursing Practice degree from Case Western Reserve University in Cleveland. He completed double majors in clinical practice and nursing education. Thomas is a nurse practitioner and has been a nursing instructor at Grossmont College in El Cajon for more than 20 years. Tom, his wife, Susan (Reeves) '86, and their two daughters live near Poway.

[1985] 

**REBEKAH (ALBRECHT) CAREY (MSN)** is director of nursing at Wisconsin Lutheran College. She reports that she was brought on board to develop a new bachelor's program in nursing.

**KENNETH WINANS (BBA)** earned top honors at the 2009 Next Generation Indie Book Awards with "Investment Atlas" in the highly competitive finance category. Kenneth also was named a finalist in four other categories: best overall design, business, history and coffee table book. "Winning in 2009 is especially sweet, because of all the great finance books written during these tremulous times," Ken says. His first book, "Preferreds," was chosen as the top investment book in the 2007 U.S.A. Book News Best Book Awards.

[1986]

**JESSICA (PICCINI) CRABTREE (BBA)** has been married to her husband, Tom, since 1995 and they have two daughters: Haley, 10, and Piper, 7. Jessica is a jewelry designer and business owner of [www.anjedesigns.com](http://www.anjedesigns.com). She also manages her husband's plastic surgery practice. The family lives in Kailua, Hawaii, and they spend their free time paddleboarding, horseback riding and traveling. They visit Telluride, Colo., frequently and hope to buy a second home there.

## 1990s

[1990] 

**SALLY EVERSON-BATES (D.N.Sc.)** reports that her daughter, Samantha, was married on June 13. Samantha is a bone marrow transplant nurse in Portland, Ore. Sally also writes that her parents just celebrated their 65th wedding anniversary.

**CHRISTINE (POLLACK) LATHAM (D.N.Sc.)** received the 2009 Best Practice in Research Award from the Association of California Nurse Leaders, a statewide group of nurse executives, academicians and practitioner leaders. The award, which is received by nomination and reviewed by the organization's membership, was presented at the ACNL annual conference in Monterey, Calif.

[1991]

**ART LA FLAMME (B.A.)** is in his third tour of Iraq.

**LISA (CHEUNG) WANG (B.Acc.)** and her husband are the proud parents of a baby girl, Jenna Caitlin, born on April 16, 2009. "She waited an extra day so that her mommy could finish her April 15 tax deadline," Lisa says. Jenna joins big brothers Jaxon, 7; Jacob, 5; and Jared, 2. Lisa recently returned to work as the internal tax manager at Nara Bank.

[1992]

**PATRICIA CHIN (D.N.Sc.)** retired from her position as the director of the School of Nursing at California State University, Los Angeles, in June 2008. Prior to retirement, she was awarded emeritus status by the university's president.

[1993]

**JACQUELINE (KAHN) PARIS (B.A.)** and her husband, Joel, proudly announce the birth of their daughter, Josephine Marie, on April 14, 2009. Josephine joins big sister Katarina, 2. The family lives in Bel Air, Calif., where Jacqueline is an at-home mom.

[1993]

**PATTY (O'CONNOR) LAURITZEN (B.A.)** and her husband, Dean, welcomed their first child, Lilly Skye, on Dec. 24, 2007. After working in advertising for 14 years, Patty now spends her time as a writer and photographer. Her first solo gallery exhibit took place in August 2009. Dean is a professor at City College of San Francisco, where he teaches anatomy and physiology. Together, they are renovating their home in Moss Beach, Calif.

[1994]

**DONA WILLOUGHBY (MSN)** co-created a "permaculturally based intentional community focused on living sustainably on Earth." She grows many tropical fruits, taro and vegetables, and they have sheep, chicken, bees and fish. Dona also says she practices with many medicinal plants.

[1994]

**DEBRA FISCHER (MSN)** received a Ph.D. in health psychology in 2005. She has been a family nurse practitioner for more than 10 years at a clinic for Native Americans. Debra has traveled to Africa, Asia, the Middle East, Europe, Mexico and Canada. She had a photo published in a calendar, and she planned to take a mission trip to Peru in September 2009.

**ERIKA HARRINGTON (B.A., J.D. '03)** and her husband, Tucker, welcomed their second son, Connor Alan, on May 5, 2009.

**MARY PARNOW (J.D.)** was appointed a federal administrative law judge in San Jose in June 2009. She was an attorney for the Social Security Administration for 14 years. For the last eight years, she was with the Office of General Counsel in San Francisco, where she frequently represented the federal government before the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals in San Francisco and Los Angeles, and also served as a special assistant United States attorney to the Department of Justice. Prior to that, she spent two years as the regional attorney for the Social Security Office of Determination and Review. Mary served her first four years with the Social Security Administration as a staff attorney for the Office of Hearings and Appeals in Orange, Calif., and San Jose, Calif. She was admitted to the California State Bar in 1994.

[1997]

**KELLY (KREISLE) BURKE (BBA)** and her husband, Ashley, welcomed their first child, Ryan William, on May 22, 2009. The family lives in Orange County, Calif.

**DAVIN HECKMAN (B.A.)** published his first book in 2008: "A Small World: Smart Houses and the Dream of the Perfect Day" (Duke University Press). In January 2009, Davin and his wife, Carrie, welcomed their third son, Sergio Francis, joining brothers Jonah Vincent, 5, and Oscar Romero, 3. Davin teaches English and media studies at Siena Heights University in Adrian, Mich.

**TAMI BARNHART REESE (BBA)** and her husband, West, celebrated the birth of Cole Douglas on July 24. Cole joins big brother Jake, 5. The family lives in Rancho Santa Fe, Calif., and they are working on a new family-owned construction company in San Diego. Tami recently became a LEED-accredited professional, a green-building designation.

[1998]

**ABIGAIL (QUINIO) KEENAN (B.A.)** and her husband, Ron Lee Keenan, were married in February 2008, and they welcomed their son, Tucker Shane, on April 21, 2009.

# Save the Date

*Please join us for an unforgettable evening*  
as the University of San Diego hosts  
its premier alumni recognition event.

SATURDAY, MAY 1, 2010



## 2010 ALUMNI HONOREES

Mother Rosalie Clifton  
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**John C. Manson '79 (B.A.)**  
CEO, G.M. Mortgage Co., Inc.

Bishop Charles Francis  
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**David A. Rivera '96 (B.A.)**  
Founder, Nativity Prep Academy

Chet and Marguerite Pagni Family  
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**Stan Washington '74 (B.A.)**  
Three-time All-American, Men's Basketball

### Author E. Hughes Career Achievement Award

#### COLLEGE OF ARTS AND SCIENCES

**Patrick Morrin '83 (B.A., BBA)**  
President, Danvera Foundation

#### HAHN SCHOOL OF NURSING AND HEALTH SCIENCE

**John Whitcomb '05 (Ph.D.)**  
Professor of Nursing, Clemson University

#### JOAN B. KROC SCHOOL OF PEACE STUDIES

**Christopher Yanov '03 (M.A.), '04 (M.A.)**  
Executive Director and Founder, Reality Changers

#### SCHOOL OF BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION

**Robert Mac Kay '88 (BBA)**  
Vice President and General Auditor, PepsiCo Inc.

#### SCHOOL OF LAW

**Gerald McMahon '64 (J.D.)**  
Chairman, Seltzer Caplan McMahon and Vitek

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**Rich Newman '05 (Ed.D.)**  
Principal, Monterey Ridge Elementary

For more information, go to [www.sandiego.edu/alumni/honors](http://www.sandiego.edu/alumni/honors) or call (619) 260-4819.





FRED GREAVES


legs in Iraq. “I realized I had to change my focus for my dissertation to traumatic limb loss for acting in the line of duty,” she explains. “As an Army nurse, I felt I needed to give back by focusing on soldier needs.”

Decades of experience prepared her for this research: she has spent 30 years as a wound care nurse, 20 years as a nurse and instructor in the Army and 10 years specializing in foot care and working with amputees. She also founded her own education company, TaylorD Health, which helps nurses become board-certified in foot care. “We amputate over 100,000 limbs a year in this country,” says Taylor. “I decided if I got a thousand nurses board-certified in foot care, maybe I could make a dent in that number.” To further this goal, she is writing the first foot and nail care textbook for nurses.

Taylor’s passion for healing overflows into her community service. She volunteers for the San Diego Adaptive Sports Foundation and rides in the 3-Day Southern California Bike Ride with Wounded Warriors. As a parish nurse, she travels annually with her church to Honduras to conduct a medical brigade clinic.

“Last year I recruited a physician friend of mine, and we did the first medical brigade in San Pedro Sula in the inner-city part, which is like a plywood-tin-cardboard village,” she says. “Two hundred and fifty-two families registered, with about 2,000 children that have never seen a physician, or a dentist for that matter.”

Taylor hopes to graduate in 2010, but describes her dissertation research as just a “crumb” of what she hopes to accomplish to enhance the care of wounded soldiers.

“Every one of them is a hero,” she says. “They’ve lost a limb taking care of someone or doing a mission. And many of them would go right back to doing it tomorrow if they could.” 

[ devotion ]

# HEROIC MEASURES

Army nurse aims to reduce amputations among soldiers

by Carol Cujec

**W**hen Shelly Burdette-Taylor returned to USD after being on duty (she’s a Lieutenant Colonel in the Army Reserves), she would sometimes bring her target paper riddled with bullet holes for show and tell.

“You’d better watch out — I’m weapons qualified,” she joked with her professors. And yes, as a nurse, she understands the irony

of this. “I’m supposed to be the one patching holes, not the one making the holes,” she laughs.

Taylor’s devotion for nursing and for soldiers is merging during her doctoral research at USD’s Hahn School of Nursing and Health Science. Traveling to places like Walter Reed in Maryland and the Army Wounded Warrior office in Virginia, she interviews soldiers

who have suffered a traumatic limb loss for her study examining quality of life and post-traumatic stress disorder. Fearful of being labeled with PTSD, many soldiers do not receive treatment for it, she says. That’s a stigma she is trying to combat.

Taylor’s thesis topic came to her after meeting a young Marine at the Naval Medical Center who had lost both lower

Abigail works for the U.S. federal government. Her husband is an Army paratrooper with the 82nd Airborne. The family lives in North Carolina.

#### **DAVID SANCHEZ YESKETT**

**(BBA)** married Adriana Obregon in Mexico City on June 27, 2009. David reports that USD alumni from the classes of 1998, 1999 and 2000 attended the wedding.

## 2000s

#### **[2000]**

**GUILLE ESQUIVEL (B.A.)** and co-author Mayrely Pérez published their first book, "Out of the Park," about their countries' national pastime. Esquivel is Mexican-American and Perez is Dominican. Their bilingual book looks at some Latino baseball players' personal lives, including some of Major League Baseball's biggest stars, up-and-coming stars and Cuban baseball players who have never played in the majors. "Out of the Park" is available at [www.lulu.com](http://www.lulu.com) and was expected to hit bookstores soon.

#### **KATE (BERG) GALINDO (B.A.)**

and her husband, Cesar, celebrated the arrival of their first child, Diego David, on July 1, 2009. Kate teaches English as a second language at a K-8 public charter school in Denver, where she lives with Cesar, Diego, and her two stepchildren, Gaby and Leo.

#### **ROBIN MCKENZIE (Ph.D.)**

retired from the U.S. Navy after 30 years of active duty service. Her last position was commanding officer, Naval School of Health Sciences in San Diego. Robin and her husband now live in Orange Park, Fla., where she is an adjunct faculty as a medical-surgical clinical instructor with the University of North Florida and the Jacksonville University schools of nursing.

#### **CHARLES SCHEIN (BBA)**

and his wife, Monica (Escobedo) '00, moved to a new home in Visalia, Calif.

#### **ANGELA (SESTI) POND (B.A.)**

and her husband, Joshua, celebrated the arrival of their third daughter, Caralena Ann, on Sept. 19, 2008. Caralena joins sisters Isabella Marie, 3, and Annalesa Jean, 2. All three sisters were born in September. Angela has

been teaching first grade for the past eight years. "My husband and I enjoy spending time with the girls and look forward to summer vacation!" she says.

#### **[2001]**

#### **KRISTEN DENNIS (MBA, J.D.)**

'04) moved back to San Diego and accepted a job at the U.S. Attorney's Office, Southern District of California. "Along with tremendous professional growth, my family has grown," she writes. "I now have a second child."

#### **PAULA (CHAPMAN) ISHAM**

**(B.A.)** and her husband, Jeff, welcomed their first son, Eli Lewis, on Jan. 21, 2009. "Eli loves playing with all of his USD aunts!" she says.

#### **RODD MILLER (BBA)**

and his wife, Mary (Wheeler) '01, moved back to San Diego with their two future Toreros, Rylan, 3, and Madelyn, 1.

#### **[2002]**

**SAMUEL ADAMO (BBA)** graduated from South Texas College of Law in Houston in 2006 and practices as a criminal defense attorney with Adamo & Adamo in Houston. The other Adamo is his father, Samuel says.

#### **JAMES BECHTOLD (B.Acc.)**

was married on May 16, 2009, to Erica Diaz. He raced in the World Championship Ironman Triathlon on Oct. 15, 2008, with a finish time of 9:50:15. James works in real estate with his father. Erica earned her undergraduate degree from Long Beach State and her law degree from Chapman Law School. She passed the bar exam and is now a lawyer in Orange County.

**YVETTE CANABA (B.A.)** is in her third year at Temple University in the School of Podiatric Medicine.

#### **JARED CEFALIA (BBA)**

and his wife, Kelly, were married on Oct. 10, 2004. Their first son, Jared Jr., was born on July 30, 2007, and their second, Joel, was born on Dec. 1, 2008. Jared started JJJ Builders ([www.jjjbuilder.com](http://www.jjjbuilder.com)) in 2003, which specializes in building custom homes.

**SARA CHIOCCA (B.A.)** has been a staff physical therapist at Star Physical Therapy since May 2008.

#### **ERICA COSTANZO (B.Acc., BBA)**

'02) earned her CPA license recently. She is an audit manager at McGladrey & Pullen in San Diego.

#### **SUSAN WERNER DeVOE (M.A.)**

has been an elementary and middle school counselor for the past six years. She is taking a year off to stay home with her first child.

#### **KENDALL BROWN FULTON**

**(MBA)** and her husband, Michael, were married on May 16, 2009, in Niagara Falls, Ontario. They honeymooned in Montreal, Prince Edward Island and Nova Scotia. Michael is a homicide detective. Kendall and Michael live in Maryland with their five children.

#### **MARIE ANTOINETTE (REYES)**

**HASKELL (MBA)** and her husband welcomed a second son, John David, into the family on May 11, 2009.

#### **JENNIFER LUNDY (M.A.)**

has worked with children, young adults and families in clinical therapy settings and has provided in-home services. Her background also includes human relations, diversity training, supporting victims of domestic violence and abuse, and working with adults who have chronic mental illness and addiction. Currently, Jennifer practices individual, couples and family therapy in her own practice, Positive Change Counseling Center, in La Mesa. She is also a volunteer facilitator for an anxiety support group and is a part-time research therapist treating post-traumatic stress disorder for combat veterans at the Veterans Hospital in La Jolla.

#### **JASON MORRIS (B.A.)**

graduated from USC Dental School in May 2008. He is now an active-duty dentist at a naval base in San Diego.

#### **KAY NORTON (B.A.)**

volunteers for Habitat for Humanity one day a week. "I love it!" she says.

#### **DEBORAH STRAUHAL (B.A.)**

lives in Leucadia and reports that she is "thriving in business, life and love!"

#### **J.P. SIMON WRIGHT (BBA)**

and his wife, Marina, welcomed their second daughter, Catherine Margaret, on April 16, 2009. Oldest daughter Charlotte turned 2 in July.

#### **[2003]**

#### **ROBERT BEAMER (B.A., M.A.)**

'08) lives on the "beautiful campus of Notre Dame," where he is the assistant rector of Fisher Hall. He is studying liturgical and systematic

theology at the university and teaches Spanish at a local high school.

#### **OMAR BECERRA (B.Acc.)**

worked in the Assurance and Advisory Business Services Group at Ernst and Young after graduation. He is now a CPA in the corporate finance department at SAIC. "I continue to be involved with USD's accounting department, Accounting Society, the USD School of Business Administration Alumni Association and the USD Alumni Association," he says. Omar spends his spare time with friends and family and his cat, Charlie. He loves to eat out and has spent a lot of time traveling the world. "USD has been instrumental in achieving my dreams!" he says.

#### **DAVID BRENNAN (LL.M.)**

teaches international law and is director of the Civil and Judicial Externship Program at Western State University in Fullerton, Calif. His article on Riegel v. Medtronic was published in June 2009.

#### **KIMBERLY (BURNETT) BUCK**

**(B.A.)** and her husband, Christopher '04, welcomed their first child, Lila Rose, on Feb. 1, 2009. "We love our future Torero!"

#### **LISA (McMANUS) DANIELS**

**(B.A.)** is the marketing and membership director for the Palomar YMCA. She lives in Escondido with her husband, Bobby '03, an alumnus of the School of Law.

#### **TIFFANI (FITZSIMMONS) DeTAR**

**(B.A.)** and her husband, Gabe, were married on July 5, 2008, at Wente Vineyards in Livermore, Calif. They honeymooned in Vietnam and live in Vacaville, Calif. Tiffani teaches kindergarten and plans to study conservation efforts in Namibia, South Africa.

#### **RYAN DE YOUNG (B.Acc., M.S.)**

'04) is the third generation to work at De Young Properties in Fresno, Calif., his family's homebuilding business. As vice president of finance, Ryan helps continue the family's 60-year tradition in the homebuilding industry. He works with his parents, Jerry and Paula, brother, Brandon, and sister, Ashley. In his spare time, Ryan is a member of the band Carpe Noctem. De Young Properties has long supported community organizations such as the Boys & Girls Club, Saint Agnes Medical Center and the Clovis Unified



School District Foundation. De Young Properties recently built a home in less than one week for a local hero as part of the television show, "Extreme Makeover: Home Edition" (as seen in USD Magazine's Summer 2009 issue).

**ENRIQUE ELIAS (MBA)** is promoting a new version of tequila ([www.sotol.com](http://www.sotol.com)) that is produced with a wild-harvested agave plant that grows exclusively in the desert of Chihuahua, Mexico. It was voted among the 25 favorite agave-based spirits in Paul Pacult's "Spirit Journal" and won the highest award at the Agave Challenge.

**MELISSA ESPINAL (B.A.)** lives in Knoxville, Tenn., with her girlfriend, Jaye. They have shared custody of Jaye's niece for two years. "Our career plans are undecided at this time, but travel is definitely in our future," Melissa says. "I hope to find myself back in California sooner rather than later."

**TED FATES (J.D.)** and Mandy Rushforth '03 were married in July 2005. Their daughter, Ellie, was born on July 24, 2007, and their son, Andrew, was born on April 6, 2009. The family lives in La Jolla.

**DENIS GRASSKA (B.A.)** is the assistant editor of The Southern Cross, the newspaper of the Catholic Diocese of San Diego. He joined the paper in April 2005 as a staff writer.

**MICHAELA HANEY (B.A.)** graduated from medical school in May 2009 and was planning to start her dermatology residency at the University of New Mexico.

**HILARY HEDEMARK (B.A.)** and her husband, Jason Bedient, were married in July 2008. Hilary is an attorney with Steven Adair MacDonald & Associates, specializing in real estate and landlord/tenant law.

**MEGAN HILFER (B.A.)** is an account coordinator at Parsons Public Relations, a firm in Seattle that works exclusively with green and sustainable companies and organizations. She owns a condo in West Seattle and lives there with her boyfriend, dog and cat. "I have traveled internationally, including recent trips to Costa Rica and Nepal," she says. "I also climbed Mount Olympus on the Olympic Peninsula in Washington State in 2007."

**JEREMY HORN (B.A.)** joined the U.S. Army Judge Advocate General's Corps in July 2009 as a first lieutenant. He expected to be promoted to captain in January 2010. His first assignment is in Japan.

**WILLIAM KALENIUS (B.A.)** finished his second year as a firefighter-paramedic with the Corvallis Fire Department in Oregon. "I continue to run off-road ultramarathons, row as a single and climb the Cascade Volcanoes," he says.

**SHELLEY MILLER (MSEL)** is writing her first book, a memoir with the working title "Postcards from Home." It is the story of her family trading homes with families in England, Ireland, Germany, France and Italy between April and August 2000. Shelley went on sabbatical from her job, her husband, Stan, worked via phone and Internet, they pulled their two kids, ages 12 and 8, out of school, and everyone kept journals during their adventure. "Our efforts resulted in an experience that changed my family's life forever," Shelley says. (See story on page 28.)

**FABIENNE MUERI (BBA)** moved to Texas after graduation, then Oklahoma, and she is now back in San Diego working for Petco. She ran her first marathon in May 2009, tries to travel to one new country per year, and is looking into some master's programs to continue her education.

**LAURA (WALKER) NIXON (B.A.)** and her husband, Christopher, were married in August 2008. Christopher is a graduate of the University of Colorado. Laura and Christopher live and work in Denver.

**JOHN NOWAKOWSKI (J.D.)** made the news in Las Vegas for a case he is working on in which a Clark County, Nev., man has sued Usana Health Sciences, alleging the direct marketer operates a pyramid scheme. John represents the plaintiff, who wants the suit to be certified as a class-action representing all Nevada Usana distributors.

**ERIKA OTOCKA (B.A.)** was admitted to the Connecticut and New York state bars in 2008 and 2009. She practices for a family law firm in Stamford, Conn.

**STEPHANI RICHARDS-WILSON (Ed.D.)** was selected a fellow for the 14th annual Summer Institute on the Holocaust, sponsored by Northwestern University and the Holocaust Education Foundation. Stephani is the assistant dean of the Helen Way Klingler College of Arts and Sciences at Marquette University in Milwaukee, Wis.

**ELIZABETH RUNYEN (B.A.)** and Colin Gilbert '04 live in Southern California, where Elizabeth is an associate publisher and Colin is a freelance educator, writer and photographer.

**STEPHANIE (SHAFFER) SANTIAGO (M.A.)** and her husband, Billy, celebrated the birth of their daughter, Nora Eloise, on Nov. 10, 2008.

**NICOLE SAUNDERS (B.A.)** was a market research intern in 2008 at SAP in Palo Alto, Calif. She completed her MBA from Santa Clara University in June 2009. Her concentrations were in managing innovations and technology, and marketing management.

**BETT SIMPSON (B.A.)** married Spencer Lucas on March 28, 2009, at Holy Rosary Church in Tacoma, Wash. Bett is a sales manager at Sound Refining, a petroleum and logistics company in Tacoma. She is also president of the Young Professionals Network of Tacoma-Pierce County, fundraising director for the board of directors of Rebuilding Together South Sound, and a big sister through the Big Brothers Big Sisters program.

**MICHAEL TABATA (BBA)** returned to Portland, Ore., after graduating from USD to work as a commercial insurance broker. In the spring of 2006, he suffered a spinal cord injury in a snowboarding accident and became paraplegic. He returned to California to undergo therapy at Project Walk, a spinal cord injury recovery program in Carlsbad. "Much to my surprise, I ran into my former Torero football teammate, Damien Minna, who was also in recovery at Project Walk after becoming quadriplegic in a boating accident," Michael says. He is now back in Portland, attending Lewis and Clark Law School and working as a legal intern at the Paul Krueger law firm. "I continue to make progress toward my recovery through the

program of intense exercise-based therapy I learned at Project Walk," he says.

**VERONICA DAVIDSON TUCKER (M.A.)** and her husband, Aaron, have two children, Abigail Grace, 4, and Luke Geyer, 2, and they are raising them in Fort Worth, Texas. Veronica is a college adviser at All Saints' Episcopal School, and Aaron works at XTO Energy.

**KOREN UYEMURA (B.A.)** has a 2-year-old son, Isaiah Ka'ohuakealoha-iowaiolola Seichi Uyemura. Koren expects to complete her master's degree in secondary education soon and plans to teach math.

#### [ 2004 ]

**JEANNELLE (IBARRA) BITTERLIN (B.A.)** took two years after graduation to travel around the world, enjoying such exotic places as Morocco, Egypt and India. She then returned to school and in December 2008 received a master's degree in counseling from National University. Jeannelle lives in La Jolla, is working toward licensure and is planning to pursue a doctorate degree.

**JOHN CANDITO (MSSCM)** is at Raytheon as a material program manager for a Navy weapons system called Rolling Airframe Missile, or RAM. It is part of a close-in weapons system that protects U.S. and allied naval vessels around the world. It can detect and destroy antiship missiles, surface vessels and helicopter attacks. "Besides work, I have taken time to coach all three of my daughters' sports teams and enjoy family vacations and outings," he says. "Go Toreros!"

**ILIANA GUZMAN CASTRO (B.A.)** and her husband, Arturo, were married on Nov. 22, 2008, at Founders Chapel. She graduated from California Western School of Law on April 27, 2009. Iliana and Arturo live in Los Angeles.

**SUSANNE (DUNWELL) GOETT (B.A.)** and her husband, Steve, were married on May 2, 2009, in Temecula, Calif. Susanne is a corporate recruiter for Booz Allen Hamilton in San Diego.

**JENNY INZUNZA (B.A.)** has been a government accounts administrator at SAIC in San Diego since 2004. "I love my job!" she says. "I enjoy traveling. I recently applied to the MBA program at SDSU. Wish me luck!"



NICK ABADILLA

[open mind]

# RIGHTEOUS DUDE

**Southern Poverty Law Center chair isn't afraid to be disliked**

By Trisha J. Ratledge

Jim McElroy is in the business of being unpopular. Standing up for those whose rights have been not just violated, but decimated, McElroy is not looking for friends. He's out for justice. And he has the law on his side.

Growing up in conservative Decatur, Ill., during the burgeoning civil rights movement, McElroy '77 (J.D.) joined a walkout of African-American students at his high school one

day to protest a racial incident. The next day, he had to defend himself against the angry shoves of his white friends.

"That was my first experience of being uncomfortable because of my beliefs and opinions, and it may have gotten me over the hump to realizing that being unpopular is not necessarily a bad thing," says McElroy, who subsequently debated the Ku Klux Klan during meetings at a campus bar while at the

University of Illinois in the 1970s.

A decision to create social change through the law, coupled with a desire to live near larger waters than Lake Decatur, led McElroy west to USD's School of Law. More than 30 years later, from his office overlooking the San Diego Polo Club, McElroy pays his bills practicing general civil litigation but heeds his calling with cases that right injustice, most of which are pro bono.


A serendipitous meeting with

civil rights icon Morris Dees, founder of the Southern Poverty Law Center, led to a personal and professional watershed for McElroy. Dees won a civil prosecution against white supremacist Tom Metzger for his role in the murder of Mulugeta Seraw, an Ethiopian student in Portland, Ore., and McElroy helped collect as much of the \$12.5 million judgment as possible for Seraw's son, Henock.

While hand delivering the first payment to Henock 15 years ago in Ethiopia, McElroy saw Henock's meager living conditions and offered to host him for the summer in San Diego. Henock's mom agreed, and with her approval he has been living with McElroy ever since — joining two other brothers in the family.

Today, McElroy is chair of the SPLC board of directors, a position he holds in addition to running his own practice. His bookcase heavy with awards, he takes pride in rectifying the crimes committed against his clients, such as the black Camp Pendleton Marine who was brutally beaten and left a quadriplegic by white supremacists.

McElroy's work with the SPLC reveals just how much work is left undone: the organization is tracking 924 hate groups nationally, an increase of 30 percent in the last few years. But still, he is hopeful. The SPLC aims to turn the tide one generation at a time with a Teaching Tolerance program offered free to teachers and schools.

"That keeps me optimistic and passionate that things are going to change," McElroy says. "There is still going to be racism 30 years from now, but I hope there will be a lot more tolerance and understanding. We are getting a lot more diverse. It's hard for people to not interact with other races today. It's my belief that you can't hate someone you know." 





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**MAJA (RUSEK) KONRAD (IMBA)** and her husband, Marcel, have twin boys, born on Feb. 21, 2007. The family lives in Walnut Creek, Calif.

**ABBY YOUNG KOSTRZEWA (B.A.)** and her husband, Robert, were married on July 7, 2007. They moved to Montana for a business opportunity for Abby, who will be pursuing a master's degree in biological sciences at the University of Montana in Bozeman. "Hopefully, more good news will follow soon," she writes.

**MATTHEW KUHN (B.Acc.)** lives in Hawaii, where he started a full-service development/construction company, specializing in restaurants and hospitality.

**CDR. JON-PAUL LaBRUZZO (MSG)** completed his tour at U.S. Central Command, where he served as a speechwriter for Gen. David Patraeus, writing for the commander on issues affecting Central Command strategy and on U.S. operations in Iraq, Afghanistan and throughout the command's area of responsibility. Jon-Paul is returning to San Diego, where he will command an aviation unit at Naval Air Station North Island.

**RYAN MANDELL (B.A.)** and Meghan (Burke) '05 have been married for three years and live with their two dogs in University Place, Wash. Ryan is in the collision repair industry and Meghan is pursuing a career in elementary education.

**LISA SALDIN QUARTARARO (B.A.)** married her husband, Jason, in July 2008, after dating for seven years. They were married at Rancho de las Flores in Somis, Calif., and they honeymooned in the Bahamas. Lisa and Jason bought a house in Moorpark, Calif. Jason teaches eighth-grade history, and Lisa teaches first grade.

**JESSICA (LEWIS) RASMUSSEN (M.A.)** and her husband, Eric, were married on Aug. 9, 2008. They live in Alabama, where Jessica is a therapist at an outpatient clinic.

**JESSICA RATTO (B.A.)** graduated from Kansas City University of Medicine and Biosciences with dual degrees: doctor of osteopathy and a master of business administration, with an emphasis in healthcare lead-

ership. In July 2009, Jessica began a three-year pediatric residency program at Children's Mercy Hospital in Kansas City, Mo.

**VIRGINIA REYNOLDS (B.A.)** graduated from the Texas A&M College of Veterinary Medicine. She lives in Rhode Island and is in a small animal rotating internship at Ocean State Veterinary Specialists.

**DAVID ROSALES (BBA)** married Kendra Tarrant in Corona del Mar, Calif., on Dec. 20, 2008. David is a musician, and Kendra is a high school math teacher. They live in Huntington Beach, Calif.

**KRISTEN (LUEBBERT) WICK (B.A.)** was married to Joshua Wick on July 3, 2004. Kristen earned a master's degree in secondary education at Texas A&M University and has been teaching high school physics and chemistry for four years. Joshua is stationed at Naval Training Center Great Lakes, and the family lives in the suburbs of Chicago.

**[2005]**  **BRANDON BOWE (B.A.)** completed his second tour in Iraq as a company commander of 136 Marines. "Very successful deployment, and we operated in five different Iraqi provinces," he reports. "Very rare for a single Marine unit to travel so much." Brandon lives next to USD, is an active member in church and in the Men's Military Ministry. He is about to specialize in antiterrorism and force protection studies and practices.

**CHRISTINE (BURGER) PISTEK (B.A.)** and her husband, Peter, welcomed their daughter, Milena Lucie, into the world on June 8, 2009.

**KIRA QUINN-WORRALL (B.A.)** moved back to Tucson, Ariz., where her family lives, and she began her career in social work with Child Protective Services. "While working for CPS, I started a home-based telecom business with ACN and have since been able to go full-time and work from home," she says. "I look forward to a life filled with service to others and difference making."

**ERYN (McKINLEY) XAVIER (B.A.)** married her husband, Gary, on July 19, 2008. Eryn graduated from the University of Nevada School of Medicine in May 2009 and began her

family medicine residency in Sacramento in June 2009.

**[2006]** **ELIZABETH THOMETZ (B.A.)** graduated in May 2009 from University of North Carolina, Greensboro, with a master's degree in athletic training. She is a certified athletic trainer working with the 1st Battalion, 13th Infantry Division, at Fort Jackson Army Base in South Carolina.

**[2007]** **SERGIO CHINOS (B.A.)** earned a master's degree in education from Loyola Marymount University in May 2009. Sergio is a resource specialist teacher at Locke High School in Los Angeles.

**MICHAEL GASPERSON (BBA)** was a wide receiver for the Philadelphia Eagles for three years. He and his wife, Mandy (Leasure) '07, were married in July 2006 and they live in Portland, Ore. Michael and Mandy welcomed Hudson Quinn on Feb. 17, 2008. Mandy taught middle school in New Jersey.

**MERIDITH MILLER (B.A.)** graduated from the University of San Francisco Law School in 2008 and passed the California bar exam on her first try. She is an attorney with the Morgan Lewis law firm in San Francisco, specializing in corporate litigation.

**SAMANTHA PISANI (B.A.)** married Matthew Petrucci '07 on June 27, 2009, in Founders Chapel. After graduation, Samantha was a research assistant at the Salk Institute for Biological Studies. The fall of 2009 marked her second year in the M.D./Ph.D. program at the University of Illinois, which allows her to attend medical school while also earning a Ph.D. in neuroscience. "I cannot express how beneficial my experience at USD has been in preparing me for this rigorous training program," she says. "The small class sizes, intense labs, integrative curriculum and close faculty mentoring really challenged me to develop the skills necessary to become a successful scientist and physician." Matthew is relocating to Champaign, Ill., to work as a mechanical engineer with an imaging company at the University of Illinois Research Park. "The Midwest is definitely different from California, but we keep sunny San Diego close at heart!" Samantha says.

## In Memoriam

**Laurie Hawkins '75 (B.S.)** passed away on April 15, 2009, after a 10-month battle with appendiceal cancer. She was a chief appraiser with the County of Los Angeles. She loved her children, art and animals.

**Gerald Hermsen '71 (B.A., '73 M.Ed.)** of Cardiff by the Sea passed away recently. Gerald was the father of USD alumni Timothy Hermsen, Michael Hermsen and Nora (Hermsen) Middleton, and the father-in-law of Deirdre (Kennedy) Hermsen, Timothy's wife.

**DAVID MAGRUDER '96 (BBA)** passed away recently.

**DAVID SCHMELZLE '70 (B.S.)** passed away on July 27, 2009, at age 60, one day after suffering a heart attack. He lived in Temecula with his wife, Kathie, whom he had known since they were in kindergarten. David was a pediatrician with a practice in Fallbrook who was so beloved that patients were reluctant to leave his care when they reached adulthood. He was an avid outdoorsman who enjoyed hiking, fishing and camping, as well as capturing memorable photos of nature and of his family's life.

## Send Class Notes

*Send class notes to one of the following addresses and depending on space, we'll do our best to get them in USD Magazine as soon as possible. Class notes may be edited for length and clarity. Engagements, pregnancies, personal e-mail addresses and telephone numbers cannot be published.*

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**Please note that Class Notes submitted after Jan. 1, 2010, will be considered for publication in the Fall 2010 issue of USD Magazine.**



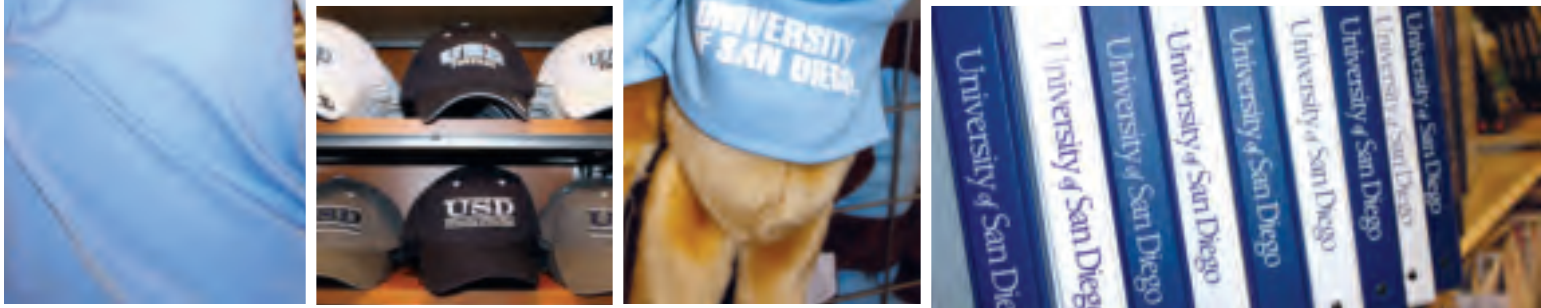






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