

# USD MAGAZINE

UNIVERSITY OF SAN DIEGO / FALL 2006



IS A WOMAN ON THE VERGE OF HAVING IT ALL.

BRIGITTE DEMEYER

NOW THAT SHE'S FOUND HER OWN TRUE SELF,





## ANNOUNCING THE WINNERS OF THE USD MAGAZINE PHOTOGRAPHY CONTEST

*University of ... Wonder. Compassion. Discovery. Promise. Faith. Tradition. Honor. Justice. Success. Dreams. Ideas. Passion. Peace. Hope ... San Diego.*

The premise was simple: Bring any of the above words to life — using an image that epitomizes the spirit and mission of the University of San Diego — and you might win a grand prize package and the adulation of your peers.

Alumni, students and staff were invited to submit entries that evoked one or more of the key values of USD and describe how they fit our theme in 100 words or less. The competition was fierce, but in the end, our panel of judges weighed, debated and finally selected their favorites from among the many strong entries. Congratulations to our winners and many thanks to all who entered this first-ever *USD Magazine* photography contest.

### ▲ GRAND PRIZE

There I stood before it, the Cathedral of St. James in Santiago de Compostela, Spain. I had reached the home of the relics of St. James after walking for 40 days across the Spanish terrain, overcoming many obstacles along El Camino de Santiago (The Way of St. James). The Lord shone down His light, pouring from the heavens, illuminating the dark places in the transept of the Cathedral. God's light provides hope that we can conquer all the trials of life by following His shining rays. "The Lord is my light and my salvation; whom do I fear?" (Psalm 27:1).

— Leandra Salles-Cunha '04



**FIRST PRIZE ▶**

This picture was taken in Moscow in November of 2002. The child is anticipating getting across Red Square and into Saint Basil's Cathedral. The legendary edifice (commissioned by Ivan the Terrible in 1555) had been recently repainted in a rich palette of color, inviting East to meet West in the new post-Communist era. While the tank-directing lines on the cobblestone remain as a reminder of less optimistic times, the child's demeanor brings to life the vision of USD's new Joan B. Kroc Institute for Peace & Justice.

— Julia Meyer Bell '88 (J.D.)



JULIA MEYER BELL



BREANNE LEACH

**◀ SECOND PRIZE**

This is an image of Lucy Eagleson '07 on a retreat at USD. Her joy and laughter shows, to me, a beautiful image of faith. The "University of Faith" is present and continuously pushing us to feel the joy and love visible on Lucy's face.

— Breanne Leach '07

**THIRD PRIZE ▶**

This picture was taken during the San Diego fires in 2003. During this time, many in the USD community were affected by the blaze, which consumed thousands of houses throughout the county. The Immaculata church stands darkened against a smoky, orange sunset. Our church represented the hope and faith that the entire USD community embodied during such hard times. In front of the fiery sky, The Immaculata overlooks the entire campus and city, echoing the promise of peace and the importance of faith.

— Brian Day '07



BRIAN DAY

# USD MAGAZINE

UNIVERSITY OF SAN DIEGO / FALL 2006

## ON THE COVER

EACH VENTURE IS A NEW BEGINNING.

### 16 / SOMEONE AFTER ALL

Brigitte DeMeyer '86 has been singing since she was a little girl. But when she started raising her voice as a student every Thursday and Sunday during Mass at Founders Chapel, it was the beginning of a whole new life. Now, with the release of her new album, "Something After All," the self-described "countrified folkie" says that doing what she loves has made her feel not only happy, but powerful.

## DEPARTMENTS

### AROUND THE PARK

#### 6 / *Commanders in Chief*

Incoming A.S. President Rhett Buttle works closely with USD head honcho Mary E. Lyons.

#### 8 / *Behind the Velvet Rope*

School of Law professor Junichi Semitsu spent his summer as the official embedded blogger for the Dixie Chicks. Sweet.

#### 9 / *Save the Date*

Trans-Border Migration Conference; Family Weekend; Women PeaceMakers; Alumni Christmas Mass.

#### 10 / *Liaison to the Outside World*

Vice President of University Relations Tim O'Malley says the big draw in his decision to come on board was the university itself.

### TORERO ATHLETICS

#### 12 / *Quick Thinker*

Quarterback Josh Johnson feels responsible to those he left behind. Failure is not an option.



SINGING FOR HER SUPPER.

### POINT OF VIEW

#### 14 / *A Deep Thud, Then Silence*

When Damien Minna '04 jumped off the back of a boat, he wound up discovering the meaning of life itself.

### GO ONLINE:

For exclusive Web content, past issues and more, go to [www.sandiego.edu/usdmag](http://www.sandiego.edu/usdmag).



# CONTENTS

## WINNERS



### 1 / DRUMROLL, PLEASE

The deadline for our first-ever photography contest has passed, the entries are in and the decisions have been made. Look just inside the front cover to find out who won the grand prize package, which includes a fabulous trip to San Diego for Homecoming 2006. Also check out our other three talented prizewinners.



14

## THE CAMERA CANNOT LIE.



### ALUMNI UPDATE

#### 30 / *Volunteers Wanted*

Find out how to get involved helping students both on- and off-campus. Also: Shannon Smith on giving back.

## FEATURES

### SUMMERTIME ROLES.



### 24 / *FIVE DEGREES OF ... SUMMER VACATION*

Year three of our grand experiment — following five dewy freshmen from their first day of school through graduation — finds our intrepid quintet celebrating summer in their own inimitable style. From Mexico to the Mediterranean to the lab to the gym, the fab five don't sit still for long.

### CLASS NOTES

#### 32 / *Into the Swim*

Tom Lochtefeld '77 (J.D.) is poised on the edge of a monster wave he built himself.



#### 37 / *For Better, For Worse*

What if your spouse wrote a tell-all book about your first year of marriage?

#### 40 / *Green Elephants and Leafy Pyramids*

Couple transforms hillside into a lush wonderland of whimsical magic.

#### 45 / *New Ballgame*

Guille Esquivel '00 was Cuba's team coordinator in the World Baseball Classic.

[horn tooter]

# EVERYONE'S A WINNER, BABY

## What's so great about being the best? Everything.



When my daughter first came home from camp with a gold medal around her neck, she was thrilled. "Oh, how wonderful!" I gushed. "What did you win that for?" She paused a moment, puzzled. "I don't know," she answered, finally. "Everybody got one." I rearranged my face, hoping for a neutral expression. Difficult as it was, I held my tongue. It was hard to fault the camp counselors for wanting all the kids to feel like winners, and the gold medal did look mighty fancy at the dinner table. But I still found myself wanting to deliver an impassioned lecture about the importance of striving for excellence. I considered the wisdom of launching into a diatribe regarding the cheapening of real accomplishment. I pondered the impact of an entire generation being assured that everything they did was wonderful, no matter what.

Later, I did have a talk with my child. I stressed how important it is for her to work hard, to do her very best, to always strive to improve, to excel and to grow. I told her about Olympic gold-medal winners, and how they're respected as the very best in the world. And, yes, I did tell her that losing doesn't make you a loser.

But regardless of whatever the latest expert says about the importance of nurturing self-esteem, I think we all lose when we forget that each day is an opportunity to be our very best all over again. Because when we try, really try, to stretch, to step out of our comfort zone, to get it not just right, but perfect, on occasion we do achieve real excellence.

It's been a year now since we redesigned *USD Magazine*. While we've gotten a bit more self-assured with every issue, I make it my mission to remember that no matter how good we get, we can do better. And I'm proud to say that so far, every issue we've done is, in my mind, the best one ever.

Our efforts haven't gone unrecognized. Just as we went to press, we received word that we'd won five awards for excellence in the University and College Designers Association design competition. Call me immodest, but I'm not a bit surprised to learn that Art Director Barbara Ferguson has racked up several more well-deserved kudos to add to the already impressive list of design awards she's won this year. In fact, our team picked up all sorts of other awards in 2005-2006, including prizes from some of the most prestigious competitions around. I'm particularly proud that the magazine received two bronze awards in the CASE Circle of Excellence Competition — for visual design in print and for magazine publishing improvement.

While recognition is wonderful, we try hard not to lose sight of who we're doing this for. Our readers deserve the very best magazine we can possibly give them, and that's what we're going to keep right on producing. And we plan to keep going for the gold. That's a promise.

— Julene Snyder, Editor

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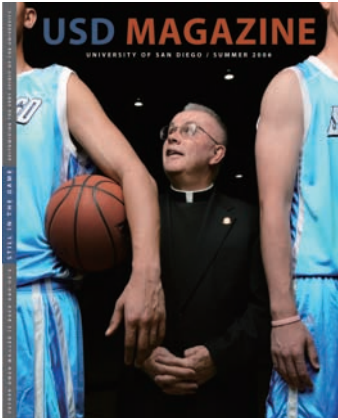
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## [counterpoints]



### Brother Salutes Father

I thoroughly enjoyed reading the article on Father Owen Mullen, "The Good Guy" (Summer 2006). "O.J." — as many of us from the '80s know him — made an indelible mark on our lives. The students interviewed for the piece echo the same sentiments as the students from when I was in school.

However, I did want to make sure people were aware of his involvement as the advisor and member of Phi Kappa Theta fraternity during his tenure here at USD during the '80s and early '90s. He was integral in saving the group from oblivion when it only had seven members left; by the time he departed, there were over 100 members. Having been one of the hundreds of brothers involved with the group, I want to recognize his involvement with and impact on all of us.

— Jack Kelly '87

Senior Director, Alumni Relations

### Little Flower Blooms

I always enjoy *USD Magazine*, and in the most recent issue you encouraged readers to tell you stories. Here is a little more about the article on the Little Flower, "Upon Reflection" (Summer 2006).

Writer Kelly Knufken rightly gives credit to Diana Githens for bringing the statue of St. Therese

to campus. She and a small group of faculty and staff members came to me five or six years ago and asked me to create a rose garden with a statue of St. Therese. I told them that we had no funds for the project and that I was very reluctant to have a public project for a private devotion. Also, the only statues we had placed on campus could be directly linked to the history of the university or the history of the area; there seemed to be no compelling USD linkage to St. Therese.

However, Diana did not give up. The following year she proposed that the group would raise funds for the statue and garden, and had identified a potential donor, Bob Baker. Again, I had to deter them. Bob had just given us a major gift, and it didn't seem appropriate to say, "Thank you, I'd like more." I did promise them that we could look into this the following year.

Independent of the St. Therese garden initiative, one of our graduate students was writing a history of Bishop Buddy and the founding of the university. This book described the early days of fundraising for the campus. The bishop put the burden of building the university on the parishes of San Diego, and directed them to forward one Sunday collection a



month to the chancery office for deposit into a special building fund. That fund was named "The Little Flower Fund," in honor of St. Therese, and that is the fund that was used to build the University of San Diego.

Now it was clear to me that St. Therese should certainly be honored on our campus, and that she was behind the persistence and prayers of Diana. I asked Bob Baker if he would meet with Diana and her group and consider their proposal. He was happy to do so. There were still a few bumps in the road, but these were all smoothed out. Within another year, the project was underway.

Lastly, we needed a rose garden. I suggested that the president's rose garden was an ideal location. As a gift to me, it was announced at my farewell that the presidential rose garden behind the Hughes Administration Center would be named the Alice Hayes Rose Garden.

I wonder if it shouldn't really be named the Diana Githens Garden!

— Alice B. Hayes  
Former USD President

### H is for Hoosegow

Congratulations on your recent cover story, "The ABC's of Volunteering" (Spring 2006). It was interesting, provocative and enlightening, and makes one proud to be connected to USD.

I was particularly interested in the item titled "T is for Tax Returns." Professor Tom Dalton has been a savvy, dependable friend to us, The Friends of the Poor, for years now, and we couldn't manage without him. No matter how his personal situation changes, he reminds us of the impending nature of the tax returns we must file, and so far has succeeded in

keeping us out of jail. Or, as he puts it, "in good graces with the government."

Our thanks and blessings to Professor Dalton, without whom things might be a lot harder than they are — and raising money is hard!!!

Again, thank you and God bless you all for the great and good things you are doing in so many areas. I'm proud to be an alum!

— Anita V. Figueredo, M.D.



### Warm Fuzzies

First-class job on the new issue (Summer 2006). The photos, the content, the layout — all outstanding.

The photo of The Immaculata in the back of the magazine was a warm and inspirational close to the issue as well. I am a graduate of the USD School of Law and am inspired to get even more involved.

— James Waters '81

### Write us ...

**We welcome letters to the editor about articles in the magazine. Letters may be edited for length and content, 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).**



[pinnacle]

## COMMANDERS IN CHIEF

**These two presidents have each other's backs**

by Kelly Knufken and Julene Snyder

**R**hett Buttle knows things about the university that the rest of us aren't privy to. For example, he's got the inside story on where the skeletons are buried. "He's actually created quite a few," president Mary Lyons jokes, with obvious affection.

You see, Buttle, a senior, has quite a lot in common with USD's top honcho. He's also a commander in chief — of the Associated Students. But in a unique collaboration, Buttle has gone where no former A.S. president has gone before: inside the inner workings of the top eche-

lon of university administration.

"I was hired as a part-time administrative assistant in the president's office last summer," Buttle recalls. "My job was to do random tasks, answer the phone and work with the board of trustees."

And then he was elected A.S. president.

"As president, I'm the voice of the students," he explains. "And while the students could be in opposition to the administration, this office wants students' voices to be heard. And now Dr. Lyons and I have this unique opportunity to work together."

"He's amazingly involved all over campus," Lyons says. "I really depend on Rhett for hearing the truth."

"Keeping it real," he chimes in.

Both presidents are devoted to projects that benefit not just USD students, but the university as a whole, such as community service-learning and outreach. Additionally, the pair has spent a lot of time coming up with creative ideas to continue furthering the university's mission. "We work together on the strategic initiatives," Buttle explains. "Students have been involved with that effort from





RODNEY NAKAMOTO

dent. She makes it a priority to be on hand for the events that matter to students. Again, Buttle helps out.

"She's the busiest woman I know," he says. "And I'm a busy student. But working here helps me know how processes work. I make sure that we're both at key events that are significant to students, such as orientation and athletic events, and she makes

#### Associated Students

**President Rhett Buttle and USD President Mary E. Lyons know all about the pressures of leadership. When Buttle told Lyons that he loved USD, she replied, "USD loves you too, but don't kill yourself with overwork."**

sure that I'm with her at the meetings that matter. What's most important is that I'm able to show her what's on the minds of students."


At their first official meeting, Buttle recalls telling the president of his love for USD. "She said, 'USD loves you too, but don't kill yourself with overwork.'"

"I do ask him if he's eating right," Lyons admits.

"She asks me if I'm sleeping," he adds.

"I really do care about his well-being, as I do for all students," the president says. "This job can be isolating. While I have a lot of people that protect me from that, who makes sure he's OK?"

Being in such close proximity means that the two presidents have a chance to just informally shoot the breeze and talk about the minutiae of their lives.

"I'm several generations removed from college life," Lyons says. "Having Rhett here really helps me keep my thumb on the pulse of the undergraduates. For me this is life-giving. If I didn't have the relationships with students, I might as well be a bureaucrat somewhere." 

the start, but they're not just important to students and A.S. executives, but to Dr. Lyons as well."

Buttle says one issue that students are particularly passionate about is recycling efforts on campus. "It really comes back to the idea of developing Catholic social thought, such as stewardship of the earth," he says. "I've made it a priority to bring it to the attention of the president, to let her know just how interested the students are in this issue, and she fully supports us. In fact, she helped to pull all the bodies from across campus that we needed to get together so that we can get it done."

Though she admits her schedule can be ridiculously busy, Lyons is determined not to be perceived as an absentee presi-

# [syllabus]

**Course: The Black Atlantic**

**Instructor: A. Rafik Mohammed**

**DESCRIPTION:** Exploration of black identity in the Caribbean as compared to that in the U.S., focusing on the similarities and differences of the black experience between the two nations. Specific emphasis on the themes of colonization, slavery, culture and resistance.

**WHERE DO I SIGN UP?** The class, which was offered for three weeks in June 2006, took place in Falmouth, Jamaica.

**WHAT'S THE BIG IDEA?** That USD students might learn what life is like for the average Jamaican. "All but three of the students were white, and once they got away from the touristy areas, every face they saw (except one another's) was black."

**SUGGESTED READING:** A Small Place, by Jamaica Kincaid. "It's hard-hitting. She talks about what it's like to live in Antigua, a place that's dependent on tourist dollars, and have people treat you like you don't exist." Every student was required to read the book upon arrival. "It basically says, 'These people who serve you, hate you.' It freaked the students right out, since every villa was staffed by a maid and a cook." The point of assigning the book was to force students to think critically about how they interact with native people when they travel abroad.

**EPIPHANIES, ANYONE?** "A pair of students were invited to go to church; a little girl came and sat down next to Michelle, and they talked. She said it was the first time since she got to Jamaica that she didn't feel like a white person, but just a person."

**ESSAY EXCERPTS:** "Everything has impacted me, and everything has changed me. I would like to believe I'm a better person because of it." "I have a better grasp not just of a culture, but of a community." "My experiences with the people of Jamaica have been priceless. No amount of reading could have taught me what they have."



EDEL RODRIGUEZ

School of Law professor Junichi Semitsu jammed backstage with the Dixie Chicks after a show this summer. Although it was a '70s costume party, he ended up being the only one in costume (below).

[ backstage pass ]

## BEHIND THE VELVET ROPE

Professor spends summer on the road blogging for the Dixie Chicks

by Julene Snyder

**W**hen Junichi Semitsu thought about what he might do this summer, the idea that he'd become a full-time embedded blogger for the Dixie Chicks on their "Accidents and Accusations" tour never even crossed his mind.

But when MSN executives came across the 32-year-old USD School of Law professor's personal blog, they liked his irreverent tone enough to request further writing samples.

"When they offered me the job, I thought it was a practical joke," Semitsu says, deadpan.

The Dixie Chicks, of course, are the pop/country group that created a huge brouhaha with lead singer Natalie Maines' remark to a London audience that she was "ashamed the president of the United States is from Texas."

"In some ways, that's the main reason I took this," he says. "I'm fascinated by how the Dixie Chicks have become a lightning rod."

While the Chicks come across as down-to-earth and funny, it's Semitsu's quick wit that makes the blog a joy to read:

*Suddenly, I am supposed to help world-famous rock star Emily Robison write a letter to world-famous television personality Barbara Walters. Suddenly, I have become the ghostwriting mustard softening the beef in between a superstar white bread sandwich. This previous sentence is proof that I should not use any metaphors in the letter.*



*I, however, am stunned. My mouth is a wide open space and my jaw is taking the long way to the floor. Someone turns the television off, but I am still staring at it, as if it's a magical box in which you can make people like Meredith Vieira say things you just finished typing. I cannot accept that [the letter I just helped*

*write] was read, word for word, on live national television less than an hour after it was written. Who else has the power to have her words read live on national television within 30 minutes, except for maybe President Bush and Tom Cruise's alleged baby?"*

When asked to sum up his summer, Semitsu uses words like

"surreal" and "amazing."

"So far they've been happy with what I've done and haven't asked me to change a word," he says. "I'm just there to be a fly on the wall." Which doesn't mean there aren't certain perks, including goodies like all-access back-stage passes.

In a word, sweet. 🍬



[precious gem]

# AESTHETICALLY SPEAKING

**Longtime collaboration between the Timken Museum and USD gives students an up-close look at the art world**

by *Julene Snyder*

Inside, the air is cool and sound seems muffled. Summer's heat fades to memory, and the shrieks of cavorting children are silenced as heavy doors swing shut. Friendly, vigilant guards make sure that security protocol is followed and that drinks will not — cannot — be spilled anywhere near the precious artifacts inside.

Welcome to the Timken Museum of Art, a rare jewel hidden in plain sight in San Diego's Balboa Park. For the past five years, this is where a select group of USD art history students have gathered for an up-close-and-personal upper-division seminar led by the Timken's director of education, Anne Hoehn.

"We're one of the few institutions that allow students to learn about art history by actually sitting in front of the paintings — rather than looking at slides in a lecture hall — which is wonderful," says Hoehn, who's an adjunct professor for the university. "The seminar is an opportunity for them to learn our collection and how it fits into the art world. They learn about all the jobs, from director to registrar to development."

The USD connection is a strong one: The Timken has loaned works to the university in the past, such as the recent exhibit of Russian icons at Founders Hall and the museum's

Renaissance masterpieces, as well as items on loan from the permanent collection to the art gallery at the Joan B. Kroc Institute for Peace & Justice. The museum's executive director, John Petersen '72, attended USD, as did Deputy Director Laurie Hawkins '76 (M.Ed.). And Robert A. Hoehn, the chair of the university's board of trustees, heads the Timken's board of directors.

"John Petersen was one of my art history students at USD," recalls professor emerita Therese Whitcomb. "He was an avid student with a great eye. Since becoming director of the Timken, he's been very generous with his time and has always been available to talk to students."


Graduates of Hoehn's Timken

seminar have gone on to be involved with various aspects of the art world, including art conservation and internships with the Vatican and the Boston Museum. Recently hailed as one of the top "15 great small museums" in the world by the luxury magazine *Golf Connoisseur*, the Timken attracts scholars from across the globe who come to study the galleries of Italian, Spanish, French, American Dutch and Flemish works.

"The Timken is analogous to New York's Fricke Collection," Whitcomb says emphatically. "It's very much in that league. It's really one of the finest museums in the world in the strength of its collection."

"You can teach a really solid course with this collection," says Hoehn, who notes that the collection includes the only Rembrandt oil painting on display in San Diego.

"Our goal with USD students is to leave them feeling confident that they can go in any museum in the world and feel comfortable."

"And it's important to note that art history aids students in other disciplines as well, including religion, history and philosophy. Each of these paintings is an illustration of history." 



COURTESY OF THE PUTNAM FOUNDATION, TIMKEN MUSEUM OF ART

**"THE CRANBERRY HARVEST, ISLAND OF NANTUCKET"**

(Eastman Johnson, 1880) is one of the reasons the Timken has been called one of the "15 great small museums in the world."

## SAVE THE DATE

### October 5-7

#### **Trans-Border Migration**

Co-sponsored by USD's Trans-Border Institute and the Bank of America, this conference — which will be held at the Joan B. Kroc Institute for Peace & Justice — promises to focus on the economic development challenges facing Mexico and the border region. Attend presentations and network with eminent experts, policymakers and various regional stakeholders. Call (619) 260-4090 or go to [www.sandiego.edu/tbi/](http://www.sandiego.edu/tbi/).

### October 13-15

#### **Family Weekend**

Families and students gather for a fun-filled weekend on campus at this annual peek at student life. Visit classrooms, attend social gatherings and attend the weekend's final event, a special Family Liturgy. Call (619) 260-4808 or go to [www.sandiego.edu/parents](http://www.sandiego.edu/parents).

### October 18-20

#### **Women PeaceMakers**

This international conference focuses on "gender-inclusive decision-making for peace with justice." Join distinguished representatives from governments, corporations, peacekeeping and armed forces, and the religious sector at the Joan B. Kroc Institute for Peace & Justice. Go to <http://peace.sandiego.edu> or call (619) 260-2358.

### December 9

#### **Alumni Christmas Mass**

Come back to campus and celebrate your faith at this annual event, which is followed by a reception and concert by the USD Choral Scholars in the French Parlor. Bring an unwrapped toy to place beneath the tree in Founders Foyer, to support the Student Alumni Association Toy Drive. Concert tickets are \$8 each and can be purchased at the door. Contact Alumni Relations at (619) 260-4819.

[kindred soul]

## LIAISON TO THE OUTSIDE WORLD

**New vice president of University Relations is a man with a mission**

by *Julene Snyder*

**F**or Tim O'Malley, the decision to come to USD had nothing to do with the pristine beauty of the campus, the desirability of living in what some call "America's Finest City" or the renowned weather.

"The attraction was the university itself," says O'Malley, who's spent the past nine years at Oregon's Pacific University as the school's vice president for university relations. "USD's mission resonates with my family's personal values and faith tradition."

College administration is a second career for O'Malley, who taught English at Catholic high schools for nine years before getting involved in development. "I was recruited by my alma mater, the University of Portland, in 1983, and began as a foundation and corporate relations officer. Within a year, I became director of development."

After nine years at the University of Portland, O'Malley moved to Washington State University, where he broadened his experience in major gifts solicitations before moving on to Pacific University in 1997.

O'Malley will be replacing Monsignor Daniel Dillabough '70, who has been working double-duty for the past several

years as head of both University Relations and Mission and Ministry. Dillabough scaled back to heading only Mission and Ministry on August 1, when O'Malley came on board at USD.

"As the newest member of my executive council, Dr. O'Malley provides our university with the breadth of his professional experience," says USD president Mary E. Lyons. "His record of extensive leadership and success in all aspects of higher education advancement is certain to help us further our strategic goals."

O'Malley is no stranger to the area, having traveled to San Diego for his work many times over the past two decades. He sees his position as head of University Relations at USD as an opportunity to strengthen the bonds between the school's many stakeholders: "Primarily, my role is to oversee the efforts of the institution to deal with all of its external public. The bottom-line purpose of University Relations is to engage alumni and friends of the school in investing in and getting involved in the life of the university."

He says that one word that colleagues have used to describe him in the past is "unflappable."



"It's because of the way I approach problem-solving," O'Malley explains. "I try to put people at ease by being approachable. I want people to know they can come to

me in confidence and that I'm there to facilitate and problem-solve."

When asked what might surprise people to learn about him, O'Malley answers quickly:





[serenity]

# ALL WE ARE SAYING

**Joan B. Kroc Institute for Peace & Justice marks five years of striving for peace**

by Kelly Knufken

**P**ease. It's a feeling of tranquility, a sense of calm that descends upon visitors from the first moment they walk through the doors of the Joan B. Kroc Institute for Peace & Justice. The distinctive building has taken on a life of its own, bringing people and organizations with a common vision to the University of San Diego campus.

Inside, a staff that's grown from four to 15 has spent five years on groundbreaking work that aims to foster peace, cultivate justice and create a safer world, to paraphrase the IPJ's mission statement.

"This building seems to be a little bit of a mecca for people," says Executive Director Joyce Neu. "I think for us to treat this space as special — and it is — means that when people come here, they feel special. That was part of Joan Kroc's vision."

It was Kroc's \$25 million gift to the university in 1998 that laid the roots for the IPJ. But it was with the building's dedication five years ago this fall — a conference that featured former President Jimmy Carter — that the institute itself began to take shape.

Kroc wanted the institute not just to incite action, but to do so on a professional level.

"One of her visions for our institute was that we provide young people with better tools, and that we actually do something about the problems that existed," Neu remembers.

On the latter charge, the IPJ has worked to provide training, mediation and other services to promote peace in countries like Nepal, Uganda and Rwanda.

Closer to home, education efforts target the USD community

and beyond through the speakers, films and other events hosted by the IPJ.

The Women PeaceMakers effort has been one of the IPJ's more visible programs, bringing in four women each year to reflect on the work they do in their own countries. The program's third annual conference from Oct. 18-20 will delve into the role women can have in peacekeeping, government and other sectors.

The Joan B. Kroc Distinguished Lecture Series provides another visible forum for weighty issues. This fall's scheduled speaker, Nobel Peace Laureate Shirin Ebadi of Iran, is an outspoken proponent of human rights. Indeed, Ebadi was threatened with arrest in Iran in recent months.

The institute has developed affiliations with dozens of organizations, including the United Nations Economic and Social Council.

"Through our status at the United Nations, through the Women PeaceMakers, through our work in Nepal and Uganda, USD has a presence in countries that normally it wouldn't," Neu says.

USD students involved with IPJ learn about human rights, conflict assessment and mediation of international conflicts.

"Exposure to this field is not easy to get," Neu says. "I think the IPJ helps open doors for a lot of the USD community — students and our interns — in terms of their future careers."

At the tender age of five, the IPJ is already living up to Kroc's vision, which she articulated during the building's dedication: "This is a place not just to talk about peace, but to make peace." 🌐

# [etc.]

**Bidding farewell** to the university this past August was Department of Art Chair David B. Smith, who also served as special assistant to the provost. Smith, who's been a USD faculty member since 1997, will become the new president of Nova Scotia College of Art and Design, where he earned his bachelor's degree. The school is described as "Canada's premier university dedicated to advancing the visual arts."

**The IPJ's Joyce Neu** will be taking a leave of absence from her post of executive director to be a senior fellow at the U.S. Institute of Peace in Washington, D.C., an "independent, nonpartisan, national institution established and funded by Congress." Among its goals are the prevention and resolution of violent international conflicts and increasing worldwide peacebuilding tools. In Neu's absence — which will occur from Oct. 1, 2006 through July 31, 2007 — the IPJ's deputy director, Dee Aker, will serve as interim director.

**Early riser** turned CBS Evening News Anchor Katie Couric was on campus in mid-July as part of a cross-country "listening tour" that found the incoming CBS nightly news anchor conducting meetings in various towns, with an aim toward finding out what regular folks want from their network news programs. Around 125 San Diegans attended the event, which was held at the Joan B. Kroc Institute for Peace & Justice.

**Esteemed U.S. Supreme Court** Justice Antonin Scalia spent the last weekend of August at the USD School of Law as a Distinguished Jurist-in-Residence. Scalia took his seat on the Supreme Court in 1986, after being nominated by President Ronald Reagan. 🌐

"My sense of humor." Then he pauses, and reconsiders.

"Wait. If you put that in the magazine, people might meet me and say, 'Hmph. He's not as funny as he thinks he is.'" 🌐

RODNEY NAKAMOTO

[no regrets]

# QUICK THINKER

For quarterback Josh Johnson, failure is simply not an option

by Tom Shanahan

A funny thing happened to Josh Johnson on his way to USD. He thought he was off to gain an education and play football, leaving behind the gritty streets of Oakland for the picturesque campus of a small, private school. But while his new home, Alcalá Park, remains beautiful, as the record-setting quarterback prepares for his junior season with the Toreros, it turns out that the more success he enjoys, the more his heart and soul are drawn back to his roots.

What Johnson didn't anticipate was the growing responsibility he'd feel, both as a big brother and a role model to students coming up behind him at his urban-blighted high school, Oakland Tech.

"I come from a place where there's not too much," he says. "I've been home, and I know my high school coaches and people want me to succeed. My little brother is playing quarterback now, and he calls to ask me stuff. He never did that when I was home. Our relationship has grown. I notice the vibes from other younger guys at my high school, too. I don't want to fail, because it might affect other people. It's not just about yourself anymore."

Funny, but "it's not just about yourself" also describes the way Johnson understands his role in head coach Jim Harbaugh's West

Coast offense. He spreads the ball around while running up staggering numbers that sound like they're generated from a video game instead of Torero Stadium.

Last year, USD claimed the school's first outright Pioneer Football League championship with an 11-1 record. The Toreros won the PFL North Division title and beat PFL South Division champion Morehead State in the league championship, 47-40. Johnson threw for 375 yards and five touchdown passes — all in the first half — without an interception.

"Personally, I want to exceed what I did last year, but I don't put pressure on myself to try and do too much," he says. "I don't want to be a one-year wonder. I'm my own worst critic, and I've watched film from last year. I understand what I have to be like to be better this year."

In his first year as a starter, Johnson completed 70.1 percent of his passes (260 of 371) for 3,256 yards, with 36 touchdown passes. The completions, TD tosses and yardage totals are school records. He was named a first-team All-American for Division I-AA Mid-Major schools by two rating services, The Sports Network and Don Hansen's Football Gazette.

"If there was an SAT for football, he would blow it away," Harbaugh says of Johnson's quarterback savvy.



**Torero quarterback** Josh Johnson didn't plan on becoming a role model, but he soon realized he answers to more than just himself.

Big-time college recruiters missed out on Johnson because he was only a 5-foot-11, 145-pounder when he attended recruiting combines the summer before his senior year. That gave Harbaugh, a former NFL quarterback for 15 seasons, a chance to land a player he believes can develop into an NFL draft pick.

"He's got athletic ability, he's got arm strength, he's got great location with the ball, and his best attribute is his mind," Harbaugh says. "He's a quick thinker."

Johnson, who says he comes from a family of late bloomers, finally began growing and arrived at USD with NFL height of






ERIC DROTTER

6 foot 3 inches. Now he's adding NFL weight: He played at 180 pounds last season and says he's up to 190 this year.

If Johnson's growth spurt had arrived earlier, he most likely would be playing Pac-10 football alongside his close friend and former Oakland Tech teammate, Cal's Marshawn Lynch. The Bears' junior running back rushed for 1,264 yards last year and is a pre-

season All-American candidate.

But Johnson has no regrets about missing out on big-time college football.

"I'm getting a degree from a good school and playing for a great football coaching staff," he says. "I wouldn't want to take a chance on going someplace else. I'm preparing for life and football with great experiences. I have everything I need here." 

[holistic]

# WELL ROUNDED

## Balance between work, play and academics helps student-athletes

by Courtney Blokland

For many of USD's student-athletes, life becomes one big juggling act of classes, practices, midterms and games. When it comes to meeting the demands of coaches, professors and friends, dividing your time becomes a challenge. That's where the USD Torero Academic Support Program comes into play.

With the coaching of Robyn Fortney, coordinator of Student Athlete Services, and Sarabeth Pollock, coordinator of Athletic Academic Support, student-athletes are offered a study hall, tutoring and mentoring programs, as well as the CHAMPS/Life Skills program — all designed to promote academic excellence and enhance the quality of the student-athlete experience.

Junior Amanda Rego, a member of the Torero women's basketball team, attributes her academic success to the time management skills she learned in the program.

"Although the study hall hours are mandatory, it's an environment

where we're encouraged to do work," she says. "And there's always help available."

Rego's one of many taking advantage of the academic services provided by USD's Academic Support Program. This past May, over 40 student-athletes attended the annual President's Luncheon for Scholar Athletes, which honored them for maintaining a cumulative GPA of 3.5 or higher.

As the university continues to expand support for student-athletes, this past spring marked the first Torero Networking Night, which brought representatives from 26 companies to the Jenny Craig Pavilion to conduct interviews with graduating senior student-athletes.

Pollock says that USD's services go beyond just providing tutors for its athletes. "We have one of the bigger academic support programs in the West Coast Conference. We have more athletes, and therefore more services available to them." 



ERIC DROTTER

**Student-athletes** like these members of the women's basketball team tend to excel both academically and on the court, though support from advisers helps when it comes to managing their complex schedules.



[ m i r a c l e ]

# A DEEP THUD, THEN SILENCE

When Damien Minna '04 jumped off the back of a boat, he wound up discovering the meaning of life itself

It was late August in the summer of 2004. The Nevada desert's sweltering sun beat down on us as we cruised up to the Lake Mead loading dock. The familiar smell of gasoline bubbling to the water's surface filled the air as my family loaded the coolers and launched the boat. We were off to the patch of sun-bleached shore where we set up camp at every year.

As we tore through the glassy stretch of water, I was filled with gratitude. "What more could I possibly want?" I thought as we turned the final corner and coasted towards the sand. Soon, water balloons were being launched, homemade chicken salad sandwiches were being passed around and margaritas were being poured. I was so caught up in the moment that when I jumped off the back of the pontoon boat to cool myself off, I didn't even think to remove my sunglasses.

When I hit the water, I heard a deep thud, then total silence. As I floated, face-down on the surface, a flurry of thoughts raced through my mind. Nothing could have prepared me for what I experienced when my girlfriend and father pulled me out of the water. My 220-pound frame — which had endured years of punishment playing sports — was totally limp.

I couldn't move a single muscle because I had fractured my spine and broken my neck in three places.

Over the course of the next 10 days, I had two major surgeries to stabilize my fourth and fifth cervical vertebrae. The trauma to my spinal cord had left me completely

paralyzed from the neck down. When I awoke from my drug-induced coma, I had no idea how badly my body was injured. To make matters worse, the doctors didn't have much positive to say regarding my recovery. The life I had once known seemed shattered to pieces.

One of the only things that held me together was a very lucid dream I had: A Messenger had come to visit me before I returned to my waking life. This Messenger had come to offer me a riddle that would solve all of the problems that my existence once offered. If I was willing to change everything that I once knew, the answer to the riddle would reveal to me the true meaning of life.

But when I woke, it was to a nightmare: months of challenges, including a staph infection, bouts with pneumonia, a halo that was drilled into my skull to put traction on my healing spine, and numerous other pin pricks, CAT scans, blood tests and drug treatments.


My fear grew stronger with each doctor's ambiguous remarks. In a search for answers I left the intensive care unit at Long Beach Memorial Hospital on an air ambulance to Craig Hospital's spinal chord rehabilitation unit in Inglewood, Colo. During my stay there, I was bombarded by information promoting life from a seated perspective. Eventually I realized that the answers I was looking for were not going to be found in a medical explanation.

The answer to the riddle came on the day that I looked at the

once-suffocating hospital walls and noticed that the room had taken on a whole new feel since I'd arrived. Pictures containing 24 years worth of incredible memories covered every empty space. The countertops were stacked high with cookies and candy that had been sent from all over the United States. There were so many cards that I didn't have enough wall space to display them all.

That's when I realized that everything was going to be OK. When my hospital stay came to an end, an entourage that made me feel like the new American Idol greeted me at the airport. The flood of compassion continued with newspaper articles, fund-raisers and outrageous donations. Prayers and warm regards filled my life with love, giving me a whole new understanding as to why we are all here.

The Messenger's riddle was the riddle of life itself. I believe we're all here to witness the miracles that exist beyond ourselves. I have faith that one day I will rise up and walk on my own two feet. But this will be no miracle. The miracle in this story can be found in the unconditional love and selfless compassion that came to me when I needed it most.

To each and every person involved in the process of helping me come to be, I offer thanks and praise. I will dedicate my life to paying it forward. 

To read more about Damien's recovery or find out how to help Damien walk again, go to [www.damienminna.com](http://www.damienminna.com)







A woman with long, wavy blonde hair is smiling and sitting on a stack of wooden crates in a workshop. She is wearing a dark denim jacket over a black top, blue jeans, and tan boots. To her left is a black suitcase. The background is filled with various tools and equipment, suggesting a workshop or a construction site. The lighting is warm and focused on the woman.

# Someone



# *after all*

IT'S NEVER TOO LATE TO  
FIND YOUR HEART'S DESIRE.  
JUST ASK BRIGITTE DEMEYER.

by **Julene Snyder**

photography by Tim Mantoani









**[REDWOOD CITY]** As the sunlight fades and day turns to dusk, the mercury in the thermometer refuses to budge. It's 95 degrees in the shade. Despite the heat, people trickle inside the Little Fox Theatre, pull up straight-backed chairs, order cold drinks and fan themselves with placid resignation. Of course there's no air-conditioning.

But even on this scorching Sunday evening in a sleepy suburb of San Francisco, it's a respectable turnout. Amiable folks chat with friends and strangers alike, and a small-town vibe permeates the room, making it easy to forget the hipper-than-thou posturing that passes for cool a few dozen miles north.

A slim blonde in well-worn jeans, subtly gorgeous cowboy boots and an immaculately tailored sleeveless black shirt makes the rounds from table to table. She greets friends with an easy laugh and takes the time to stop and talk, one hip cocked just a little. When she steps onto the modest stage, she takes a seat and adjusts the tuning on her acoustic guitar with practiced familiarity; clearly she's held this gleaming instrument in her arms many times before. Her voice is honeyed gravel, and her stories have a warm comfort to them, even when she talks of past sorrows. In front of a crowd, she manages to come across like she's talking one-on-one, making

eye contact with everyone in the room. When she begins to sing, there's an instant hush. Her voice is both sweet and gritty, with a tone that's pure and resonant. Her face glows, as if she's recalling the joy of singing in church. In fact, this moment does seem holy.

*I heard it said along the way dear  
Nothing ever stays the same  
Like the back of my own hand here  
Thought I knew the master plan*

**RELATION COMES EASILY THESE DAYS**, because Brigitte DeMeyer is in love. She's in love with her son, 1-year-old Jeremiah. She's in love with her husband, Sam Saks. She's in love with her kitchen, which she gutted and redesigned into a breathtaking space redolent of European-style traditions. She's in love with her new record, "Something After All." And she's in love with all the renowned musicians who helped bring it to fruition.

"Aside from being a sleep-deprived new mommy, I feel happy," she says, curled up in a corner of the couch in her sun-drenched living room. "It's amazing how powerful you feel when you do what you love." Her smile lights up her whole face. "I owe that to my husband."

DeMeyer sang throughout her childhood, but didn't pick up a guitar until she was a 19-year-old USD student. She tried singing in the campus choir, but that didn't exactly work out. "It was just too strict," she confesses with an infectious laugh. "I wanted to sing louder than everybody else, and just do my own parts, and I didn't want to read the notes."

Her friend, alternative folk-rocker Steve Poltz — a singer/songwriter known for his work with the Rugburns and Jewel — was a student at the same time. When he heard her sing, he talked her into joining him at the folk guitar Masses at Founders Chapel.

"He was the one who really pulled me in," DeMeyer recalls. "He graduated ahead of me, but we overlapped. He said, 'You're a really good singer; you should sing in church.' Next thing you know, I got hooked on it. Plus, I loved singing in that room. It's so warm, you know?"

As much as she reveled in letting her voice take flight on Thursday and Sundays, DeMeyer didn't confine her singing to liturgical services. "I used to sing behind the Beat Farmers all the time. They were a great country-rock band that was happening down there."

*"I didn't play music for three or four years after I moved up here. It was just hard, because I'd moved from Southern California, and I didn't know anybody. I missed it so badly. I was kind of a private guitar player for a while."*





She marvels that she even managed to graduate, given how devoted she was to gigging whenever possible. “The whole time I was in school, I was playing music. I’d have a final the next day and I’d be out until two in the morning.”

After one last San Diego performance, at her own graduation ceremony in 1986, DeMeyer took off for the San Francisco Bay area. She’d majored in international relations because she’d always wanted to become fluent in French; she credits her immigrant parents with sparking her curiosity about European culture (her dad is from Belgium, her mom is from Germany). Once in Northern California, she ended up working at a French hotel and didn’t play music for several years.

“It was hard, because I didn’t know anybody. I missed it so badly; I was kind of a private guitar player for a while. But I’d sung all through college, and eventually I made some friends.” Through a roommate, she met members of a successful local cover band and started sitting in from time to time. Before long, she met her longtime collaborator, Chris Rossbach, who proposed that the pair branch out and do their own musical thing on occasion.

“So we started sitting in with different bands, and we started attending music festivals,” DeMeyer recalls. “We were at one in Telluride, Colo., and the music there was more like what I personally identified with. I thought, ‘I could do that.’ So I said to him, ‘We should start a band together.’ And we’ve been playing together for 15 years.”

Though she was making music just as often as she could, she still needed to pay the bills. “I was doing what I wanted, but not all the way,” she says with a shrug. “There was all this shucking and jiving just to pay the rent.”

So DeMeyer worked in a variety of marketing jobs — in pharmaceutical and high-tech companies — all the while playing music on the side. When she met Saks in 1999, he urged her to follow her dream. “He kept saying, ‘You should play music full time.’ And I said, ‘I have to pay the rent, my friend.’ And he said, ‘I’ll help you.’ And I said, ‘I don’t want to take anything from anybody.’” She shakes her head, marveling at his persistence. When the couple married, she relented. “He said, ‘Just try it for a couple of years, OK?’”

So she quit her marketing job. It was a decision she’s never regretted. She’d made what she calls a “homemade CD” with Rossbach — recorded by bartering solo performances for studio hours — and once she was able to devote herself full-time to music, things started to happen.

“Within two months, I got a gig opening for Dan Fogelberg, solo (which I had never done before), and Hall and Oates, and I played at the High Sierra Music Festival, and my CD started getting reviewed.” She shakes her head, delighting in the details.

“I started getting a lot of opening slots, which was cool. I got a gig opening for Marc Cohn. Bonnie Raitt was in the audience.” Her voice lowers; she seems a little embarrassed. “She came backstage and I got to meet her, which I was very excited about. I was also scared to death. She’d hate it if she heard me say that, because she’s so down-home.”

So DeMeyer kept the ball rolling; she admits that her marketing background didn’t hurt. (Her pitch-perfect Web site, [briggiddemeyer.com](http://briggiddemeyer.com), is proof positive of that.) She got a band together and recorded a second album and “that one was better than the first.” Her momentum was building, assisted by her own know-how. With the help of a better team — including a publicist and a Nashville-based radio promoter — she got radio play, which led to an invitation to play a Colorado festival alongside luminaries like Lyle Lovett and Kenny Wayne Shepard.

But it’s the stage she shared with Bob Dylan that let her know she was well on her way. Even though it’s been years since the two played at the same festival, her awe at trodding the same stage-boards as the master is obvious. “I wanted to meet him, but he has this entourage of people who kind of buffer him. Understandably, I reckon, because he’s Bob Dylan, and he’s an icon. I don’t think he probably sees himself that way, but there’s a lot of crazy people in the world, and he needed to be buffered.”

When pressed, she shares the tidbit that his fellow performers weren’t allowed to so much as peek out of their dressing rooms if Dylan was



walking down the hallway. "You couldn't go near him, not closer than 20 feet, even if you're working the same show. He doesn't make eye contact."

*Well I'd never sell you down the river  
I'm just tryin' to be your friend  
Well I'd beat the drum for you forever  
Just to see you get down off that fence*

**AS SAVVY AS BRIGITTE DEMEYER IS** about keeping her musical career moving forward, she tends to have a horror of appearing to toot her own horn. Which didn't hold her back when it came to rounding up a core group of players for her second record.

"I went to an Emmylou Harris concert, and I noticed her drummer, Brady Blake, and I thought he was awesome," she recalls. "So I tracked him down, got his cell phone number and called him up at home in Sweden and asked if he wanted to guest on my record." She jokes that she practically stalked him, but the reality is that her persistence in tracking him down has been instrumental in the steady trajectory her career has taken ever since. For one thing, it was Blake who introduced her to Ivan Neville, the keyboard player/singer for the Neville Brothers. "Working with those people was a dream come true. I thought they'd go off on their separate ways, but we've all stayed really good friends."

When it came time to make a new album, DeMeyer already had a producer lined up. "Brady had told me, 'If you ever make another album, please let me produce it.' Brady's been around the world and has met all these great people, and he really believed in my songs and thought they were good.

"Making the record was the most fun, soulful music experience I've ever had," she says, fervent. "It was a six-week lovefest. And Brady said, 'I wouldn't have brought in all these people to play on it if I didn't think it was really good.' That's his reputation on the line. I'm just happy to have all this support from all these accomplished artists."

The players that Blake rounded up on DeMeyer's behalf are definitely consummate pros. Among the crew who joined the lovefest are Steve Earle on harmonica, Daniel Lanois, Buddy Miller and the Indigo Girls' Emily Saliers. There's been considerable support from critics; the album has garnered glowing reviews from some of the most respected names in the Americana/folk music world, with accolades like "vivid and

bracing" and "combines just the right amount of backbone with beauty" tossed around like so many long-stemmed roses.

At DeMeyer's record release party in April, a mini-college reunion of sorts took place. "We'd gotten together previously, in the fall in San Diego during Homecoming week, a big clan of us from freshman year at USD. It had been 20 years, but it seemed like I'd just seen them last week. It was incredible.

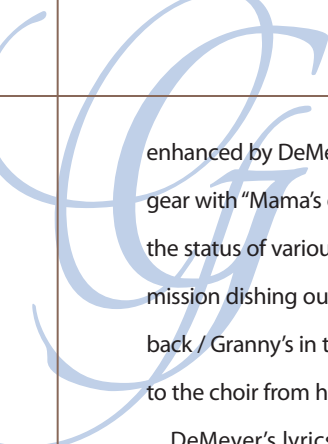
"So I gave them all CDs, and they all came up for the record release party at (San Francisco's) Great American Music Hall." DeMeyer's joy is contagious when she recalls that a whole crew of former classmates flew in from all over the place to celebrate this latest milestone. "Since then, we've all kept in touch."

The album they were celebrating is a lot like Brigitte DeMeyer herself: Without artifice, genuine and lovely, its sound reflects her own love of folk and country music. "People always ask me, 'Why don't you live in Nashville? You're a countrified folkie.' But even though I'm Southern at heart, I'm not Southern. I love California. But my heart, well." She pauses, eyes closed. "Well, every time I go to Texas or to Kentucky, the music just resonates with me."

The songs, she says, reflect where she is in her life. "This album is less depressing than my other records. It's more hopeful, more spiritual." She sits up, opens her eyes a bit wider. This part is important. "I went through a whole lot until I finally found my true self, until I finally found out who I am. I used to be anxious, really angst-ridden. But now I feel more peaceful."

There's an appealing genuineness to "Something After All"; the opening song, "By and By," a delicate, timeless love-song, has a yearning quality that's





enhanced by DeMeyer's graceful guitar fingering. The energy kicks into gear with "Mama's on a Mission," an autobiographical ditty that catalogues the status of various family members in the first verse: "Mama's on a mission dishing out the wisdom / Papa got his wings and he ain't coming back / Granny's in the back yard kicking up the daisies / Sister's preaching to the choir from her Cadillac."

DeMeyer's lyrics are by turns poignant and rollicking, the musicianship uniformly crisp and soulful. "This album totally reflects me," she says. "The people who are on it, the way it sounds, the way it was made, all of it is me.



Before, I listened to too many people's opinions, and things got convoluted." This time around, things are different. "Brady, the producer, wanted it to sound exactly how I wanted it to sound. And that came through in the vibe during the sessions. That comes through when you listen to it."

*I will be your sword  
I will be your pearl  
All this writing on the wall  
Must be good for something after all*

**AT THE LITTLE FOX THEATRE**, the singer sits in a straight-back chair, alone with her guitar. She is in full command. She catches people's eyes and gives them a little crinkly grin, as if sharing a private joke. She has a timelessness about her; while she'd seem right at home in a black-and-white Dust Bowl photo by Dorothea Lange, it's just as easy to picture her galloping across a rodeo ring ready to show a calf a thing or two with her lariat, or to imagine her featured in the latest CMT country music video. She's got one of those faces that manages to look simultaneously vulnerable and tough, and her smile, while dazzling, has a hint of suffering behind it, as if she's seen some things in her day.

The audience is rapt. Everyone is paying close attention. "I wrote this song for my husband," she says, flashing him an incandescent smile. And when she launches into the bittersweet strains of "My Everything," she sounds a bit like Sheryl Crow with a hint of Emmylou Harris thrown in.

Truth be told, she sounds exactly like Brigitte DeMeyer. 



*"This album is more hopeful, more spiritual than my other records. I went through a lot until I finally found my true self."*







FIVE

degrees

S U M M E R

V a c a t i o n



**W**e've been along for the ride since their first day of school, and following these five very different students as they navigate through their college years at USD has been an exhilarating voyage. This fall, they're juniors; hitting their stride, getting serious about studies and choosing which path they'll take through life. But when we sat down to catch up with them in mid-May, their attention was equally divided between the stress of impending final exams and the thrill of looming summer vacations. Go-getters all, they were feeling calm, prepared, resolute, and ready to ace (or at least pass) their tests. No worries there. The conversation really became animated when we asked what they would be up to during the upcoming hiatus. Whether they planned to spend time with family, travel with friends, do study-abroad coursework, stay on campus or work two jobs so they'd have money to spend on vacation, these five students — Brianne Butler, Carmen Gonzalez, Kendra Hofmann-Curry, Marco Martinez and Matt Rutz — were determined to have a summer they'd remember for the rest of their lives. Read more of their myriad adventures online at [www.sandiego.edu/mag](http://www.sandiego.edu/mag).





BACKGROUND PHOTO BY TONY ANDERSON/GETTY IMAGES

**[GUANAJUATO]** When I arrived here, I was very excited, like when you're walking along a sidewalk and something in your stomach lets you know there's someone or something waiting for you when you get to the corner. I wanted to stop time and capture everything in just one moment. I walked along the streets and saw tons of people — vendors, tour guides, tourists. I then took a bus to Paracho, Michoacán, a place that is well-known for guitar crafting, and I spent three days there before traveling to Ahualulco de Mercado, in the state of Jalisco, the city where I was raised. My grandmother lives there so I got to see her every day. My sister and I visited some ruins that were found in a city that's 15 minutes away from Ahualulco. Overall, the trip was fun, interesting and exciting. I learned so much about Mexico in just a couple of weeks, and I hope to go back one day in the future. — **Carmen Gonzalez '08**





[GUADALAJARA] I just finished taking two business classes in the Guadalajara Summer Program and have been to Mexico City, Puerto Vallarta and Guanajuato with a big group of USD students. It has been a lot of fun and also a lot of work. Among the most important things I experienced this summer were watching the World Cup games and experiencing the election process. Mexico did not do as well as everyone wished in the World Cup, but Felipe Calderon — the candidate I preferred to win the elections — emerged victorious, and the process through which it occurred marked a very interesting experience in my life. Similarly, my father won election as mayor for Nogales (through that same party, the PAN), and further attached me to the whole electoral process. Now that the election is over, the real work begins, in both this city and this country, which both require so much work. — **Marco Martinez '08**





BACKGROUND PHOTO BY JON TOMMY HUYNH

**[SEVILLA]** I have just spent my first week in Spain, and I love it here. People eat dinner between 9 p.m. and midnight, then stay out 'til the wee hours of the morning. I decided to join the festivities and was shocked to see that everyone — from families with babies to couples that looked like my grandparents — was out dancing to the music this late! To make up for the long night, I participated in a great Spanish tradition the next day ... SIESTA! I love how there's actually time built into the work schedule here for taking a nap. Also, the food is so good; a typical meal includes an appetizer of green olives followed by a salad dressed with olive oil and balsamic vinegar, and then what I like best, Sopa de Ojo, or garlic soup with potatoes. It's really yummy! But never fear, if I miss America, there's a McDonald's right down the street from where I live. I guess some things never change! — **Brianne Butler '08**





BACKGROUND PHOTO BY WARREN BOLSTER/GETTY IMAGES

**[KAUAI]** I spent most of my five days here relaxing and laying out at the beach. One day we kayaked up a river until it hit the ocean; it was one of the most beautiful but strenuous experiences ever. The next day we went to one of the local resorts and rented surfboards. It was one of my first attempts at surfing and I never realized how exhausting it was. I paddled my heart out and never fully caught a wave, but it was a great experience. We also hiked up to a waterfall and jumped off rocks into a freshwater swimming hole. Hawaii was a nice break from my hectic life at home, where I was working two jobs. In August, I went with my family on a Mediterranean cruise. I loved every place I went. While summer's been a lot of fun, I can't wait for this fall, when I'll be spending a semester at Oxford as an exchange student. — Kendra Hofmann-Curry '08





**[SAN DIEGO]** I've been swamped with research and the class I'm taking. Lately, I'm up at 6 a.m. so I can get to the gym. It's been really nice in the morning, so I've been lifting outside (Gold's has an indoor and outdoor gym). Then I come back to the apartment for a shower and breakfast. I head up to the Science and Tech building around 9:30. This last week I've been trying to get the HPLC (High Pressure Liquid Chromatography) machine to give me the results I want, so I can put unknown samples in and analyze them. Then I have class at 5:30. The class is Biomedical Ethics, and it is such a great class; Dr. Gary Jones is the professor. He's a plaintiff's attorney for malpractice cases, so he is very knowledgeable. Class is over at 8:45. I come back to my apartment, eat and fall asleep, then repeat the next morning. Maybe when this class is over I'll have more free time to enjoy the summer! — Matt Rutz '08 🇺🇸







alumni to speak at or participate in events like Finals Feeding Frenzy. "Alums can quell our fears," says Morgan. "It's reassuring to hear how well they've done with a wide range of degrees."

Still, many students are overwhelmed about landing that precious first job. Fortunately, alumni are around to offer a leg up. According to Linda Scales, director of career services, a significant number of jobs and internships posted on ToreroLink come from alumni.

Megan Turner '03 mentors grads through the Alumni Online Community. As royalties supervisor for BMG Publishing, she's done informational interviews for students looking to break into the industry. "I recommend they come to L.A. for a summer and see if they like it," says Turner. "If they haven't been on a film set, they don't know what it's like to work 16 hours and then go home and do laundry."

What could be a more tangible way to shape the future than by helping to recruit the brightest students? Members of the Volunteer Alumni Network represent USD at recruiting events nationwide. According to undergraduate admissions director Steve Pultz, competition is fierce. "Alumni are critical to attracting a more diverse and more highly qualified student body," says Pultz. "They're giving back to the school in a way that's very important."

Last year, the admissions office began a pilot program in which alumni interviewed student applicants in the Chicago area. Maureen Partynski '82, a retired bank CEO, was on hand, along with Paul Purcell '97, partner at a hedge fund.

"These kids were serious about going to USD, but they might not have been able to afford the trip for a personal interview," says Partynski. And what do alumni get from this experience? Institutional pride, says Purcell: "USD was a very special place for me. I do this because I believe in USD and I want USD to succeed." 🌐

[ g u n g h o ]

# GIVING BACK

## Alumni board member Shannon Smith is on a mission to increase participation

Shannon Smith sees her involvement with the National Alumni Board and the donations she makes to the university as a way to honor the return she's seen on one of her best investments: her education.

"For me, it's been really easy to give back to USD," says Smith, a 1986 business and international relations graduate who's made a career in mortgage banking. "The value of my diploma has increased substantially. I believe in my investment."

Smith herself got the ball rolling on one of the latest ventures for the Alumni Board, making the inaugural donation in July to the Alumni Fund. This new fund offers alumni a chance to have a more tailored place for their donations. The donated monies primarily will benefit two scholarships set up by alumni, the Therese Whitcomb Alumni Scholarship and the Kyle O'Connell Memorial Scholarship.

During what she calls her "rookie year" on the National Alumni Board, Smith cut her teeth helping out on two major events. She worked the tent at Homecoming

2005, talking to alumni and telling them what the Alumni Association was up to. "That was my first homecoming in 10 years," she says. "Getting back in the spirit of Homecoming was really great for me."

Having lived in New York for 11 years, Smith had never attended the other big alumni event, Alumni Honors. But last year, she jumped right in, working with her aunt, longtime trustee Patricia Howe, to increase participation by the board. "We had the biggest attendance of trustees ever at the event," she says. "It was really just well-rounded support for our biggest event of the year outside of Homecoming."

Smith's goal on the Alumni Board has been to encourage others to join her in making donations. She notes that even small donations can buy a lot of books for scholarship students.

"While I have a small voice in what I've given back, at the end of the day I've seen the impact," she says. "In aggregate, our alumni voice can be huge if everyone is participating." 🌐



TIM MANTOANI

# CITY SPOTLIGHT

## October 6-8

### USD: Homecoming/ Reunion Weekend

Join old friends during this weekend's festivities, which include reunions for the classes of 1956, 1961, 1966, 1971, 1976, 1981, 1986, 1991, 1996, 2001 and 2006. Events and activities such as a golf tournament, a welcome reception, an alumni Mass, dinner with university president Mary E. Lyons and a tailgate party are among the many events that are certain to reconnect alums with USD friends and family. For more information, go to [www.sandiego.edu/homecoming](http://www.sandiego.edu/homecoming).

## October 15

### Dallas: State Fair

Get together with fellow Toreros at USD Day at the Texas State Fair. It's guaranteed to be a memorable chance to hang out with old friends and make new ones while enjoying events like pig racing, speed-eating competitions, an auto show and a midway packed with more than 70 rides and shows. But of course, the real excitement comes from the food booths; last year's big seller was the fried peanut butter, banana and jelly sandwich. Yum.

## January 8

### Bay Area: Men's Basketball

Root on the Toreros as they face the University of San Francisco Dons at the War Memorial Gymnasium in San Francisco. When the two teams faced each other in March 2006 at the WCC tournament, USD scored a 62-52 victory in an exciting finish that saw the win sealed with a pair of free throws after the Dons got hit with a goal-tending call.

*The above events are just a sampling of dozens of upcoming regional get-togethers. To find out if there's one near you, contact David Stephens at (619) 260-4819 or go to [www.sandiego.edu/alumni](http://www.sandiego.edu/alumni) and click on Regional Programs.*







[ s w i t c h f o o t ]

# INTO THE SWIM

**Submerged in the life aquatic, Tom Lochtefeld is riding high**

by *Barbara Davenport*

**T**om Lochtefeld is poised on the edge of a monster wave — one he's been building since 1980.

You see, his company manufactures wave machines: Flowrider for mortal sorts, and Bruticus Maximus, which shoots 125,000 gallons a minute up a 10-foot wall, resulting in a 30-mph wave that inspires respect from surfing pros. He's built Wave House, a surfing theme park at San Diego's Mission Beach, where Bruticus and Flowrider pull in crowds who watch both surfers and sunset while wriggling their feet in the sand.

By any measure, Lochtefeld is a success. He's been the leaseholder for the mammoth Mission Beach indoor swimming pool known as the Plunge since 1992, recently completing major renovations on the historic space. On top of that, he's built a great hometown business that has MTV, game developers and music video producers begging to be part of his action. And investors are catching a ride on this wave: Bruticus rocks at the Wave House in Durban, South Africa, and a second franchise opens on the Isle of Jersey, a British resort, in 2007. Other Wave Houses are in development for Las Vegas, Phoenix, Honolulu, Sydney and Singapore.

Lochtefeld agrees that he's living the dream, but he has his own yardstick for success. At the Mission Beach Wave House's open-air bar, he's dressed in T-shirt, cargo pants and flip-flops, looking more lifelong surfer than international developer.

Growing up in La Jolla, surfing every day, he can't remember a time when he didn't have an

intense emotional connection with the ocean. "I've always followed my passion. I wanted to find work that would keep me close to the ocean. I went surfing this morning. Every day I get up and say, 'What's next?' I come to work charged."

Now, that's success.

So, how did Tom Lochtefeld make his way out of the ocean and up the hill to earn his J.D. from USD in 1977? And why law school? "It was like riding switch-foot [surfing with your non-dominant foot forward]. I thought law school would help me learn to write better. You learn a lot when you force yourself to do things you think you can't do."

That sort of work ethic has aided his two-decade quest to build a machine that creates waves "the best surfers in the world would want to ride." A logical planner, Lochtefeld bought a minority interest in the Raging Waters water park so he could learn the business model. After he sold his interest in 1989, he spent a year — and most of his capital — with local hydraulics engineers, figuring out how to push 30,000 gallons of water per minute up an inclined ramp. The result was Flowrider.

He now sells 20 Flowriders every year, and profits are surging. With Wave House up and running, he's working on a "surf ranch" where the water will cover several acres, and surfers will paddle into waves on full-size boards.

Though it's still a sand castle in the sky, making that ranch a reality is Lochtefeld's current passion. And judging by his past, he's likely to ride that creative surge all the way in to shore. 🏄

PHOTO: K.C. ALFRED / SAN DIEGO UNION-TRIBUNE

## 1960s

[ 1960 ]

**JOHN BOWMAN (B.A., M.A.T. '73)** retired after 37 years as a high school teacher. "Many of my fondest memories concern my years spent as a student at USD," he says. "I will be 80 years old in October (and my spelling still stinks)." He and his wife celebrated their 50th anniversary in June.

**SISTER MARY EILEEN CLANCY (B.A., M.A. '66)** retired to the motherhouse in August 1994 and was assigned as secretary to the convent prioress for 10 years. She reports she is in fairly good health at age 85 and enjoying helping those who are less able, as well as using a computer, knitting and spending extra time in the chapel. "Love and prayers for all."

**ALEXANDER HARPER (B.A., J.D. '63)** is semi-retired as a securities trial attorney. He has been married to wife Edna for 45 years. Her topiary garden, featured on HGTV's "Offbeat America," is a local tourist attraction at Union and Vine in the Mission Hills area of San Diego and keeps both of them busy. (See story on page 40.)

**JOHN MARKLEY (B.A., M.A.T. '68)** is completing his 44th year of teaching, the last 36 years at San Diego City College.

**SIMONE (GENNETTE) OSTRANDER (B.A., M.A. '66)** retired in 2005 from 40 years of teaching. She and husband Gary built a house for their oldest daughter and were in the process of building another for their son. Simone is a master gardener and belongs to a wildlife conservation group and the San Joaquin River Restoration Project, which she says is "holding off developers and preserving our environment." She also put their dog Chester into the International Dog Therapy Program, visiting hospitals and retirement homes to bring "joy and wet kisses to sick kids and old folks."

**CECILE (GAGNE) SISCO (B.A.)** and several of her classmates enjoyed an August 2005 gathering for lunch at the home of alumna Colleen Lynch O'Connor in Point Loma. Sister Virginia Rodee brought them up to speed on USD activities.

**TIMOTHY WILBUR (B.A.)** sold M.T. Wilbur Inc. on Sept. 1, 2005, and is retired.

[ 1961 ] 

**SANDRA (CASSELL) FARRELL (B.A.)** tried retirement after 21 years in private practice — but flunked. She returned and reduced her work week to two days and finds that a good balance. "Love those five-day weekends!" She also keeps busy with four "adult kinder" in three states, parish council, Rotary, working with high schoolers and traveling with husband Jerry. They went to China in 2005 and were planning a trip to Croatia in 2006 in addition to many domestic trips. They've also reconnected with many friends from USD and are deeply grateful for "enduring friendships that span nearly 50 years."

**RONALD GARDON (B.A.)** retired as a school administrator in 1993. He has had health concerns since 1998, including the early stages of Parkinson's disease. He has three daughters and five grandchildren. "Life has been good to me and my family."

**PAULETTE (SANTOS) KONCELIK (B.A.)** travels a lot in her work for a company that owns and manages nursing homes in Texas. She also is the grandmother of a wonderful granddaughter, Megan Paulette. Daughter Joelle is a social worker and son Joey is an artist and computer tech.

**ALMA WIESNER (B.A.)** still teaches full time and may go on a mission trip to the South African nation of Malawi to help start a new school.

[ 1962 ]

**HERLINDA (RODRIQUEZ) BELCHER (B.A.)** is a supervisor for San Diego State University's Imperial Valley campus and serves on the Imperial County Board of Education.

[ 1963 ]

**RALPH FEAR (B.A.)** retired from the San Diego County District Attorney's Office in March 2002 after 32 years.

**DONNA (ZUEGE) KING (B.A.)** continues teaching high school math, having been called back each year since "retiring" in 2000. She and her husband are enjoying their seven grandchildren and spending summers in Wisconsin.

**ARTHUR WICAL (B.B.A.)** and his wife have traveled in recent years to Russia, China, Norwegian countries, England and the British Isles. They are thinking of going to Africa and Egypt. "I still attend every homecoming — and the last seven WCC basketball tournaments with my twin brother, Charlie, who played basketball with me at USD for four years from 1959 to 1963."

[ 1964 ]

**MARGARET MORGAN-ASHTON (B.A.)** remarried in 2000 at age 58 and moved with her husband to Vermont. They are both special educators and live in western Vermont near New York. "The downside is that the nearest tortilleria is in Montreal, Quebec — 200 miles to the north, in Canada. The upside is everything — clean air, two-lane freeways and great people!"

[ 1965 ]

**JO ANN (KOZICKI) FRITSCHER (B.A.)** retired from San Diego City Schools after more than 37 years. She now lectures at the American Language Institute and volunteers at the visitors center for Cuyamaca Rancho State Park. She is enjoying quality time with her horses and dogs.

[ 1966 ]

**LORRAINE MASTERS (B.A.)** had her last mission, which lasted 20 years, at the Diocese of Salt Lake City. Her last job was as director of ethnic ministry, and she now lives at the motherhouse Victory Noll.

[ 1966 ] 

**BENTON BECKLEY (B.A., J.D. '76)** heads Beckley Commercial Properties, which includes rental apartments and a motel. He has a new sailboat and a new C-6 Corvette. He also builds custom motorcycles.

**MONICA (COLE) GREENE**, who attended USD in 1966 and later went on to earn a master's degree in social work at Arizona State University, works in international adoption. She is an associate of American Professionals Abroad and lives in Heidelberg, Germany, with her husband and the youngest of her four children. After Hurricane Katrina, she returned to the United States and volunteered with the American Red Cross for several weeks, providing disaster mental health services.

**ARDEL NELSON (B.A.)** retired from full-time to part-time professor in 2005.

[ 1967 ]

**JANE FLYNN (B.A.)** retired from St. Rose of Lima Elementary after 27 years. Her daughter and son also graduated from USD.

[ 1968 ]

**WILLIAM CONWILL (B.A.)** has moved with his family to Gainesville, Fla., where he and wife Faye have joined the University of Florida faculty. Oldest son Giles Harrison-Conwill — named after his uncle and USD graduate, the Rev. Giles Conwill — is a graduate student at Duke University, while younger brothers Mondlane and Justin attend school in Gainesville. William received the Martial Artist of the Year award in 2005 from the USA Martial Arts Hall of Fame, and competed in Athens, Greece, in 2004.

[ 1969 ]

**THOMAS BRIGGS (B.S.)** retired at the end of 2004 after 32 years with Delmarva Millwork in Lancaster, Penn. His wife retired from the same company. They are the proud new grandparents of Mayra Rose Briggs, and are enjoying her immensely. They spend time in their Lancaster home and also at beach homes in Ocean City, Md., and Marco Island, Fla. Tom planned to do volunteer work at the Rookery Bay Estuary in Naples, Fla.

**RICHARD KNOTT (B.S.)** retired at the end of 2005. "I will spend time with my lovely wife Maureen, do a little consulting work, serve on various boards of directors and enjoy life."

## 1970s

[ 1970 ]

**CAROL (MIKESELL) FREY (B.A.)** has published her ninth historical genealogy book. "It was 1,488 pages!" she reports. Her daughter, who is a master in flute performance, underwent successful brain surgery and did not lose any of her musical ability. "I wish to thank all my friends for their prayers and fasting on her behalf. I am busy in my semi-retirement."

[ 1971 ] 

**MARTHA (ANDREATTI) BARHAM (B.S.N.)** is in private practice as a clinical psychologist in Honolulu. She has written books for



adults and children. Her Web site is [www.drbarham.com](http://www.drbarham.com). She misses her days at the university and says hello to all.

**MICHAEL EMERY (B.S.)** and his wife are retiring and planning to travel and enjoy their grandchildren.

**CHARLES GIBB (B.A.)** published his second novel in February. "The Gold Buckle" is available on Amazon.com. The book is about an American who is drafted into the Nazi army in World War II and spies for Gen. Eisenhower while working for the Germans.

#### [ 1972 ]

**SISTER MADELINE FITZGERALD (B.A.)** has taught school for 30 years and now ministers in the parish of St. Francis of Assisi, Vista. She taught previously in Tampa, Fla., Ireland and England. She is a Sister of St. Claire and recently celebrated 45 years in the order. "I have watched USD grow, and it is a beautiful campus. I spent many happy days there."

**BARBARA (CAGLIERO) ULLE (B.A.)** is a homemaker who home-schools her 12-year-old daughter, Hayley. Her son, Nicholas, expected to graduate high school in 2006. Her husband is an architect with R.W. James and Associates.

#### [ 1974 ]

**VICTORIA (WESTERVELT) NASMAN (B.A.)** recently was promoted to managing offices in Riverside and San Bernardino counties. Her daughter, who graduated from USD in 2003, was planning to marry this fall.

**NEVA (GRIGGS) SULLAWAY (B.A.)** is the author of four nonfiction books, including the award-winning "Chasing Dreamfire." She also is the editor of "Mains'l Haul," a journal of Pacific maritime history, for the San Diego Maritime Museum. She lives in San Diego with her husband and two children.

#### [ 1975 ]

**DOROTHY (DOOYLE) DONIVAN (B.A.)** is a site coordinator for Early Head Start. She is completing her master's in early childhood administration at National Louis University. She has four daughters and one granddaughter.

**JOHN HOUSTON (B.A.)** was on his way to Lithuania to film a docudrama about 9/11 in early 2006. He planned to work under a special arrangement with the Screen Actors Guild and British Equity to allow him to act in the picture. "I am excited to finally visit Eastern Europe," he says. "Otherwise you can usually find me on the small screen in something or on stage somewhere in this country."

**ANGELA (KEFFALA) NEWMAN (B.A.)** is working for MHN Government Services. She recruits mental health professionals to work with service members and their families at military bases in the United States and around the world. Husband Paul is working for the Department of Homeland Security. Both of their children, Jared and Jessica, are in college.

**ROBERT LAMONT (B.A.)** was retiring from California Special Education and moving to the Big Island of Hawaii. He says he is going to become a goat farmer.

#### [ 1976 ]

**CARL MCEWAN (B.A.)** has lived and worked in the Toronto area for almost 30 years. He was director of research and development of Champion Photochemistry and kept an eye on their labs from England to Indonesia.

**DAVID MOUSSETTE (B.A., J.D. '81)** retired after 20 years in the Air Force and now works at Lackland Air Force Base as the magistrate attorney, prosecuting civilians who violate state or federal law on base. He also drafts wills and advises clients on consumer law issues such as landlord/tenant issues. "It's a great job in an office of great people."

**WARREN PATCH (B.A.)** has two daughters in college and two younger sons in grade school. He has practiced in Ocean Beach continuously since the summer of 1984. "I live, work and surf in the same community. I am taking care of the families of my neighborhood and living my dream."

#### [ 1977 ]

**JOSEPH GHOUGASSIAN (M.A., J.D. '80)** was the chancellor's distinguished lecturer at the University of California, Riverside, in April. He spoke on "Diplomacy: A Tool for Peace, Education and Human

Rights." Ghougassian's address was to follow the presentation of a Nobel Prize winner in chemistry and a poet laureate.

**NANCY (SALVO) HYMAN (B.A.)** has one son left at home, high-schooler Reid. Her son, Taylor, graduated from West Point in May 2005. Fellow USD alumni Terri (Ketchum) Cleveland attended the ceremony. Daughter Morgan was graduating in 2006 in toy design from Otis College of Art and Design.

#### [ 1978 ]

**BART HARMAN** and Sandra Cook '79 have been married 24 years and have three children, ages 22, 20 and 15.

**BARBARA KENDALL (B.S.N.)** is enjoying retirement, spending time as a volunteer reader and tutor to first-graders. "After 25 years working with an adult population at the V.A. Hospital, this is a new joy."

**BARBARA (CLAY) ODOM (B.S.N.)** is a semi-retired registered nurse and independent health consultant.

#### [ 1979 ]

**ANN DUMOLT (B.A.)** celebrated her 50th birthday and feels blessed to have a job and an understanding employer. "Without medical benefits, I may not have had the availability of medical care and technology that allows me to live with a chronic illness. My employer has afforded me reasonable accommodation so I can work despite physical limitations."

**PATRICIA JARRETT (B.B.A.)** says husband Richard Jarrett '81 was inspired by the USD seminary chapel "Fisher of Men" window to pursue learning the inch-thick glass art form. He has a cross in liturgical colors available for sale and is working on designing two doors containing the glass.

**KRIS SORENSON (B.A.)** is studying for the priesthood for the Diocese of Fresno, having returned to his seminary studies in 2004 after an absence of 21 years. He is now studying at St. John's Seminary at Camarillo, Calif., and is on his pastoral year at Sacred Heart Parish in Merced, Calif. "I am scheduled to be ordained, Lord willing, in 2008."

**TERESA VAUGHN (B.A.)** has been renovating a 1914 "Aeroplane Craftsman bungalow" and volunteering with Read Orange County, an adult literacy program. "Both endeavors continue to be a challenge and a joy in my life when I'm not working."

## 1980s

#### [ 1980 ]

**MARY COSTELLO-EGLER (B.A.)** is homeschooling her 6-year-old daughter.

**JOSEPH ROGERS (B.S.)** is living on a boat in Long Beach. "I still haven't published that book, 'Running on Empty,' a love/war story that takes place at the end of the Vietnam War." He's temporarily shelved a novel about Italy. "Rebuilding an old boat takes most of my time, but I intend to break off from that soon and market my novel."

**SHAHEEN SHAHZAD (B.B.A.)** says San Diego will always be home and wishes all alumni well. "USD was good to me. I cherish all the memories I have in attending USD."

#### [ 1981 ]

**CATENA (BERGEVIN) BAHNEMAN (B.A.)** is the director of operations and finance for a contemporary art museum specializing in installation art.

**PAT GALVIN (B.B.A.)** and wife Kelly have four children: Karina, 16; J.P., 14; Riley, 11; and Michaela, 8. He is a general counsel for the commercial property group of LNR Property Corp. in Newport Beach.

**SANTA (HALL) HOUGGARD (B.S.N., M.S.N. '83)** retired from Arizona Western College in 2005 and is enjoying both retirement and establishing consultant businesses in health promotion and in nursing education.

**MARK NENAD (B.B.A.)** is married with two children: Zain, 5, and Ayla, 2. The family lives in Spokane. Mark and wife Munazza are in retail jewelry management.

**VIRGINIA THAYER OSGOOD (B.A., M.R.E. '83)** is retired from religious education. Three of her four children are married, and her

daughter is in an RN program. She and her husband have three grandchildren. Virginia spent five weeks touring New Zealand and Australia in early 2006.

**[ 1982 ]**

**MARY (BRAZ) CORREIA (B.B.A.)** has a son, Michael Correia, who is a freshman at USD studying mechanical engineering.

**RICHARD HUVER (B.B.A.)** is the president of the Consumer Attorneys of San Diego for 2006, and has served on the board since 1998. He and wife Margaret have three boys — a 13-year-old and 10-year-old twins.

**KELLY (BARNHILL) JACKSON (B.A.)** and husband Jim recently celebrated their 23rd anniversary. Eldest son Kenny is a freshman at the University of Missouri and is a member of the Beta Theta Pi fraternity. Middle son Neil is a sophomore in high school, and youngest son Brett is in fifth grade. "We have lived in Missouri now for nine years and have found it a great place to raise our sons."

**EVA SATORI-MCCLANE (B.A.)** was married on July 16, 2005, to Duncan McClane at the Brentwood Presbyterian Church. Their reception was at Villa Francesca in Malibu, Calif., and they honeymooned in New York City, Paris, Nice and Biarritz.

**JAMES ZIMBARDO (B.B.A.)** moved from San Diego about 24 years ago. He is happily married to wife Teri and was recently planning to celebrate their 23rd anniversary. He has been in the food service industry since graduation and works as a Southwest region manager for a San Francisco-based company. "I spend my free time with my three sons: Michael, 21; Danny, 19; and John, 17."

**[ 1983 ]**

**BRENDA BUZBY (B.A.)** and husband Arie have five children and are active raising money for the Bakersfield homeless shelter and for lower-income schools. Brenda received recognition for outstanding service as a part-time faculty member at the University of Southern California School of Dentistry. She also volunteers as a faculty member to USC Mobile Dental Clinics in the San Joaquin Valley.

**MARK CHAPMAN (B.A.)** has three daughters and one son, ages 10, 12, 14 and 17.

**JAMES HITCHCOCK (B.B.A.)** began his 23rd year in the brokerage industry, his sixth with Oppenheimer. Daughter Tara is 10 and was getting mostly A's with one B on a recent report card.

**RHONDA MARTIN (B.S.N.)** is a lecturer at the University of California, San Diego, School of Medicine and is a charter member of the Organizing Committee of the International Conference on Continuous Renal Replacement Therapy. She also has written for textbooks and procedure manuals.

**JOSE VILLALOBOS (B.A.)** is a maxillofacial prosthodontist and a colonel in the Air Force stationed in Germany. He and wife Cyndi (Bartel) Villalobos '85, who homeschools their four daughters, were planning to return to San Antonio in the summer of 2006.

**[ 1984 ]**

**RHONDA ADDINGTON (M.ED.)** is married to an aerospace engineer and lives in the Bonita area of San Diego with three children: Kai, 14; Kianna, 9; and Kennet, 6. Rhonda has been teaching students with developmental delays for more than 20 years in the Sweetwater Union High School District.

**WILLIAM HOGAN (B.B.A.)** and wife Michelle welcomed son Grant to the family in December 2005. The family also includes 8-year-old Haley and 3-year-old Nick. Bill is president of Wide World of Golf, which will celebrate 50 years in business in 2007.

**BROOKE (EGELSTON) KING (B.A.)** has been married for 22 years to her college sweetheart and is a stay-at-home mom to 9-year-old Matthew and 6-year-old Peyton. She teaches Bible study and runs the homeless meals ministry for their church. "I love to scrapbook in my spare time."

**RICHARD MILLER (B.A.)** says, "Hello USD, my home away from home, from Diamond Dust, your rockin' USD 1980s Top 40 cover band. I am putting my music degree to good use by teaching private piano and guitar lessons. Education works!"

**LYNN (MORGAN) SCHULMAN (B.A.)** has been teaching in the San Diego Unified School District for 18 years. She and husband Richard are the proud parents of Olivia, born May 24, 2005.

**SHARON (WONG) SVENSEN (B.A.)** married Yale graduate Alan Svensen on May 28, 2005. Sharon is a member of the Humane Society of the United States. She has been recognized by employer Bloomingdale's twice in the past five years for being the best executive in the Aventura, Fla., store in 2000 and again in 2001.

**JENNIFER (ISHAM) ZEEB (B.A.)** is in Visalia, Calif., teaching and coaching diving part time. She also copes with three teen-agers: Jason, 17; and Megan and Christy, 16. "I am blessed to be married to Marty for 22 years!"

**[ 1985 ]**

**MARIA (CULLEN) HERBERT (B.A.)** was among many USD alumni who attended a concert by Brigitte (DeMeyer) Saks '86 in San Francisco in April.

**CHERYL (MEUMANN) INGRAM (B.B.A.)** celebrated her 20th wedding anniversary in St. John in the Virgin Islands in March. One of her sons was planning to start this fall at Northern Arizona University. Her other son is in middle school. She had her biggest year in her sales career in fiscal 2006, achieving 400 percent of her quota at Oracle. Husband Dale is a successful contractor in San Diego.

**JANET LINCOLN-FILZNER (B.S.N., M.S.N. '89)** is enjoying a great time with her family in the Midwest. She and her husband have three children, ages 10 to 17.

**BOBBY SANTILLAN (M.A.)** moved to Flagstaff, Ariz., to begin a Ph.D. in educational psychology at Northern Arizona University. His doctoral research will focus on learning processes and the bilingual special education child. After 20 years of working in California school districts, he is looking forward to starting a new career in teaching at the collegiate level.

**FRANCINE SPRECCO (B.A., M.A. '02)** is the career counselor for the YWCA of San Diego. She enjoys helping women and men in transitional housing programs find

employment that they can enjoy and maintain.

**AVIS (REINICKE) THOMAS (B.A.)** is still enjoying San Diego with her husband, Dan, and two sons, 17-year-old Christopher and 14-year-old Peter. "A big highlight for our family was reuniting with Father Mullen last summer."

**MARK VITALI (B.B.A.)** has been in Connecticut for four years and is looking for a move to "warmer climes — maybe somewhere west or south of here." He has a master's in romance language philology ("a fancy way of saying Spanish linguistics") and is considering whether to continue teaching or do something different.

**KATHRYN (WHITAKER) WILSON (B.S.)** has lived in San Diego County's Vista for 12 years. She is raising three sons — Jack, Davis and Andrew — and daughter Rachel. "We spend most of our free time playing soccer, football and baseball." She and husband Skip have been married 13 years.

**[ 1986 ]** 

**JENNIFER (PAYTON) BROWN (B.B.A.)** and her husband of 11 years, Rick, had daughter Erin on May 11, 2005. She joins 5-year-old brother Ian. Jennifer is an executive director with Ernst & Young San Diego in the audit group, where she has worked for more than 11 years. "I enjoy serving my many start-up biotechnology companies that are searching for cures/treatments for cancer and other life-threatening diseases."

**BRIGITTE (DEMEYER) SAKS (B.A.)** signed a record deal to release her third CD, "Something After All," last spring. To celebrate, she gave a concert at the Great American Music Hall in San Francisco, where she lives with her husband and 1-year-old son, Jeremiah. Attending the concert were "some of her biggest fans from the Class of 1985:" Maria (Cullen) Herbert, Phyllis (Frey) Stewart, Kelli (McCormack) Allman, Laura (Miller) Hasshaw and Mimi (Morris) Ballard. Brigitte's music can be purchased at Tower Records, Amazon.com, or from her Web site, www.brigittedemeyer.com. (See story on page 18.)

**KARA (MURPHY) GENTRY (B.A.)** and her husband were planning to celebrate their 20th anniversary



sary in July 2006. They live in Julian with their two children, Mitchell, 14, and Mariah, 2.

**DAVID HUNT (B.A.)** is a teacher in Berlin, Germany. "Musician, father, husband and full-time dreamer."

**KRISTEN (GROENIGER) KUNDEL (B.B.A.)** and husband Scott are raising four active boys, ages 14, 12, 6 and 2. They have an equipment rental/grading company in the Temecula area of California that also keeps them busy. "In our spare time, we race motocross and play Little League."

**TERESA (DAY) MIUCCI (B.B.A.)** started her own CPA practice in San Diego's Pacific Beach in 2005. She was planning to celebrate her 20th anniversary with husband Luigi in August.

#### [ 1987 ]

**MICHELE CHARBONNEAU (B.A.)** married Gregory Brown '87 on Nov. 8, 2002, in St. Lucia. They are the founding partners of the law firm of Brown & Charbonneau in Irvine, Calif. The firm specializes in business and civil litigation, and family law.

**ANNE (DOYLE) GREY (B.A.)** and husband David recently celebrated their 15th anniversary. Anne is the national manager for major donor relations and works with individuals who fund research to find a cure for type 1 diabetes.

**DAVID SMOLA (B.A.)** is the athletic director at San Diego High School and assisted in the design of athletic facilities at the new Cathedral High School in San Diego. He has been married to Rosanne Visco-Smola for 19 years and has a beautiful daughter, Marissa, who enjoys golf with dad.

**LEOPOLDO VALDIVIA (B.A.)** welcomed his fourth child, Brogan, on Aug. 27, 2005.

#### [ 1988 ]

**DORI DIAL-BLOK (B.B.A.)** was married in Maui to Jeff Blok on Oct. 14, 2004. She works for New Century Mortgage.

**GEORGE GROSS (B.B.A.)** has a new baby girl, Madeleine Marie, who was born Dec. 14, 2005. He is forming

### [ wedded bliss ]

## FOR BETTER, FOR WORSE

### 52 fights later, life together is terrific

by Kelly Knufken

**H**oneymoon. Romance. Bliss. *Adjustment.* Yep, the first year of marriage doesn't always match one's imagination. But what if your spouse wrote a tell-all about your first year? More specifically, what if she chronicled the 52 fights — about issues from locking doors to more intimate moments — that accompanied it?

Lawyer Matt Samuel (mostly) took it all in stride when his wife, Jennifer Jeanne Patterson, wrote a book, titled "52 Fights," about their own marriage's early days.

For Samuel, the nerves hit about a month before it was published, when he realized his life would be laid bare. While the book leans toward the female audience, Samuel found that it was the couple's male friends who were fighting to read the tome before their wives.

"Of course, they gave me a bad time on some parts, but now I'm actually thrilled that it's out there," he says. "It'll be good to show our grandkids someday."

As could be expected, he remembered some things differently than Patterson. "I would say, 'I didn't do that' or 'I didn't say it that way, did I?'" Alas, he says, "She's pretty astute. She usually had it right."

Does he want the last word on any of those fights she laid out? Wisely, he declines. Still, "I have joked that I should have written a rebuttal."

Now married four years, they've settled into life in the



PETER DAZELEY/ZEFA/CORBIS

Twin Cities region with their nearly-2-year-old son, Max.

Samuel, a 1994 USD School of Law graduate, represents technology companies involved in patent disputes as a litigator at Fish & Richardson.

As much as he enjoys practicing law, he finds the long hours are tougher with a family. From the beginning, Patterson would encourage him to spend more time working on their marriage.

"She's fabulous that way. She puts the heat on me to get home. She's so right."

Samuel wasn't always so sure about a law career. He'd gotten his undergraduate engineering degree at North Dakota State University. Three weeks into law school at USD, "I was thinking, 'I have no business being here. I'm an engineer.'" But he adjusted,

made lifelong friends at USD and has a career he loves.

It puts him up against an array of lawyers who continually impress him with the quality of their work and character. "There are a lot of good people doing really good work — creative work to get a good result for everyone," he says. "It's not perfect, but we have a pretty good system for resolving disputes."

And on the personal side, the book helped him see that marriages, too, need a system to work through a couple's differences. "I think it was a very helpful process for our marriage," he says. "When we were actually going through it before she wrote the book, I was like, 'Why do we have to go through this or talk about that?' Now that she wrote it, I see the value in that." 📖

a private equity group to acquire businesses as investments.

**DAVID LA PUMA (B.B.A.)** and wife Beth welcomed their first child, Emily Grace, on Nov. 25, 2005. The family lives in Carlsbad.

**ERIN (KELLY) LITTLE (B.B.A.)** is living in Huntington Beach, Calif., and raising 14-year-old Ryan and 13-year-old Jake. She works for the State Board of Equalization in Culver City, Calif.

**ROB MAC KAY (B.B.A.)** and wife Aida (Galindo) Mac Kay '89 live in Greenwich, Conn., with their two boys, Robby and Christopher. Rob is vice president and controller at PepsiCo International.

**STERLING "DREW" PELOSO (B.B.A.)** recently was promoted to senior vice president of the western United States for Aramak Corp. He and wife Wendy live in San Clemente, Calif., with their three kids: Cameron, 6; Isabelle, 4; and Max, 1.

**[ 1989 ]**  
**DEBRA PANATTONI ANDERSON (B.A.)** and husband Peter welcomed their third child, Brooke Ann, on Aug. 24, 2005. Brothers Ryan, 5, and Justin, 3, absolutely adore their new little sister.

**JACQUELINE BROSELLE (B.A.)** is enjoying the Northwest with her family: husband Tom and children Benjamin, 6; Jacob, 4; Thomas, 2; and Christine, 1.

**GINA (LABOVITZ) CAPARELL (B.A., M.ED. '91)** has been teaching first grade for 16 years. She has two kids, Andrew, 10, and Michaela, 6.

**JAMES COOPER (B.A.)** is the proud parent of 8-year-old Andrew and 7-year-old Emily. Wife Ann works as a preschool aide at the kids' school, St. Mary's of the Lake, in White Bear Lake, Minn. James has taken a promotion as national commercial projects leader for Owens Corning.

**CURTIS DADIAN (B.B.A., M.S.E.L.)** bought a San Diego company, Filefax, in 2003 and is serving as president. He has three children: Cael, 8; Cela, 4; and Lacey, 1. He is planning another trip to his wife's hometown, Aleppo, Syria, to visit her family and baptize their youngest. They also are building a home in Poway.

**MARIE GIBLIN (B.A.)** married Robert Anderson in Founders Chapel in July 2004. Robert and Marie are both in pharmaceutical sales.

**CLAUDIA (HORNIG) LAINE (B.A.)** and husband Ed have two beautiful sons, Tanner, 9, and Rowan, 6. "We took a trip to San Diego (in summer 2005) to show them where Mommy went to school and visit all the various fun places. They now love San Diego as much as we do! Wow, how the campus has changed since 1989!"

**MICHELLE QUINN (B.B.A.)** says being a real estate litigation attorney has kept her very busy. She also runs a coed pickup touch softball game in Central Park, plays on a league pool team and recently formed a dodgeball team for a charity sports league.

**MARY (STOLLENWERK) MATTHESEN (B.A.)** and her family are back in the United States after being stationed in Italy with the U.S. Navy. Since then, they have welcomed James, 2, and Katherine, 2 months, who've joined big sister Samantha, 5. "Our next big step is retiring from the military and moving on — maybe we'll end up in California!"

**JODI (GRENDHAHL) TALCOTT (B.A.)** is operating a cross-country ski and snowmobile lodge a few hours northeast of Anchorage, Alaska, in a 3,000-foot mountain pass. She is teaching third through fifth grades at a small community school. "If you come to Alaska, stop in at the Majestic Valley Lodge. Great hiking and wildlife viewing in the summer."

**CHRISTINA (VIERRA) MCGILL (B.A.)** has been a teacher for 14 years. She is returning to the University of Utah to earn a master's in educational leadership and policy. She is the mother of three, ages 13, 12 and 10, and is a basketball coach.

## 1990s

**[ 1990 ]**  
**BRIDGET (CONWAY) DAWSON (B.A.)** and husband Hanley have been married 11 years and have two children, 7-year-old Emilie and 5-year-old Duke. Duke has been fighting cancer — neuroblastoma — for

two years. "He continues to battle this terrible disease." The family lives in Glenview, Ill.

**THOMAS EDELBLUTE (B.A.)** is systems coordinator for the Anaheim Public Library. He has presented information to the California Library Association on the use of wireless technologies in libraries and to the International Federation of Libraries and Associations on the library's photo digitization project.

**WILLIAM HAMBY (B.A.)** planned to leave the Kern County District Attorney's Office for an attorney position with Immigration and Customs Enforcement in Houston.


**MARY (MCKEON) MACINNES (B.A.)** and husband Don MacInnes '90 are living in San Jose, Calif., with their three kids: R.J., 12; Sarah, 9; and Brian, 7. Mary keeps busy running a reading program at the kids' school, and Don is in management with Ryder Transportation.

**STUVA MANIATIS (B.B.A.)** lives in Lone Tree, Colo., with wife Claudia and sons Stathi, Jack and Will. Stuva is in-house counsel for Merlin Solutions.

**KRISTIN (ROLL) METHENY (B.B.A.)** has had a busy few years. She married husband Leonard on Sept. 25, 2004. USD grads in attendance were Natasha Krogstad, Michele Crum and Vikki (Uribe) Ehrlich. The couple welcomed son Leonard William "Will" on Nov. 3, 2005. They live in Fairfax, Va., and would welcome hearing from old USD friends.

**DARON WATTS (B.A.)** is an FDA lawyer in Los Angeles. He is married with two beautiful daughters, 2 and 7.

**JAMES WESTLUND (B.A., M.A. '05)** is a teacher and athletic director at Chula Vista High School.

**[ 1991 ]**   
**JEAN (KOMICK) SHIELE (B.A.)** and her husband had their first child, a boy named Cyan Francis, on March 10, 2005.

**RENAE (SHAMOUN) ARABO (B.B.A.)** says that besides raising three beautiful children, she has been growing her Fashion Flooring business in La Mesa, selling hardwood, laminate,

carpet, tile, stone, window treatments and furniture. "USD alumni get special pricing."

**RENEE BUKOVCHIK VAN VECHTEN (B.A.)** received a Ph.D. in political science from the University of California, Irvine, in 2002 and was awarded a research fellowship in California studies. She later took a position with USD's Political Science Department as a teaching fellow and taught courses in American politics. In September 2005 she accepted a tenure-track position at the University of Redlands, where she loves being part of a student-centered learning environment much like USD's. "I could do without the two-hour commute from our home in La Mesa, but fitting in at UR more than compensates for time on the road!" Husband Charlie Van Vechten '90 owns Van Vechten Creative Communications, a San Diego graphic design company. He recently was honored among the "Top 40 Under 40" businesspeople by San Diego Metropolitan magazine. The couple's home in La Mesa gives 18-month-old Zachary and 5-year-old Ava room to run.

**LT. CMDR. PATRICK DRAUDE (B.A.)** and wife Kristin are living in Alexandria, Va. He is working at the Office of Military Affairs at the CIA as the CENTCOM desk officer. Kristin works at the Department of Energy. They previously were at the Naval War College in Newport, R.I., where Patrick earned his second master's in national security studies.

**VANESSA HARRIS (B.A.)** works for an in-house legal department at Encore Capital Group. She has two boys, Patrick, 13, and Dylan, 12.

**TINA MICKELSON (B.A.)** continues to work for the Golf Channel, but has moved into more instructor-type shows. She is one of the on-air instructors and also hosts a variety of other shows on the network.

**SONIA NAVARRETE (B.A.)** moved six years ago to New York and lives in Buffalo. She has been married seven years and has two children, Elian, 5, and Nora, 6 months. Her husband works at Children's Hospital in Buffalo as a radiologist, and Sonia is a stay-at-home mom.



**LT. CMDR. ROBERT POLING (B.A.)** experienced the culture of the United Arab Emirates during a port visit while on deployment aboard the USS Decatur.

**MICHAELLA WRIGHT WITTMANN (B.S., B.A.)** married Daniel Wittmann in October 2003. They live in Portland, Ore., where she is director of sustainable design services for HDR Architecture.

**[1992]**  
**MICHELLE "MIKI" ANDREW (B.A.)** is a kindergarten teacher in Newport, Calif. Husband Todd Andrew '92 is finance director for Prudential Reality in Irvine. They are living in Dana Point with their three boys: Cole, 4; Noah, 2; and Jack, 10 months.

**SUSANA (NAVARRO) BAUM (B.A.)** has twin boys, Shane and Andrew, born Dec. 10, 2004.

**CHRISTINE BRUCE (B.A.)** married Joseph Pasak III, a gunnery sergeant in the Marine Corps, on Jan. 8, 2006. The wedding was in Jamaica with 20 of their closest friends and family. They are moving to Okinawa, Japan, for three years, and Christine will be pursuing a master's degree in psychology.

**KIMBERLEE (MORAVICK) CHENG (B.A., M.A. '94)** is teaching at the University of Phoenix at night, and she and her husband are raising two children, Jade Grace, 4, and Lance Mitchell, 1.

**SUSAN (MARTINEZ) CORLISS (B.A.)** left sunny California to live in a log home on 11 acres in Arkansas. Her daughter, Jennifer, followed with her family, including Susan's 2-year-old grandson, Ethan. "Nice Harley country!"

**KATHLEEN (RAUSCH) DOUGLAS (B.A.)** and husband Danny were planning to celebrate their ninth wedding anniversary. "After many years as a pharmaceutical sales rep, I am enjoying being a stay-at-home mom to our two kids, Jake, 5, and Hanna, 4."

**KRISTIN (CHISMARK) ELFTMANN (B.A.)** had her third child, Elizabeth "Lizzie" Ann, on Feb. 9, 2006. The baby was welcomed home by big sister Hanley, 4, and big brother Freddie, 18 months. The Elftmann family lives in Wheaton, Ill.

**HEIDI (GORSLINE) HENSON (B.A.)** and her husband recently purchased The Little Gym of Poway, which provides non-competitive motor skills development programs to children ages 4 months to 12 years. Heidi wanted to pursue a career change with a focus centered on child development.

**MARNI (BRAY) LOMBARDO (B.B.A.)** and husband Angelo Lombardo '89 are the proud parents of daughter Cambrea Paige, born June 17, 2005. Marni recently accepted a loan team manager position in California National Bank's community banking division. Angelo is a national account executive at Coca-Cola, handling business with the western regional airlines. They live in San Juan Capistrano, Calif.

**JERRY MORRIS (B.A.)** and wife Lisa welcomed daughter Adrie Laine on July 14, 2005. She has two older brothers, Griffin, 5, and Camden, 4, and shares the same birthday as Griffin.

**STEVE NALICK (B.B.A.)** and his wife had a baby girl, Shay Alexandria, on Feb. 24, 2006. They live in Carlsbad.

**JOSEPH O'ROURKE (B.B.A.)** and his family welcomed the birth of second child Mackenzie Ann on March 11, 2005. She joins sister Madison Jean. Wife Ashley is a stay-at-home mom, and Joe travels a lot and recently added the Philips and RCA brands to his company's national distribution lineup.

**DAVID PAQUIN (B.A.)** opened the Oceanview Law Group, a firm that specializes in criminal defense. "I still surf every day, and the company tag line is, 'Call the Oceanview Law Group because sometimes the surf is too good to sit in jail!'"

**JACQUELINE (KAHN) PARIS (B.A.)** married Joel Paris on June 18, 2005 at St. Andrew's Church in Pasadena, Calif., followed by a honeymoon in Tahiti and the Cook Islands. The newlyweds live in Bel Air, Calif.

**BARBARA RODER BYRON (B.A./B.S.)** lives in Reston, Va., with her husband, Chris, and their four children. She is a stay-at-home mom and works part time on the computer there.

**PEDRO ROMERO (B.A.)** and Melania Magoni '95 had their second child in April 2005. "Isabella (Maria)

Romero Magoni is a beautiful little girl and is growing quite fast. Parents, first daughter Natalia and Isabella are all very happy."

**SANDI (CIAMPA) RUSCONI (B.B.A.)** and her husband welcomed the arrival of their son, Matthew, in November 2005. The family was looking forward to celebrating his baptism at Founders Chapel during their 2006 summer vacation in San Diego.

**MARY (HANDBERG) SORENSEN (B.A.)**, husband Tim and daughter Emily moved back to Southern California after five wonderful years in Reno, Nev., due to Tim's job. "It is great to return to family and friends." Mary plans to stay home one more year with Emily.

**DOUGLAS WEDGE (B.A.)** is a police sergeant and bomb technician who also works in the bomb squad. He actively participates in anti-terrorist operations and techniques.

**CHAD BOYD (B.B.A.)** has been named a principal at KPMG. He is based at the firm's Los Angeles office, where he provides tax advisory services to local clients.

**[1993]**  
**MONICA ROSE BRUNNER (B.A.)** and her husband recently bought and remodeled a building for his architecture business and office lease space. They have two girls, Cezanne Rose, 8, and Carly Rose, 3. "We are very active in their lives and their school." Monica has been involved with children and youth ministry since graduating from USD. "I have always felt very called to the ministry."

**ANGELA DESANTO (B.A.)** is married and raising four beautiful children. The oldest, Dominic, is 14 and attending La Jolla High School, Angela's alma mater. Darius, 13, and Francesca, 7, both attend Stella Maris Academy, another school Angela attended. The youngest at age 4 is a preschooler at La Jolla Presbyterian Church.

**JENNIFER DUCATO (B.A.)** finished the Ironman Coeur d'Alene on June 26, 2005, along with fellow alum and friend Nancy Urner.

**NELLIE (CORRENTI) HARRIS (B.A.)** married Dwight Ritter, a local San Diego attorney, on Nov. 6, 2006,

at Our Lady of Peace Academy. "We bought a home in Coronado and are settling into life with a kindergartner and a preschooler." Her first husband, Bret Harris, died suddenly four years ago.

**MATTHEW HORECZKO (B.A.)** has two children, Grace, who will be 3 in October, and new baby Clara. Matthew opened a second office in Long Beach in July 2005. His practice is limited to criminal defense.

**JAY JANAVICE (B.B.A.)** is an Army engineer serving a one-year tour in Iraq. He says 1994 graduate Ryan Millay also is serving at his location with the U.S. Air Force security forces. Jay was hoping to be back in the United States by October.

**JERRY MORRIS (B.A., B.B.A.)** and wife Lisa have introduced their third child into this world. Her name is Adrie Laine.

**SUSAN (COLLINS) MOSBY (B.A.)** got married in 2004 to Peter Mosby at St. Anne's Church in Seal Beach, Calif. They had son Charles Michael in 2005 and moved into a home that they designed and built on 2 acres in Aurora, Colo. She continues to work as a Spanish teacher at Cherry Creek High School in Denver. They were planning to live in Oaxaca, Mexico, for the summer of 2006.

**STEVEN PATTON (B.A.)** recently relocated to Miami Beach, where he is president of an online company. "Come visit!"

**SARAH (KELLOGG) PLOCHER (B.A.)** and husband Barry had their second child, Caroline, on Aug. 25, 2005. Older brother Tyler is 3. They are living in Portland, Ore., where Sarah is a stay-at-home mom and Barry works for Nike. "I would love to hear from other alumni in the area!"

**GEORGE SANCHEZ (B.A.)** just finished a trip to Florida to expand business to the state. "We also celebrated the births of nieces Madysyn and Ashtyn."

**REBECCA (EDWARDS) STEHLY (B.A.)** taught math and Spanish at Monte Vista High School for seven years. She has since had four children and stays home to care for them.





[topiary]

# GREEN ELEPHANTS AND LEAFY PYRAMIDS

**San Diego couple transforms their hillside yard into a lush wonderland of whimsical greenery**

by Kelly Knufken

**A**s an adult, it's hard to recapture the feelings of pure enjoyment you experienced as a child. So when you drive past a lush green menagerie of whimsical elephants, birds and even Shamu in a San Diego neighborhood, you may be caught off guard by the sheer joy it evokes.

The keepers of all this garden whimsy are Alex Harper and his wife, Edna. Although the topiary zoo does require upkeep, their life isn't all green elephants and leafy pyramids. Edna — the force behind the garden — has a number of artistic hobbies. And over the

years, Harper has put his 1963 J.D. degree from USD to good use as a securities trial attorney.

"When I was 9 years old, I wanted to be a lawyer," he says with pride. "I'm semi-retired. I think I'll retire when they cremate me. And then maybe I'll still work." He misses trial work,

peppering conversation with quips like, "I'd rather be in front of a jury than make a mistake (in the topiary garden); that puts me in the doghouse."

While Harper does help out in the garden, he spends much of his free time on his motorcycle, often riding with friends. He loves to ride up Mount Palomar — one of his favorite jaunts — or to Los Angeles or Palm Springs.

"Trial work and motorcycle riding give me the same euphoric feeling," he says.

Harper's connection with the schools that became USD began with a visit to the campus. "Outside was a very imposing person with all these beautiful colors, and I knew right away it was his excellency, Bishop Buddy. He



introduced himself, and he said, 'This is my dream and it's going to grow.' And he said, 'Come here, young man.' And I did. And I grew up with the university."

#### Alex Harper and wife

**Edna love showing off their topiary garden. See the little guy in the front wearing a hat? That's a "self-portrait" of Pedro, the full-time gardener who helps bring all this whimsy to life.**

He became a trial lawyer and eventually worked in equity receivership — as Harper describes it, the white-collar crime cases the Securities and Exchange Commission pursues to "disgorge ill-gotten gains." He argued a case for the S.E.C. before the 9th Circuit Court of Appeals, and Harper's work as a litigator took him to Geneva and Zurich for his private clients.

"It was fun," he says of his high-powered career days. It was while the Harpers were in Switzerland that Edna decided to bring a little piece of each of their travels home in the form of inspiration for the topiary. She works with a full-time gardener to make sure her ideas come to fruition.

Meanwhile, Harper is always looking to his next ride. He's proud of his current bike, a turquoise and black Honda "with a big engine." Here's why he loves riding so much: "You know when you see a dog sticking its head out of an automobile window? The look on his face — that's how I feel!"

Want to capture a slice of that feeling? Drive by Alex and Edna Harper's house at Union and Vine streets in San Diego, look up, and don't be surprised to find yourself wearing an ear-to-ear grin. 🐕

**GARRETT TRIPP (B.B.A.)** and wife Robyn (Waverly) Tripp '93 welcomed second daughter Eden Elise in 2005. She joins big sister Ellery. Garrett is a portfolio manager at Brad-dock Financial Corp. in Denver. One of the funds he co-manages was recently rated the top fixed-income hedge fund by Bloomberg Magazine.

**NANCY URNER (B.A.)** completed her first Ironman competition in Couer d'Alene, Idaho, on June 26, 2005.

**WILLIAM WASHAM (B.A.)** took a position in December 2005 with Peterbuilt Corp. as director of business development. He has a son, James Tylor, 4, and a daughter, Alyssa Theresa, 2.

**SARA (SAFKA) WHITNEY (B.A.)** and her husband are living in Wash-ington state. They had their first child, son Kyler, on April 26, 2006.

#### [1994]

**AMBER (CAMPBELL) ALLMAN (M.A.)** and husband John welcomed Kate Alexandra on Nov. 2, 2005. She joins big brother Kellen Campbell, 2. Amber left the American Red Cross national headquarters for a position as director of technology policy with a public relations firm in Washington, D.C.

**MARIA MIDDAGH ASSARAF (B.A.)** married John Assaraf on Sept. 3, 2005, in their back yard surrounded by family and friends. She has two incredible step sons, Keenan and Noah. She recently joined the Gultinan Group, a real estate firm in San Diego. She is involved in several charities.

**NATASHA (BAKER) BRUNSTETTER (B.B.A.)** had her fourth baby in April. She enjoys homeschooling her 7-year-old daughter and caring for her three boys. "Life is full and busy."

**ERICA (GARRETT) DE LORME (B.A.)** and her husband are fortunate to be blessed with their third child, Garrett Ross, born Sept. 18, 2005. He joins brother Hudson Stuart and sister Kyle Elizabeth.

**MICHAEL FREEHILL, M.D. (B.A.)** spent eight years in professional baseball with the Angels and Rangers organizations. He then went to medical school at Tulane. He married Karein Donahue in 2003. They had beautiful Elizabeth Grace on July 21, 2005. Michael is in residency at Johns Hopkins in orthopedic surgery.

**BRADLEY GERTTULA (B.B.A.)** recently upgraded to captain for Sky-west. He and wife Michelle, married Sept. 17, 2005, are now both cap-tains. They bought a new home in Fresno, Calif., in November 2005.

**PETER HALMOS (B.A.)** moved back to Portland, Ore., in April 2005. He had his first child, Aidan Thomas, on Jan. 28, 2006.

**KAT (WOOD) KIRCHHOFF (B.A.)** and husband Tommy live outside Park City, Utah, on a 130-acre ranch. They have two boys, Fischer, 4, and Tyler, 1. They became distributors for a high-end custom door company. "We're helping create beautiful homes, condos and hotels in the Park City Area. Kat says she has been missing so many of her old friends from USD. "If you ever come out for a ski vaca-tion, look me up!"

**JOHN LAMBERT (B.B.A.)** relocat-ed to northern Virginia in mid-2004 when wife Maynil (Ramos) Lambert '94 accepted a position with MCI (now Verizon) as senior director. Maynil travels frequently throughout the United States and the United Kingdom for work, and they travel for fun as often as they can. John operates a home-based investment company and is thankful for his lack of a commute. "Our 'kids' for now continue to be our two full-of-personality Labradors. We're loving the East Coast lifestyle so far, except we wish it snowed more during the winter here!"

**MARIA MARTINEZ (B.A., M.ED. '97)** is teaching kindergarten at Hedenkamp Elementary in Chula Vista. She is in her 12th year of teaching. Husband Michael Nelson '84 is a captain in the San Diego Fire Department. They have three boys, ages 7, 5 and 1.

**MICHELLE (FERRIS) MCGILL (B.A.)** and her husband live in Mission Viejo, Calif. She has been home with her kids for the past four years. Son Max is 4, and Marc is 3.

**CHARLIE SETZLER (B.B.A.)** was promoted to vice president of sales for O'Neill Clothing. He has been married for five years and has a 2 1/2-year-old daughter, Skyla. "Go Torero baseball!"

**STEPHANIE (CURRAN) SUMMERVILLE (B.A.)** moved to England two years ago and absolutely loves living in the United Kingdom. She has three children: Ryan, 4; Lauren, who will be 3 in November 2006; and Lila Jolie, born Feb. 24, 2006.

**MARK SHIPLEY (B.B.A.)** made the switch to real estate after 13 years in telecommunications and moved to Phoenix with his wife in 2003 after living in the San Francisco Bay area for six years. He has a thriving business servicing investors in residential, multi-family and light commercial investments.

**LAURA SWEETMAN (B.A.)** had a baby boy, Jackson Roy, on March 14, 2006.

#### [1995]

**SARA ADAMS (B.A.)** and husband Mike announced the birth of their daughter, Kendall Anne, on July 15, 2005. She joins big brother Jack, 3. The family lives in Irvine, Calif. Sara teaches second grade in Huntington Beach. Mike is a senior network systems administrator for an insurance company in Tustin.

**GINA (PETELIN) AXELSON (B.A.)** married Vince Axelson at The Prado in Balboa Park in August 2004. She still teaches Pilates regularly and was planning to open her second studio at The Forum Shops in Carls-bad. The couple honeymooned in Bali and hope to start a family soon.

**KATHY DAFTARI (B.A.)** received an MBA in global management. She has a jewelry business at www.daftaridesigns.com and is a notary public.

**ANGELE (FARRELL) JESTER (B.A.)** and husband Chris Jester '94 are living in Costa Mesa, Calif., to be closer to their business, Sail Time. Since they started the business, they have grown their fleet to four frac-tional use boats. Their son, Rio, is 2.

**JACQUELINE GARNER (B.B.A.)** started another business, Notary Near You, a nationwide loan document signing service located in Carlsbad.

**BRENDA GODFREY GEIGER (B.A., J.D. '04)** started her own law firm in 2005, specializing in trademark law, trusts and estates, and

business transactional. Her main office is in Vista, but she also meets clients at an office in the University Towne Centre area. Last year she and her husband had their first child, a boy named Len, and moved to a new home in Shadowridge. "It was a busy but fun year for us. Now we look forward to raising a family and growing our businesses."

**ERIC IANACONE (B.A.)** received his Ph.D. in molecular and cellular biology from the University of Massachusetts and is teaching at Springfield Technical Community College.

**CHRISTINA (THEISS) KNIGHT (B.A.)** and husband Michael welcomed son Mason Michael to the family on Sept. 20, 2005. He joins older sister Hanna Kelly, 2. They are enjoying their busy lives in Escondido.

**ROBERT MCGARRY (B.A.)** and wife Erin are happy living in Hermosa Beach, Calif. Real estate is keeping Robert busy, while Erin builds her pediatric practice. They had their first child, daughter Kylie Rose, on Dec. 4, 2005.

**KELLY MCPHEE (B.A.)** is the coordinator of student services at GateWay Community College in Phoenix. She enjoys advising a diverse population of students in their academic and career choices. In her free time, she loves spending time with her 5-year-old niece, Angela.

**GINA (VERGILIO) MOCK (B.A.)** taught first grade for four years and now is a stay-at-home mom of three children: Joshua, 6; Rebecca, 4; and Nicole, 2.

**STELLA (MELLOS) STEHLY (B.A.)** is an associate attorney at the law office of Jim Mellos, a USD alumnus. Husband Noel is working with his brother Jerome Stehly, also an alumnus. Stella and Noel welcomed daughter Eleni Katerina on Nov. 14, 2005.

**PATRICIA (MORAN) WARD (B.A.)** and husband Aaron Ward '95 live in Rocklin, Calif., north of Sacramento. He enjoys his career as acting superintendent of the historic sites sector downtown, and she stays home with their two children,

Rozlynn, 4, and Kaden, 2. She hopes to return to teaching once her children are in school full-time.

**CARRIE (BODINE) YBARRA (B.A.)** is enjoying a successful and fulfilling career as a real estate agent with Coldwell Banker. She also is raising two daughters, Jessica, 12, and Taylor, 5. "I work diligently for the best interests of my clients while also striving to be No. 1 mom for my kids!"

[1996] 

**AMY (GEDDES) HOFMANN (B.A.)** lives in Costa Mesa, Calif. Brody Hoffman '96 is attending the University of Southern California business school while continuing his work at Acquire X. Their son, Ben, is 4, and they had another baby, Allison "Allie" Grace, on June 13, 2005. Amy is assistant director at KinderCare in Aliso Viejo; she takes her kids with her to work.

**BRIAN HOLMES (B.B.A.)** and Tiffany (Giardelli) Holmes '96 welcomed a third daughter, Karly Marie, on June 5, 2005. She joins big sisters Mia, 5, and Lauren, 3. They are living in Temecula, Calif. Brian works for Aerotek, and Tiffany teaches kindergarten part time.

**RODRIGO MADRIGAL (B.A.)** became a real estate agent and loan officer in 2005.

**KRISTIAN PANGILINAN (B.A.)** is a senior sales representative for Abbott Laboratories. He had his fourth child on Jan. 9, 2006, and is attending Hawaii Pacific University to get his M.B.A.

**HARISH PRABA (B.A.)** and wife Rashmi are the parents of 2-year-old Naveen. Harish recently changed careers and is now a teacher at the St. John's School in Chula Vista. He teaches fifth grade and enjoys it very much. Fellow USD alumni Rene Munoz and Phong Vu also teach there.

**ROB ZAKIR (B.A.)** started his own business, Omni Mortgage and Real Estate Network, in 2005.

[1997]

**LARRY BALDWIN (M.B.A.)** and wife Melissa adopted daughter Madeleine Yan from the province of Guangxi, China. "Maddie," 2, joins

brothers Landen, 11, and Isaac, 8, and sister Emma, 7.

**JENNIFER BOWHEY (B.A.)** married husband Steve on June 22, 2005. They are selling their home and moving within the same area. She has been working on USD alumni events for the Seattle region.

**KATHRYN BRITT (B.A.)** moved to Minneapolis after four years teaching bilingual education in San Diego and receiving a master's in educational administration at Chapman University. Now she teaches second grade in St. Paul.

**JIM BUNKER (B.A.)** finished his master's in speech communication at San Jose State University with honors in May 2005. He is pursuing a doctoral degree in communication and teaching at the University of Utah.

**JULIE CALCAGNO ELLETT (B.A.)** is hard at work with 6-month-old twin girls.

**LILIAN (MAMOU) COBIAN (B.B.A.)** and Dan Cobian '97 announced the birth of their first child, Danica Paige, born on July 17, 2005. The family has been living in Yokosuka, Japan. Dan just completed his 13th year of service in the Navy. Lilian has taken time off from being a CPA while she stays home with their daughter. They were planning to move to Washington, D.C., in the summer of 2006.

**LAURIE EASTWOOD RAHER (B.S.N., M.S.N. '98)** had her second son, Jacob Michael, on July 5, 2005.

**REGAN (MOSEN) HJALMARSON (B.A.)** has been married since April 2000 to husband Eric. She has been teaching fourth grade in the Solana Beach School District since 1999. They have two children, Kiernan Grace, born in February 2004, and son Aidan James, born Sept. 24, 2005.

**ASHRAF KASTO (B.A.)** is in his final year of residency in emergency medicine.

**EDWARD LARIOS (B.B.A.)** expected to receive his M.B.A. from California State University Fullerton in May 2006.

**TOM MACK (B.A., B.S.)** and his wife are stationed in Monterey, Calif., with their two sons, Joey, 5, and Billy, 2. Tom was recently promoted to lieutenant commander.

**VIRGINIA MOORE-ARBING (B.A.)** has two kids, Charles Francis, 4, and Lindsay Eileen, 1.

**MELISSA (LEVEY) WATTERS (B.B.A.)** and husband Matthew had their first child, Samantha Rose, on Aug. 29, 2005. Melissa has also been busy with her new business, a doggy boutique and grooming spa.

[1998]

**MAJES BLACK (B.A.)** and wife Shelly had their first child, Rece Michael, on Oct. 8, 2005.

**HAVEN BLEVINS BUCHMILLER (B.A.)** married James Buchmiller on Oct. 9, 2005. Haven runs an architectural practice in San Diego with her father and sister.

**BRYNN EDMONDS BURNS (M.ED.)** and husband Donald had their second child, Samuel Allen, on Dec. 14, 2005. They also have a 3-year-old daughter, Shannon. They enjoy living in the Kansas City suburb of Leawood, Kansas.

**ALISHA (RELIHAN) FAHRENDORF (B.A.)** had their third child, Isabella Anne, on Feb. 26, 2004. "Ella" joins brothers Christopher, 6, and Andrew, 4. The happy family lives in Phoenix, where Chris is a real estate attorney and Alisha is a full-time mom.

**KATIE (SELFRIDGE) GONZALEZ (B.A.)** married Aaron Gonzalez '97 on July 12, 2003. They had their first child, James Manuel, on Nov. 12, 2005. They live in San Diego.

**EVAN HLAVACEK (B.A.)** and Jennifer Jacobson '99 welcomed their first child, Ava Linn, during the middle of a very hot Phoenix summer in June 2005. Ava is doing very well.

**LORI JIANNUZZI (B.B.A.)** has been busy with her career in real estate and her career as a mom of a 2-year-old. She also has been exercising her entrepreneurial spirit by trying to start her own business.



**CHARITY (HEFFERNAN) KARAKAS (B.A.)** had a daughter, Jasmine Sienna, on May 19, 2005.

**TITO MARQUEZ (B.A.)** recently became manager of 10th & M Seafoods, one of the biggest seafood stores in Anchorage, Alaska.

**JENNIFER (ROUDEBUSH) MAUTINO (B.A.)** and husband Kevin had their second baby, Mason Richard, on Jan 10, 2006.

**VALERIE MILLARD (B.A.)** is a pilot for United Express, flying the Dash-8 out of Denver.

**COLLEEN (NORMAN) MARCHI (B.A.)** received her master's in forensic psychology from the John Jay College of Criminal Justice in New York City in 2001. She married Robert in 2002 and had baby William in January 2005. They live in Grass Valley, Calif.

**LEIGHTON O'BRIEN (B.A.)** and wife LaManda Mounts '98 have a daughter, Bella, 3. Leighton is a professional soccer player and real estate developer. They live in Seattle.

**ELIZABETH (PADILLA) OJEDA (B.B.A.)** is proud to be able to stay home and raise 2-year-old daughter Isabella Celeste. "Although I'm looking forward to integrating back into the workforce, for now I'm soaking up all the little details about Isabella's learning process. Oscar and I are extremely blessed with a happy life and health."

**PRESTON PANZA (B.B.A.)** married Pamela Montag on May 14, 2005, in Lake Forest, Calif.

**HEATHER (PARKER) PIOMBO (B.A.)** and her husband welcomed their first child, Parker Daniel, on Feb. 14, 2006.

**BRUCE PLEAT (M.B.A.)** and Arianna (Dagostino) Pleat '99 are proud to announce the birth of son Elkan Simone on March 31, 2006. "He joins our happy home in West Orange, N.J." Bruce works in sales engineering for a technical group in Dow Jones, and Arianna works in finance for Medco.

**GIANNA RAVENSCROFT (B.A.)** lives in Washington, D.C., with her two dogs. She is a banking attorney at Wilmer Hale and has been practicing law for about three years. In her spare

time, she travels — "usually back to California!" — and also is learning to play golf. She encourages any classmates or friends to contact her.

**TOMOKO YAMASHITA (B.A.)** had a baby girl named Lisa in 2003 who is now taking swimming lessons and attending preschool. The family, including their small dog Yocchan, lives in Tokyo. "The weather in Tokyo is very cold; we need a down jacket."

**[1999]**  
**MARY BASILE (B.A.)** has been living in Los Angeles and working in the film business for the last six years. She is working for a director and is involved in film and television development and production.

**JUDIE (FRANKLIN) CLARKE (B.A.)** and husband Chris were married in Sayulita, Mexico, in November 2005. They lived there for over a month and are settling back into life in Seattle.

**SANDRA (VASQUEZ) GUTIERREZ (B.A.)** and Frankie Gutierrez '99 were married in 2004 at Founders Chapel by John Keller, USD's former director of University Ministry. The couple welcomed their first child, Maya Xochitl, in April 2005. Frankie works for San Diego State University's human resources and Sandee works for USD as executive assistant for University Ministry.

**COURTNEY (COLEMAN) HERMANDEZ (B.A.)** is still teaching third grade in her hometown of Morgan Hill, Calif. She had her second son in September. Caleb is 2 and Paulo is 1. She enjoys working part time and being a mom.

**HOLLY (BAKER) JENSEN (B.A.)** and husband Chris are living in Torrance, Calif., and both enjoy the convenience of working from home. Holly is busy working on new drug-store locations for Rite Aid as director of real estate, and Chris just launched a real estate appraisal and loan company. They recently took a break to explore Machu Picchu, Peru, and were looking forward to a European vacation in 2006.

**ALI (ISRAEL) LEGGE (B.A.)** launched her business, Jadora, in 2002 to design, manufacture, market and import furniture and silk housewares from Vietnam. She married

husband Andrew in March 2005, and they moved to Vietnam to promote her business.

**CERISSA MCPARTLIN (B.A.)** is keeping busy with her catering company, Pomegranate Event Planning and Catering. She specializes in weddings and corporate events.

**STEFAN PETERSON (B.A.)** was planning to move to Kenya in May 2006 to serve two years in the Peace Corps with his wife Karen. In recent years, he was art director for Habitat for Humanity's international headquarters in Georgia. His work there included helping in the Gulf Coast rebuilding efforts. He also has a small graphic design firm, Words by Design, which serves nonprofits, and Stefan has served in the U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary. "I'm particularly thankful to USD for the opportunities it's given me. I learned a lot about design, management and service while attending, and those have kept me in good stead ever since."

**MELISSA (TACATA) ROMO (B.A.)** had her first child, a girl named Araceli, on Sept. 17, 2005.

**ALISON TAYLOR (B.A.)** gave birth to Dallas Payton on June 3, 2005.

## 2000s

**[2000]**  
**ALISHA ARMSTRONG (BA, J.D. '01)** married John English '01 on Dec. 10, 2005 in Founders Chapel. The couple lives in Las Vegas. John is a managing member of Citrus Holdings LLC, a real estate acquisition and development firm. Alisha plans to study for the Nevada State Bar exam and plans to practice real estate in Las Vegas.

**CHRIS BRUSCA (B.A., M.S.G.L. '05)**, an assistant professor of naval science at USD and San Diego State University, recently received the Colonel Leo A. Codd Memorial Award, which recognized him as the Most Outstanding U.S. Naval ROTC Instructor in the country. The award is presented by the National Defense Industrial Association.

**KRISTIN (MCMAHON) COVARUBIAS (B.A.)** and her husband, Eddie, are proud to announce the

birth of their second child, Gabrielle René, on Feb. 18, 2006. Big sister Victoria is very excited about the arrival of her little sister.

**ERIN (ROSS) COULTER (B.B.A.)** received her M.B.A. from Hawaii Pacific University in 2002. She lives in Long Beach, Calif., with her husband, Bill, whom she married in August 2005. She works with her father and sister in her family's business, Ross Organic Specialty Sales Inc.

**CHRISTOPHER DEMOS (B.A.)** earned his master's degree in international economics from George Washington University in Fall 2005.

**CAROLYN (GREENWALT) DISIMONE (B.B.A.)** earned a J.D. in 2003 and an LL.M. in taxation in 2005 from Golden Gate University. She met Michael DiSimone in law school, and the two married at the Casa Del Mar Hotel in Santa Monica, Calif. The couple lives in San Diego. Michael is an attorney working in land acquisitions, on redevelopment projects and negotiating contracts. Carolyn is working as a tax attorney with a local firm.

**GUILLE ESQUIVEL (B.A.)** graduated in 2005 with a master's degree in cultural studies from Claremont Graduate University. Her thesis focused on the experiences of Dominican players in Major League Baseball. Earlier this year she was named the Cuba team coordinator in the first ever World Baseball Classic (see story on page 45). Based in New York, Guille handled the team's daily duties both on and off the field. Now that she has returned to California, she hopes to continue working in the sports industry.

**DAVID FELL (B.B.A.)** was promoted to chief financial officer of White Tiger Corp. and Blue Dragon Herbal Supply in late 2005. He also is the president/CEO of Legacy Investments International Corp., a real estate brokerage company in San Diego. Previously he was president of Sterling Investment for three years and says he looks forward to achieving the same great success Sterling had. David says he's always interested in reconnecting with USD alumni or current USD students.

**ZACHARY KOUCOS (B.B.A.)** recently joined the San Diego office of Holliday Fenoglio Fowler, billed as the country's largest commercial real

estate capital intermediary. His primary responsibility is to originate financing for commercial real estate transactions throughout the western United States.

**HEATHER (NIELSEN) KWEDER (B.A.)** lives in San Francisco and works as a teacher in Marin, Calif.

**KELLY (THOMPSON) LOVENSON (B.A.)** married Zak Lovenson '00 on Oct. 18, 2003. They have been living in Simi Valley, Calif., for two years. Kelly teaches kindergarten at a local elementary school and expected to receive her master's degree in language and literacy in May from California State University, Northridge. Zak recently started his own finance company, called Clear Mortgage, in Encino, Calif.

**JEN (WRIGHT) MARAVILLAS (B.A.)** and her husband, Aram, welcomed a baby girl, Sydney Lynn, into the world on Aug. 27, 2005 — Jen's birthday.

**CHRISTINE OWENS (B.A.)** moved to the big island of Hawaii on April 1, 2006, where she works as a dolphin trainer for Dolphin Quest. The facility provides interaction programs so people of all ages can both learn about bottlenose dolphins and their environment and also interact with the animals. "Life is good living on an island, being in the sun and playing with dolphins," she writes.

**KAREN (ABELLA) SANTO-PIETRO (M.S.)** married Gary Santo-Pietro on Sept. 17, 2005. Alumna Jami Eller was the maid of honor. Karen is an analyst with Environmental Microbiology Laboratory Inc. Karen and Gary serve as musicians for The Rock Church, in San Diego, as well for other Christian groups including the San Diego Walk to Emmaus community and the Chrysalis community.

**MELISSA (HOGAN-MCBRIDE) SCHILLING (B.B.A.)** says that since graduating in 2000, she has worked in human resources and office administration. She married Richard Schilling in August 2003 and "retired" from her work in January 2005 to raise their son, Soren Harold, who was born that month.

#### [2001]

**GABRIELA BARBOSA (M.A.)** married Martin Roesch on April 29 in San Gimignano, Italy. Gabriela and Martin live in San Diego, where

Martin is a creative director for an apparel company and Gabriela works as a marriage and family therapist.

**CHRISTINE BROWN (M.F.A.)** is an actress who returned from New York to The Old Globe Theatre for her fifth performance there, this time in the West Coast premier of "Trying," which opened in April. Christine was the female lead and played Sarah Schorr. Christine also recently was selected as a member of The Utopian Theatre Asylum company in Chicago.

**STACY (SWEENEY) CLIFTON (B.B.A.)** married Greg Clifton in August at St. Dominic's Church in San Francisco. Many Toreros attended the wedding. The following alumni were in the bridal party: maid of honor Katie (Lazarus) Bettini; and bridesmaids Hilary Andaya Eccles, Lynna Jamison, Carrie Leander and Jodi Wang. The couple honeymooned in Kauai, Hawaii, and lives in Mountain View, Calif.

**KEVIN DAVIS (B.B.A.)** teaches computer classes and is the varsity football offensive coordinator at Ontario High School in Ontario, Calif. He also is working on his master's degree in education at Chapman University.

**COLLEEN DECOOK (B.A.)** has been an elementary school teacher for the last three years, currently as a third-grade teacher in Greenfield, Mass. In the 2006-07 school year she expects to teach at Bement School in Deerfield, Mass. Colleen continues to travel as much as possible and involves herself in volunteer work abroad.

**FRANCIS DIZON (B.A.)** received a master's and credential in educational psychology from Loyola Marymount University in May 2005 and has been hired as a school psychologist for the Saddleback Valley Unified School District.

**KELLY EGGEN (B.A.)** is working at Raytheon in San Diego. She's also attending school again, pursuing a master's degree in business administration at the University of Redlands. She expected to complete her degree in September. She also is working as a program cost schedule control analyst and says she enjoys her career.

**JOSEPH GRECO (B.A.)** married Stephanie King '01 on Sept. 24, 2005.

**RAPHAEL HARKHAM (B.A.)** expected to graduate in May from the law school at Pepperdine University. Upon graduation, he planned to take the California Bar exam and go to Israel to pursue a career in diplomacy.

**DANIEL KLEIN (B.A.)** graduated from law school at California Western in May 2005. He took the California Bar exam in July 2005 and passed the first time. He since was hired by a firm, Horton, Oberrecht & Kirkpatrick in downtown San Diego, and specializes in civil defense litigation.

**KATHRYN (DYER) MCCAHL (B.A.)** graduated from California Western School of Law and was planning to take the California State Bar exam.

**MEGAN MCKERNAN (B.A.)** works as a research and information specialist at the Specialty Equipment Market Association. She follows trends in the automotive aftermarket and is responsible for gathering information related to hot-rodding and racing, which she uses to write magazine articles and research reports. In her free time, she herself drag races and says she loves it.

**MATT MOYE (B.A.)** married Adrian Arroyo on Oct. 29, 2005, in Bodega Bay, Calif. Alumnus Paulo Elias was a groomsman. Matt and Adrian graduated from the McGeorge School of Law at the University of the Pacific in 2004 and are working as attorneys in Northern California. They currently are living in Calistoga, Calif. and building a home.

**ANNE PETERSEN (B.A.)** has been working as a producer at KESQ-TV in Palm Desert, Calif., since 2003. She currently produces the 5 p.m. evening news. Her boyfriend of nearly a year is a reporter at the station, "making the cross between my professional and personal life a unique experience," she says. Anne says although working in television is full of challenges, it's been a good experience nonetheless. In addition to work, she enjoys cooking, reading and hiking the local trails.

**JADE QUENTIN (B.A.)** graduated from San Diego State University in May 2005 with a master's degree in social work. She participated in a Title IX program so that, in exchange for a stipend, she will work for Child Wel-

fare Services for two years, a job she started in June 2005.

**LAURIE RYAN (B.A.)** is a full-time professional horse trainer. On the side she also teaches children with autism how to ride.

**GLORIA (LUFF) SCHOFIELD (B.B.A.)** recently bought her first house in the San Fernando Valley in Los Angeles. Before moving to Los Angeles, she went on a trip around the world for nine months with her husband. She currently works in media research for television program development.

**TONI (BASCO) WAY (B.A.)** married Robert Way '97 in June 2002 in Modesto, Calif. The couple welcomed their first baby, Isabella Marie, on May 13, 2003. Toni completed her paralegal degree, specializing in business and environmental law, in August 2001. Robert, a graduate of Thomas Jefferson School of Law, is a district attorney in Yuma, Ariz. The couple happily celebrated their third wedding anniversary with the birth of their second child, Felicity Rose, on June 29, 2005. Toni and Robert enjoy making the short trip to San Diego frequently and strolling the USD campus with their children.

**BRETT WEICHBROD (B.B.A.)** finished his M.B.A. at Pepperdine University and now works at PIMCO.

**JOSEPH WOLF (B.A.)** is gathering material for the book he's been mulling over in his head. He spent a year traveling in South America and nine months teaching English in Spain and says he's got the Spanish language down pretty well. He recently signed up to teach in Istanbul for a second year. He says the city is fascinating and the people have been wonderful. He's also done some traveling around Turkey.

#### [2002]

**NICOLE ANGLE (B.B.A.)** and Scott Bergen '00 were married on Aug. 13, 2005, in Founders Chapel. The wedding was like a reunion. In the wedding party were the following alumni: Bill Bostad, Allen "Murph" Jones, Andy Marchi, Mike Milligan, Kali Kirk, Kelly Beal and Julie Herrin. The readers were alumni Josh Brown and Mary (Bergen) Donlevy, and the music was performed by alumni Jason Apolinario and Andy Marchi.





[pinch hitter]

## NEW BALLGAME

Cuba's team coordinator in the inaugural World Baseball Classic covered all the bases

by *Julene Snyder*

**G**uille Esquivel '00 was practically born with a ball and glove in her hand: "I have loved baseball my whole life," she says. "I was my father's second son."

She's certainly made her passion for organized athletics a big part of her academic career: As an undergraduate, she worked as the sports anchor for the Toreros and fed football scores

to the Sports Ticker. Esquivel's fascination with sports continued when she studied for her master's in cultural studies — with a baseball emphasis, natch — which she earned from Claremont University in 2005.

So when the first World Baseball Classic folks offered her the opportunity to be a team coordinator, she jumped at it. "Of course, I requested Mexico, the

Dominican Republic requested me, and I was hired for Cuba," she says with a laugh.

It was a high-profile gig: U.S. Treasury Secretary John Snow broke the news in 2005 that Cuba would not be allowed to compete in the inaugural event, a decision that was subsequently reversed in 2006.

Esquivel built a strong relationship with members of the team and their doctor, Tony Castro, son of Fidel. "Although I had many friends on other teams, I was genuinely rooting for 'my' team to win it all." She recalls that others continuously counted the Cubans out, but they never lost sight of their goal: reaching the finals.

"They told me they were taking

me to San Diego (the site of the semi-finals and finals) from the get-go. I sometimes feared their magical run would be eclipsed, but they kept their promise; that was where they eliminated a powerful Dominican team in the semis and lost to Japan in the finals."

Esquivel, who's now back in Los Angeles working with a sports marketing agency, plans to start her own business that will provide services to Latino players by early 2007. She looks back on her World Classic experiences with nostalgia.

"The only part I would want to change is the ending," she says. "The part where they lost to Japan 10-6. But they still did way better than people expected them to." ♣

The couple lives in Pasadena, Calif. Nicole is a research manager for Comcast Cable and Scott is an English teacher, track coach, swim coach and activities director for his alma mater, St. Francis High School.

**SAMANTHA "SAM" CANNON (B.A.)** married Scott Burton '99 on Sept. 24, 2005, in Dana Point, Calif. In the bridal party were the following alumni: Katie (Olimpia) Stewart, Erica (Klein) Huebner, Susan Curtis, Kristen Buck and Dave "Cha-Cha" Denes. Scott and Sam now live near Portland, Ore., where Scott is a reporter for the local NBC affiliate and Sam is a public relations executive.

**JASON COITO (B.A.)** has been teaching freshman religion and is the campus minister at Villanova Preparatory School in Ojai, Calif. Before that, he spent a year with the Augustinian Volunteers in Lawrence, Mass.

**ALEXANDRA CUMMINGS (B.A.)** is fulfilling her dream of working in the music business in San Diego as the office manager and production coordinator at Singing Serpent Inc. She hopes to get involved in more marketing and public relations for the company, all while planning her wedding to her own personal rock star.

**HEATHER (VOIGT) EDWARDS (B.A.)** is pursuing her M.B.A. at Hawaii Pacific University, Honolulu. She and her husband, Brian Edwards '02, celebrated the birth of their son, Collin, in February 2005. Heather says they are enjoying being stationed in Hawaii, which will last three years.

**ASHLEY (DAY) MINNICH** married Marty Minnich on July 31, 2004, at the Hotel Del Coronado in San Diego. They welcomed their daughter, Makenna, into the world on Aug. 12, 2005. "Needless to say it was a busy year," she writes.

**BRIAN EDWARDS (B.B.A.)** is a pilot with the U.S. Navy, currently stationed at Marine Corps Base Hawaii, Kaneohe Bay. He expected to leave in June 2006 for a six-month deployment to several overseas locations. He reports that he recently bought a house in Hawaii with his wife and is celebrating the birth of their first son, Collin.

**TARA HAMILTON (B.A.)** graduated from the William S. Boyd School of Law at the University of Nevada, Las Vegas, in May 2005. She passed the Nevada State Bar exam on the first try and works as an associate at the Las Vegas firm of Alverson, Taylor, Mortensen & Sanders, specializing in medical malpractice defense cases and representing doctors and hospitals.

**NICOLE LAMPSA (B.B.A.)** expected to receive her M.B.A. from the Anderson School of Management at the University of California, Los Angeles, in June 2006. She planned to work for Citigroup investment banking in New York.

**CHRISTOPHER R. LONG (B.B.A.)**, a U.S. Navy lieutenant junior grade aboard the guided-missile cruiser USS Mobile Bay, was deployed to the Western Pacific for maritime security operations. The crew also conducted undersea warfare training in Hawaii and participated in an exercise with the Japan Maritime Defense Force. During the exercise, Christopher's group and the Japanese navy participated in an officer exchange program to give Japanese sailors a chance to experience life aboard an American ship and vice versa.

**EDUARDO MARTORELL (B.A.)** graduated from law school at the University of Southern California in May 2005, passed the California State Bar exam and now works in Los Angeles as an attorney at Mendes & Mount.

**MARIA STORNILO (B.A.)** received her master's degree in education in 2005.

**DAMON VRACIN (B.A.)** is an actor and owner of a leather accessory business. He says he taught himself leatherworking after college and now has 10 stores selling handmade art.

**J.P. SIMON WRIGHT (B.B.A.)** says although it's been four years since he graduated and he misses school, doing what he loves is a great trade-off. "Real estate has given me a lot of things that I'm thankful for, but USD has given me friendships and connections I wouldn't have had if I hadn't attended the 'little uni on the hill.' Go USD rugby, baby!"

**[2003] BROOKE BRAATEN (B.A.)** and Matthew Murphy '03 married on Oct. 15, 2005, in Brooke's hometown of Gig Harbor, Wash. The couple lives in San Diego.

**CAPERA CLEMENT (B.A.)** recently started working at the United States Mission to the United Nations as a special assistant to Ambassador Sichan Siv, the U.S. representative to the U.N. Economic and Social Council. She says the job is very exciting, especially as a Spanish major and international relations minor. Capera explains that the United States Mission works as the U.S. Embassy to the U.N.

**JULIE CLOUTIER (B.A.)** transferred in October 2005 from Miramonte to The Weinstein Co. in New York, where she is the manager of publicity and corporate communications.

**JOANNA HJORTH (B.B.A.)** married Christopher Denny '99 on Sept. 10, 2005, in Founders Chapel. Their wedding party included many alumni: Pete Bennett, Anna (Grobe) Hjorth, Chris Calacci and Anna Smithson. The couple honeymooned for 10 days on Oahu and the big island of Hawaii.

**PHILIP FITZPATRICK (B.B.A.)** sings in a band called C24C with fellow Torero Andrew Bryden. The band played at USD many times between 1999 and 2005. Last summer, the band embarked on a self-booked tour of the United States, and followed it up with a month-long tour of Japan. Band members are now back in the United States and have spent the last five months working on their second full-length album. Philip and Andrew, who also majored in business, enjoy using their degrees in the music industry. They live in the Los Angeles area and are planning a return trip to Japan next summer.

**MOLLY GATES (B.A.)** is a sixth- and seventh-grade teacher at Thurston Middle School in Laguna Beach, Calif.

**DAVID GIRARDIN (M.A.)**, who graduated with a degree in pastoral care and counseling, recently was selected as captain in the U.S. Navy Chaplain Corps. Shortly after the selection, he was reassigned as director of pastoral care services at the Naval Medical Center in Portsmouth, Va.

**DANIELLE HECKRODT (B.B.A.)** began working with Accredited Home Lenders after graduation and is an account executive working in the Mission Valley area of San Diego. She still has her Chargers season tickets and even bought her first condo near the stadium. In her free time, she travels and still hangs out with many of her sorority sisters.

**MOLLY KING (B.A.)** married Jordan Oates on May 21, 2005, in Denver, Colo. The following alumni were members of the wedding party: Emily Stevenson, Elise Ochendusko, Liz (Rozar) Hunter, Andrew Fox and Tyler Parks. Jordan expected to graduate from the University Of Colorado School of Law in May and planned to start working for a law firm in Denver this fall. Molly is a first-grade teacher in Denver.

**NATALIA LUGLIANI (B.B.A.)** is working on her master's degree in Italian at Middlebury College, part of a study-abroad program in Florence, Italy. She expected to graduate in August.

**ADAM LYNCH (B.A.)** worked with New Zealand Funds in Auckland, New Zealand, for a year. Now he works in Maui as a project engineer for condo development for Goodfellow Bros.

**BRAD MILLER (B.A.)** recently assumed a regional management position with a well-known commercial finance company. He also recently traveled to New Zealand to attend a friend's wedding and do some surfing. Brad is a member of the Commercial Finance Association and the Turnaround Management Association. He also supports the Quality West Wing Foundation, a local charity, and plays drums for a San Diego band called Jesse and the Fools.

**NAFELIE MONSOUR (B.A.)** is working on her master's degree in sociology at San Diego State University and is planning to enter the Ph.D. program. "Thanks, Dr. Liv, you were the best sociology teacher I have ever had. You are an inspiration to me daily."

**TUI MUNDAY (B.A.)** sells commercial real estate in Miami, Fla.

**ABBY ROHR (B.A.)** is a full-time student at the University of Denver's Graduate School of International Studies. She expected to graduate



in 2006, with a master's degree in international affairs. She also works part time at a small financial firm, J.C. Davis Financial, but eventually plans to work in the arena of international affairs and political sciences.

**KATIE (LEBENS) SAGRERO (B.A.)** and husband Miguel Sagrero had a baby boy, Joseph Jeffrey, on Sept. 13, 2005. He was 7 pounds, 14 ounces, and 20 inches long.

**ARDELLE (LIBBY) SEELY (B.A.)** married Jon Seely in August 2005 in Fiji. Jon works for Intel, and Ardelle is in her third year of pharmacy school at the University of California, San Francisco.

**ELLIE (REENDERS) SERVAIS (B.A.)** married her favorite Torero in July 2005.

**AARON TUBBS (B.B.A.)** says for the past year he's been traveling around the world — from South America to Europe to South Africa to Southeast Asia to Indonesia to Australia to New Zealand. "I have no intentions of slowing down," he writes, "Donations accepted!"

**[2004]**  
**MIKE DISTANO (B.B.A.)**, who graduated from the Game Face Sports Executive Academy, accepted a full-time account executive position in March with the Wichita Falls Wildcats of Texas, part of the North American Hockey League. After graduating from USD, Mike was an assistant athletic director at a high school in Reno, Nev.

**LINDSEY JOHNSON (B.A.)** recently finished her first year in the tax industry with firm J.H. Cohn. She and alumnus Rob Renovales purchased their first home in August 2005.

**MARISSA LYFTOGT (B.B.A.)** works part time as a legal assistant, while attending the School of Law at USD.

**AMBER MADSEN (B.A.)** has been teaching kindergarten and first grade. She's also working on a master's degree in teaching, learning and leadership.

**BROOKE MARADA (B.A.)** has been accepted into the physician's assistant program at Stanford's

School of Medicine. She plans to begin classes this fall.

**JOSEPH MCARTHUR (B.A.)** lives in Japan where he works as a teacher for NOVA. He teaches English to people from four to 75 years old.

**LEANDRA SALLES-CUNHA (B.A.)** says that since graduating, her life "has been filled with adventure after adventure." She initially was a substitute teacher in Jacksonville, Fla., and then began traveling around the world as a stress reliever. She spent three months in Europe, one month of that walking across Spain on a religious pilgrimage, "El Camino de Santiago," or the Path of St. James. "I thank God for the opportunity to be able to experience such an amazing spiritual journey," she says. "My soul still thirsting for more, I traveled to Argentina to experience its charismatic culture and people. There I taught English to many appreciative citizens. The adventure continues..." (Leandra's documentation of part of her pilgrimage to Spain earned her the grand prize in *USD Magazine's* photo contest. See her prize-winning photo on the inside front cover).

**CASEY (GONCALVES) SAN-FILIPPO (B.A.)** married in April 2005. She and her husband welcomed their first son, Luca Salvatore, on March 22, 2006. Casey had been working as an office assistant to a well-known neurologist in San Diego, but now plans to concentrate on raising her son. She also has been thinking about returning to school to get a teaching credential, if time permits.

**KEITH SCOTT (B.S.)**, an ensign with the Navy, is assigned to the guided-missile destroyer USS Decatur, which made a port visit to Jebel Ali, United Arab Emirates, while on a deployment. The primary mission of Scott's ship is to provide offensive and defensive capabilities.

**KRISTEN (LUEBBERT) WICK (B.A.)** married Josh Wick on July 3, 2004. She taught for a year at ActionQuest, a nonprofit company that offers teen-agers adventure-training programs in various water sports and other activities. She moved to the Corpus Christi, Texas, area where she teaches biology and physics.

**[2005]**  
**NICHOLAS BELLANCA (B.A.)** has been working since August 2005 as a group benefits coordinator in the La Jolla office of Unum Provident.

**JOHN BOWE (B.A.)** recently graduated from The Basic School in Quantico, Va., where he received the Gung Ho Award for esprit de corps and motivation. His new assignment is at a military police school in Ft. Leonard Wood, Mo.

**ERIN BURKE (B.A.)** is earning a master's in social work at Colorado State University. She also is working toward a certification in school social work and working as a substance abuse counselor. She was planning to be a bridesmaid in her USD roommate Sandy Phanthasone's wedding over the summer in Anchorage, Alaska.

**MELANIE DURIAN (B.A.)** moved to Washington, D.C., to pursue a career in politics and lobbying. She is working as a legal assistant at a law firm next to the White House. The firm specializes in nonprofit clients and lobbying for interest groups and trade associations. "I attribute a lot of my happiness and success so far in this amazing city to the wonderful professors in the USD Political Science Department."

**MONICA GRANDE (B.A.)** is a special education teacher at Cherokee Point Elementary School.

**STEPHANIE HOWE (B.A.)** teaches high school English in Las Vegas through the Teach for America program, while also completing a master's degree at the University of Nevada, Las Vegas.

**JENISE KARCHER (B.A.)** teaches at an elementary charter school in Chula Vista.

**CANDICE KIM (J.D.)** is an associate in Miller Nash's business department and will focus her practice on business and commercial finance. Before joining Miller Nash as a summer associate in 2004, Candice was an intern at both the San Diego County's Alternative Public Defender and the USD's Entrepreneurship Clinic.

**DIANA VLASOVA (B.A.)** works for a law firm and is awaiting responses from law schools. She hoped to start attending law school in Los Angeles this fall.

## In Memoriam

**LEEANNE DUCOT (B.A. '96)** passed away on Oct. 24, 2005 at age 31. She previously was a critical care nurse at UCLA Medical Center, and had relocated to Menlo Park, Calif., to accept a nursing position at Stanford Medical Center.

**GERVASE EISEL (B.A. '75)** passed away on March 27, 2006.

**LEANN (MAHONEY) HOWARD (B.A. '56)** passed away on Nov. 13, 2005, of cancer. She was described as a wonderful leader of her USD class.

**GAEL (KEENE) RALPH (B.A. '58)** passed away on March 20, 2006.

**HERB SULLIVAN (B.B.A. '63)** passed away on March 7, 2006.

**TERESA MEGOFNA ZIELINSKI (B.B.A. '84)** passed away on April 4, 2004.

## Send Class Notes

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

*E-mail: [classnames@sandiego.edu](mailto:classnames@sandiego.edu)  
Web site: [www.sandiego.edu/usdmag](http://www.sandiego.edu/usdmag)  
U.S. Mail: USD Magazine Class Notes, Department of University Marketing and Creative Services, University of San Diego, 5998 Alcalá Park, San Diego, CA 92110.*

*Please note that Class Notes submitted after Sept. 1, 2006 will appear in the Spring 2007 issue of USD Magazine.*







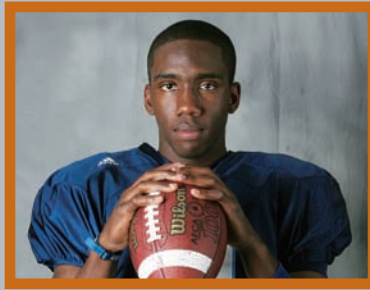
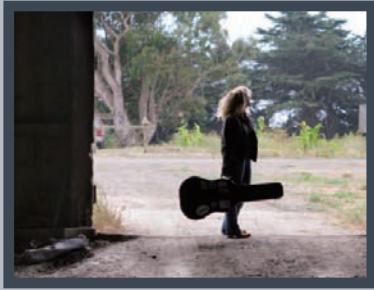
# Victory Dance Practice

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