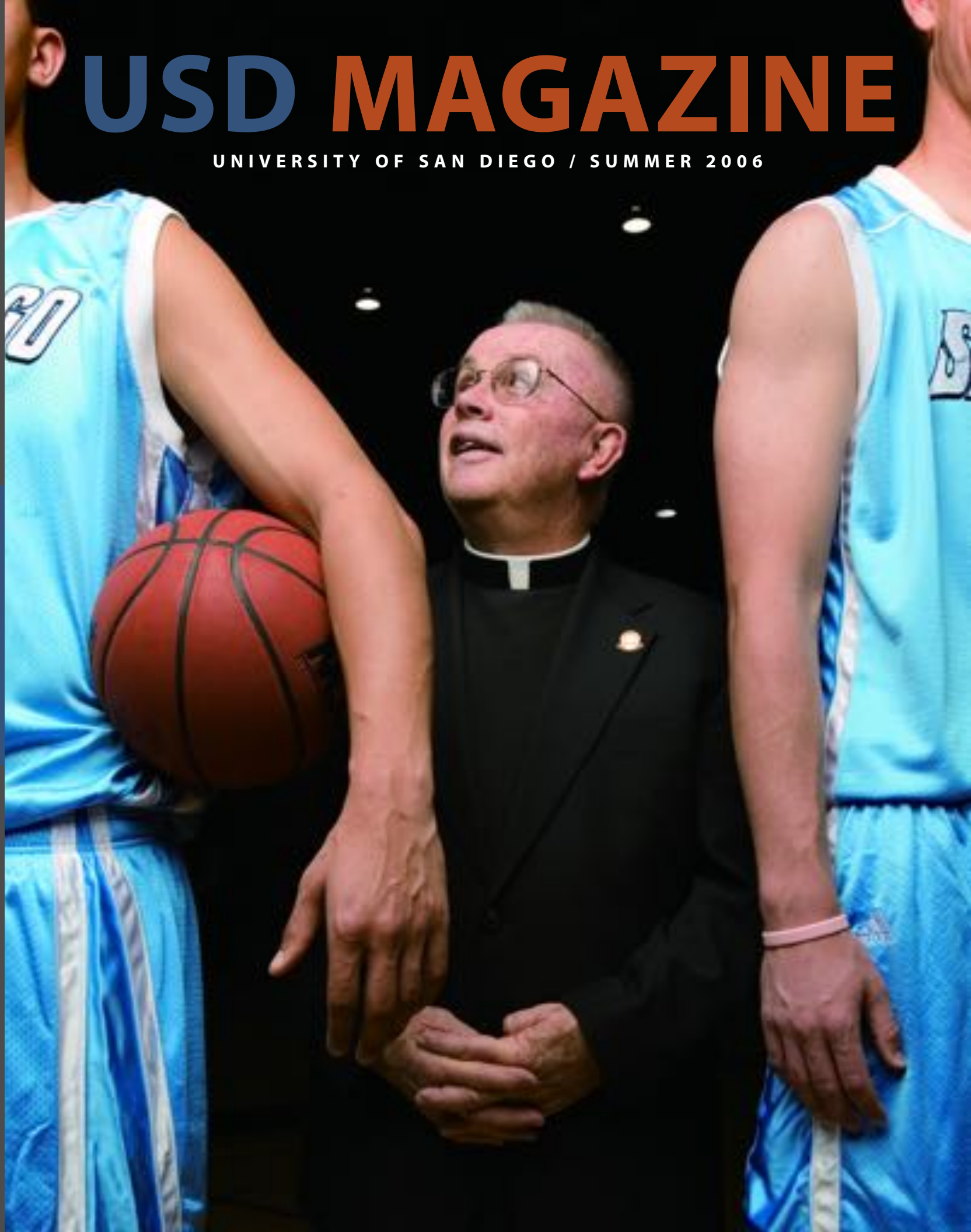


# USD MAGAZINE

UNIVERSITY OF SAN DIEGO / SUMMER 2006

FATHER OWEN MULLEN IS BACK AND HE'S STILL IN THE GAME EPITOMIZING THE VERY SPIRIT OF THE UNIVERSITY.





# 4,999+

## Be the one

Help us reach our 5,000 alumni donor goal.  
Make your gift to The University Fund by June 30.

**Every gift makes a difference. Your participation counts.**

Phone: (619) 260-4724  
E-mail: [annualgiving@sandiego.edu](mailto:annualgiving@sandiego.edu)  
Web: [www.sandiego.edu/giving](http://www.sandiego.edu/giving)



# photography contest

[new and improved]

## [take your best shot]

Capture the spirit and mission of the University of San Diego — either on film, digitally or through your own existing archival photography — and you could win a grand prize package and the adulation of your peers. Your task is deceptively simple: Take a photo that evokes one or more of the key values of USD, describe how it fits our theme, and submit your photo and description by July 1, 2006. The winning photo can be almost anything, as long as it illustrates the spirit of the university.

## [great prizes await]

The best photos will be published in an upcoming edition of the magazine, and the grand prize winner will receive a VIP package, which includes round-trip airfare for two people to and from San Diego from anywhere in the U.S. for the weekend of Homecoming 2006 as well as accommodations for two people for three nights at Humphrey's Half Moon Inn and Suites, a rental car and a complete passport to Homecoming 2006 activities. Runners-up will receive Sony digital cameras.

## [come one, come all]

Revised rules allow current students and alumni of USD (including employees) who are amateur photographers to submit no more than three photographs. To enter, either fill out the form to the right or go to [www.sandiego.edu/photocontest](http://www.sandiego.edu/photocontest), print out the form and mail it to the address provided.

## USD MAGAZINE WANTS YOU!

### Photography Competition 2005-2006 Registration Form

Please use the space below to tell us, in no more than 100 words, how your photo brings one of the "university of" key words to life. (The words are as follows: DISCOVERY, COMPASSION, WONDER, PROMISE, FAITH, IDEAS, TRADITION, HONOR, JUSTICE, SUCCESS, DREAMS, HOPE, PASSION and PEACE.) Use additional pages if necessary. The University of San Diego and/or *USD Magazine* may use your story in print or on our Web site. We reserve the right to reprint, use and/or edit your story as we deem appropriate.

Name

Address

City

State

Zip

Phone Number(s)

E-mail

Description of entry in 50 to 100 words:

### Obligatory Legal Mumbo Jumbo

*I do hereby make the following statements, releases, assignments, and assurances to the University of San Diego and USD Magazine, their employees, agents and contractors (the "Released Parties"):*

*I am the person who took the photograph(s) submitted herewith, and I have not assigned any of my rights associated with these photographs to any third party.*

*All models or persons depicted in the photograph(s) have given me their unrestricted, written consent to use their likeness or image.*

*I release the Released Parties from any liability whatsoever that arises from their lawful use of these photographs.*

*I agree to work in good faith with the Released Parties to promptly resolve any problems or disputes that may arise due to my submission of these photographs.*

*I certify that I, or the person I designate, own the image(s) or any copyright to the photograph(s).*

*USD Magazine has non-exclusive rights to use, publish and sell products based on the photograph(s).*

*The University of San Diego and USD Magazine may use photograph(s) in publications to promote the university and the magazine, such as on Web sites, in brochures, in magazines and for other similar marketing and promotional uses.*

Signature

Date

# USD MAGAZINE

UNIVERSITY OF SAN DIEGO / SUMMER 2006

## ON THE COVER

### 32 / THE GOOD GUY

Father Owen Mullen is back and busier than ever, serving as spiritual adviser to the football, basketball, baseball and lacrosse teams. Our cover photo and the photo to the right — which feature Mullen flanked by basketball players Corey Belser (left) and Nick Lewis — were shot by Marshall Williams.

## DEPARTMENTS

### AROUND THE PARK

#### 6 / *The Science of Respect*

From glassy to gnarly, new surf culture class explores the ritual and spirit of *aloha*.

#### 8 / *Viva Toreros!*

Gratitude is what drives the annual Latino graduation ceremony, which celebrates both family and the university.

#### 9 / *Save the Date*

Commencement ceremonies; Science Conference; Homecoming/Reunion Weekend; Family Weekend.

#### 10 / *A License to Drive*

One-time Lost Boy of Sudan Daniel Akech James has achieved yet another milestone: getting behind the wheel.

#### 12 / *Great Expectations*

Groundbreaking for the new SOLES building was a dream come true for Dean Paula Cordeiro.

### TORERO ATHLETICS

#### 14 / *Double Play*

Freshmen pitchers Brian Matusz and Josh Romanski deferred big league dreams for a USD education.



THE WHOLE DUTY OF MAN.

### ALUMNI UPDATE

#### 16 / *That Pioneer Spirit*

James Freed was the first graduate of the College for Men 50 years ago; Senior Class Legacy is by students, for students.

### GO ONLINE:

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

# CONTENTS

THE STORY ALWAYS OLD AND ALWAYS NEW.



## 20 / COMMON GROUND

Lt. Cmdr. Lavencion Starks heads the Naval Medical Center San Diego's ER. Fran Townsend is assistant to the president for homeland security and counterterrorism. Outgoing College of Arts and Sciences Dean

Patrick Drinan is looking forward to returning to teaching full time. Innovator Marcos Fernandes makes non-mainstream music. Social diarist Margo Schwab chronicles San Diego's upper crust. It would be difficult to find a more eclectic group of people, but this group does, in fact, have one thing in common: the University of San Diego.



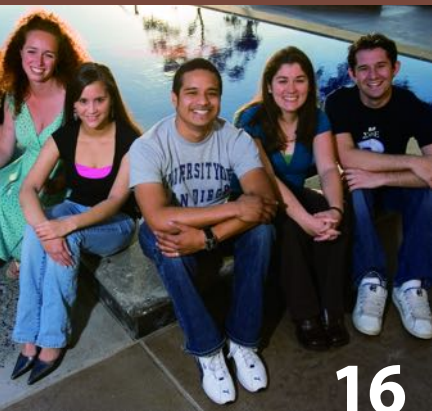
CHILD OF GLORIOUS GREAT INTENT.



## POINT OF VIEW

### 18 / *Nothing Bad Ever Happened to Me*

When Sandy (Seaburg) Rowley '89 graduated, she expected her life to be perfectly normal. Things didn't quite turn out that way.



## CLASS NOTES

### 36 / *A Country in Ruins*

Reem George '02 plans to help Iraqi women create peace and regain independence.

### 42 / *In Memoriam*

The sudden death of beloved basketball coach Maggie Dixon '99 marked at West Point.

### 45 / *Meet the President*

Renda Quinn '86 takes the helm as incoming president of the Alumni Association Board.

### 46 / *It's Mister Fresh Maker*

Raw foods are the bread and butter of David Wolfe '98, who says it all started with a tangerine.



[yarn spinner]

## TELL ME A STORY

Written or remembered, everyone has a tale all their own



The papers are frayed, crumpled, coffee-stained and creased. Some have been with me for over a decade, traveling in various trucks from apartment to flat to house. Other, more recent, additions still reside in piles and heaps, though I slowly chip away at them, tossing the detritus, but keeping much — ever so much — more. The process is lengthy because I can't seem to sort through them without reliving the moments they represent. You see, each of these scribbles and e-mails and notes and press releases and photos tells a story. Not just that of an article once written, but in many ways, the story of my life.

It's not really surprising that I save all these dog-eared scraps: Stories have always beguiled me. As a child, I listened, transfixed, as my mother read aloud. From Narnia to the Swiss Alps to the Arabian Nights, we explored the streets and back roads of fairylands and mythical kingdoms. Together and apart, we were reading, always reading. In time, of course, I came to tell my own stories. Before long, I saw that while spinning yarns out of whole cloth had its charms, there was grace to be found in seeking out other people's stories.

Now, as I sort through those artifacts from stories long past, I see them as snapshots in time. One brings forth a brilliant sunny afternoon, when the cyber-pioneer I was talking with realized that a crowd had gathered around the television's flickering screen, mesmerized by the now-famous low-speed chase. Another recalls a day-long interview with a monologist who rarely paused for breath and stuck me with his dinner bill. And then there was the renowned writer who enlisted me to play Lincoln Logs with her son, then regaled me with her tales, leaving me bereft that we didn't become lifelong friends.

I'm better for hearing, and telling, all of them.

Because it's stories that help us crystallize our ideas, and, as one definition has it, "reveal a truth that research data cannot." Stories are, in a very fundamental way, how we share our humanity. Stories remind us that we're all connected, even (maybe especially) given all our crazy-quilt differences. The best stories celebrate and edify, move us to tears and make us snort with laughter, bring us out of ourselves and nudge us to look inward.

So even though I sigh at the teetering stacks, soon enough I find myself engrossed once again in words, shaking my head at scribbles and sentence fragments, before a single crystalline phrase reminds me of what, exactly, I was trying to say, way back when I first sat down and decided to write a story.

— Julene Snyder, Editor

[editor]  
Julene Snyder  
julene@sandiego.edu

[contributing editor]  
Kelly Knuffken  
kellyk@sandiego.edu

[class notes editor]  
Krystn Shrieve  
kshrieve@sandiego.edu

[proofreading]  
Fawnee Enochides

[art director]  
Barbara Ferguson  
bararaf@sandiego.edu

[photographers]  
Eric Drotter  
Barbara Ferguson  
Fred Greaves  
Tim Mantoani  
Sean Masterson  
Brendan Smialowski  
Marshall Williams

[illustrators]  
Allan Burch  
Alisa Burke  
Barbara Ferguson  
Jennifer Yanok

[web design manager]  
Michael James  
michaeljames@sandiego.edu

[web site]  
www.sandiego.edu/usdmag

### UNIVERSITY OF SAN DIEGO

[president]  
Mary E. Lyons, Ph.D.

[vice president of mission and university relations]  
Monsignor Daniel Dillabough '70

[assistant vice president, marketing and creative services]  
Coreen Petti

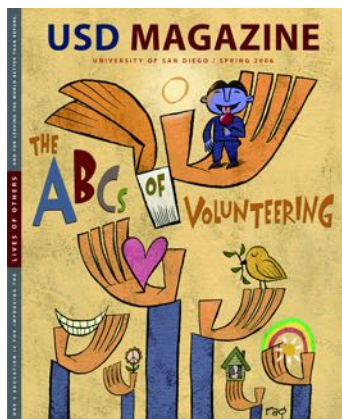
[usd magazine]  
is published by the University of San Diego for its alumni, parents and friends. Editorial offices: *USD Magazine*, Publications Office, University of San Diego, 5998 Alcalá Park, San Diego, CA 92110. Third-class postage paid at San Diego CA 92110. USD phone number (619) 260-4600; emergency security (619) 260-2222; disaster (619) 260-4534.

Postmaster: Send address changes to *USD Magazine*, Publications Office, University of San Diego, 5998 Alcalá Park, San Diego, CA 92110-2492.

[0506/53400]

Find links about stories in this issue online at [www.sandiego.edu/usdmag](http://www.sandiego.edu/usdmag).

[back and forth]



## High Praise Indeed

I'm not quite sure who to say this to because many folks are involved, but this issue (Spring 2006) of *USD Magazine* is absolutely super. Well done!

— Paula A. Cordeiro  
Dean, School of Leadership and  
Education Sciences

## Cooler Than He Thinks

Although I'm definitely not as cool as writer Julene Snyder made me seem in the recent story "Calm, Cool and Connected" (Spring 2006), she did a good job of making my story interesting, and I appreciate it.

That said, I'd like to spread some of the credit around, as the article makes me seem like a superstar rainmaker. It's the doing of directors like Sam Bayer — and the other directors and executive producers I work with — that I owe my success to. In most cases, they are the ones who give me the gigs, not the bands.

As far as Sam goes, I'd like to go on the record as saying that the films that he makes mean everything to him: They are social statements against the war, they are personal visions, and they are proof that he still has the thunder he had early in his career. During the "Jesus of Suburbia" video shoot, Sam was

pouring every bit of his soul into translating his artistic vision into celluloid, and he was very stressed out. The very real, very generous side of his personality may not have been visible to bystanders, but I know through personal experience that it is always present.

In any case, thanks again for the story.

— Tim Lynch '95

Tim Lynch happens to be one of my best friends. We both graduated in 1995. We were roommates for three years and we both played football together at USD. He has become very successful and deserves the praise in this



article. I thought it was very well written and painted such a great picture of what Tim does. There were things that I didn't even know. He has a brilliant mind and is a good person and the article brought that to light. The photos were great, the presentation was great and I enjoyed many of the quotes, analogies and anecdotes. Really, it was an A+ article. The author obviously spent some time with research, interviews and writing, and Tim deserves it. Well done! The only thing the author failed to mention is that he has two beautiful children: a 4-year-

old son and a 2-year-old daughter. Imagine having a family life with the time he devotes to his production schedules! But somehow he does it.

— Vincent Moiso '95

As I look back on my educational experience, I can honestly say that my time at the University of San Diego had the greatest impact on the person I've become. The friends and memories I made there are with me every day. The best part, of course, was meeting my husband, Tim Lynch. The article captured the professional Tim Lynch excellently. (I think he failed to mention that he was also nominated for a Grammy last year, as producer of a short music video, also with Green Day.) But I am sure he is most proud of his two beautiful children, Cameron and Keira. Thank you for spotlighting a wonderful man!

— Jennifer (Lofftus) Lynch '95

## Generosity of Spirit

I was so pleased to see the article on Louise Stanger, "Time to Laugh Again," in the latest *USD Magazine* (Spring 2006). I was in the doctoral program with Louise, and as a fellow alumna, it's reassuring to see acknowledgment and praise where it is due. The article did a great job in describing the exciting workshops that Louise conducted in New York — and it also captured the generous and giving spirit that Louise Stanger embodies. Her dissertation research was innovative and unique, and, as was mentioned in the article, supported wholeheartedly by her doctoral adviser, Johanna Hunsaker. Thanks for highlighting these wonderful efforts and demonstrating the diversity that the doctoral program in leader-

ship offers. And, by the way, the photograph was perfect — it really illustrated Louise's spirit!

— Caren Sax, Ed.D., CRC  
Professor, SDSU Interwork Institute



I was delighted by the article on Louise Stanger's work with the 9/11 widows. How wonderful to know that a member of our own USD family is making such a significant difference in the lives of these women and their families.

— Susan Instone  
Hahn School of Nursing and  
Health Science

## [contest update]

Don't wait! Revised photo contest rules allow current students as well as USD employees who are alumni to enter. The grand prize is spectacular, and the winning entry will be published in these pages in Fall 2006. Find the entry form online or on page one of this issue. So get snappin'.

— Editor

## 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).**



[windansea]

## THE SCIENCE OF RESPECT

New anthropology class explores the spirit of aloha

by *Julene Snyder*

Seagulls skree their raucous song while rays of sun pierce through roiling clouds. Blown-out waves look gray, until they flash a moment of clear aqua wonder before vanishing into flecks of foam. The water rolls back out, ebbing and flowing its ancient song.

And the students are rapt.

Not at the ocean's endless dance. No, they are hanging on the windblown words of Woody Eckstrom, literally a legend in his own time. He stands before them — under The Shack at La Jolla's Windansea beach, a palm-frond topped structure very much like the one he helped build a

half-century ago — telling of what it was like, back in the day.

"We had huge surf here in 1945," the still-fit Eckstrom recalls, fighting to be heard over the strident birds. "And the *luau*s were amazing. It was one party after another. My parents said, 'You kids will get tired of that beach after awhile.'" Everyone laughs. He tells of riding waves on an ironing board, of overnights on the beach, of tricking out the Model T he bought with a war bond so that it could lug the heavy oversized surfboards that early wave-riders fashioned out of the materials at hand. It's history, live and in person.

Though this is definitely an

upper division cultural anthropology class, just now it feels like something more. New this year, Anthropology 364: Surf Culture and History, is taught by professor Jerome Lynn Hall. And judging by his smile, this is a moment he's been looking forward to for a very long time.

"When we talk about ritual, celebration, and respect, this is what we're talking about," Hall says upon introducing Eckstrom to the group. When the surfing icon takes questions, the students have plenty to ask.

"Did you realize you were the first of your kind?" asks one. "Yes, we did," he answers with a smile.





be offered at (USD), and one of the first of its kind in the world.”

Outgoing College of Arts and Sciences Dean Patrick Drinan was an early supporter of Hall’s proposal to add the class to the curriculum, saying, “This course’s emphasis on the true meaning of *aloha* — respect for elders — makes it perfect for USD.” It’s certainly proven popular among the 50 or so enrolled students, though as the semester progressed they found it wasn’t necessarily the stroll in the sand they might have imagined. Hall expects them to work, to read, to discuss, to think and, naturally, to prove their knowledge on tests.

**Gnarly knowledge was imparted by surfing legend Woody Eckstrom, assisted here by professor Jerome Hall.**

On that particular day, participants continued a discussion about masculinity and the problems that arise when surfers go “aggro.” Students came up with a list of words describing that state of being: aggressive, aggravated, militantly angry, confrontational. Hall contrasted this sort of behavior with the concept of *aloha*.

“Look,” he said. “There’s a difference in being a person on a surfing board and a surfer. It’s about respect.” The students murmured agreement.

“One of the benefits of having a good liberal arts education is that you don’t just look at what data say. We’re training you to say, ‘Yes, I see that. But is there more?’”

After a brief foray into the merits of living one’s life to best exemplify the *aloha* spirit, the discussion returned to talk about masculinity, aggro behavior, respect and rebellion.

“Listen,” he says, just before it was time to go. “If you have respect, you’ll be treated with respect. Oh! And don’t forget! Next week we’re at The Shack at Windansea!”

No worries. They’ll be there. 🏄‍♂️

TIM MANTOANI

“What do you think of short boards?” asks another. “All I can say is, to each his own.” Laughter.

“Have you seen changes in the way surfers act over the years?”

“Yes.” He looks a bit saddened. “I think we had it maybe a little better than you guys do.” A collective sigh signals that at least a few of the students think so too.

A week earlier, class was held in the more traditional environs of Maher Hall, where there was nary a seagull within earshot. Clad in a Hawaiian shirt exploding with hibiscus flowers and palm fronds, Hall greeted the class with a resounding, “*Aloha!*” The students returned the greeting with gusto.

There was a buzz in the room, since a story about their studies had just appeared in the *San Diego Union-Tribune*, stressing the novelty of offering it at all, and noting that “it’s the first serious examination of the surf culture to

# [syllabus]

**Course: Health Assessment**  
**Instructor: Sharon McGuire**

**DESCRIPTION:** Further development of nursing skills in holistic assessment of health throughout the lifespan, with emphasis on interviewing, physical examination and problem solving.

**OVERACHIEVER ALERT:** Students are registered nurses who are returning to school to earn first their undergraduate, and ultimately, their master’s degrees. All of them work full-time — as nurses, caring for the sick and injured, in local hospitals — in addition to attending several classes a week. They seem surprisingly good-natured about it, considering.

**BOOKMARK THIS:** Go to [www.egeneralmedical.com/listohearmur.html](http://www.egeneralmedical.com/listohearmur.html) and find out what heartbeats suffering from maladies ranging from a Diastolic Aortic Insufficiency to a Tricuspid Regurgitation sound like. (Frankly, when it comes to danceability, the Ejection Murmur has got the others beat by a country mile.)

**THEY PAY YOU TO DO WHAT?:** While most of the time the students practice health assessments on one another, for some procedures trained outsiders — known as “live instructors” — come in and act as “patients.” They are well-compensated for their efforts.

**DEPARTMENT OF OBVIOUSNESS:** Upon being examined, one student, who describes herself as “a full-time mom, a full-time nurse and a full-time student,” is asked if she’s been experiencing any fatigue. “Yeah,” she sighs. “A lot.”

**VISUAL AIDS:** Though there’s no waiting room, much of the Alcalá West Nursing Lab will remind visitors of a medical facility. There are beds (complete with somewhat alarming, prone, plastic “patients”), exam rooms (*sans* ancient magazines) and his-and-her skeletons. Fun fact: One mannequin’s hospital bracelet identifies him as “Welby, Marcus.”

**AWESOME ADVICE:** “Of course, you never want to palpate both sides at the same time, because we don’t want to occlude any blood going to the brain.” Well, duh.



BARBARA FERGUSON

The night before commencement, students bring in their families and publicly thank them for sending them to USD.

[ appreciation ]

## MUCHAS GRACIAS Y VIVA TOREROS!



ALISA BURKE

by Kelly Knufken

**G**ratitude. That's what it's all about at the annual celebration for USD graduates of Latino descent and their families. "It's not just my degree," says Andrea Fuentez who's earning her bachelor's in psychology.

"I couldn't have done it alone under any circumstances. And because of the family I have,

I never had to. It's really like my family's accomplishment."

She and the other graduating seniors will get a chance to express those feelings to their immediate and extended families during the 11th Annual Chicana/o Latina/o Graduation Ceremony.

"I know that I don't thank them enough, and I definitely

don't ever thank them publicly," she says. "I'm really grateful for this rare opportunity to do that."

This celebration of family and USD will be on May 27, the evening before graduates participate in the main commencement.

"It's meant to add to, not take away from, traditional graduation festivities," says Guadalupe

Corona, director of the United Front Multicultural Center, an organizer along with MeChA and AChA. "They are being validated by the institution for their success as a first-generation community of USD. For them, most are the first to not only graduate college, but the first to *attend* college."

Because that makes gradua-

tion such a huge event, Latino graduation can cement the bond of a parent with a school they may have visited only to drop off the student four years earlier.

It appears to be working. Fuentez's dad, Phillip Fuentez, has attended the ceremony twice.

"The event is something that is very emotional and rewarding," he says. "Parents are thankful the student is graduating from such a prestigious school, and that the student did remember the family's sacrifices."

The ceremony is a terrific recruitment tool for the university, according to Corona. "The graduates' nieces, brothers and sisters see the campus, and they make a very personal connection that gives the university a whole different feel for communities that might not have had experience with USD before."

Each graduate is allowed to invite seven family members, and even that can cause conflicts. Fuentez wasn't sure how the limit would shake out among her immediate family of six, plus an extended network of other relatives. "I told them, 'I'm not deciding,'" she says.

This year's ceremony may draw close to double the number of graduating seniors from last year's count of 25. With the event bursting at the seams in the Main Dining hall, organizers have an eye toward moving to the Jenny Craig Pavilion next year. The graduation festivities include dinner, short speeches by students and a slide show featuring pictures of the graduates as they've grown up — another special touch for the parents. Graduates wear special sashes in USD colors.

Phillip Fuentez is prepared for his happiness to spill over as his oldest child reaches a major milestone. "I'm ready. I've got my tissues," he says. "Many of the graduates say, 'I said I wasn't going to cry,' but they do."

He says the feelings the event evokes are a natural for the campus: "When I go to USD, it's like that old saying, 'Mi casa es su casa.'" 🌐

[ brainiac ]

## GOLDEN TICKET

**First-ever California native from USD to receive prestigious Goldwater scholarship**

by *Julene Snyder*

**W**hen Joanna Cole '07 was in high school, she knew exactly what she *didn't* want to study when she got to college: "I always thought I'd major in anything but science," she says. "I especially didn't want to study chemistry."

Things change. Cole did, in fact, major in chemistry. She wound up immersing herself in the sciences. And now, she's been awarded the prestigious Barry M. Goldwater Scholarship, making her the first USD student who's a native of San Diego to receive it.

"I didn't really plan on staying in San Diego for college," Cole says with a laugh. "I thought I'd probably go away to school. But when I walked around USD, the atmosphere seemed a lot more inviting than the big UC schools I'd been considering."

The Goldwater Scholarship had a "pretty intense application," she recalls. Cole credits the research she's been conducting with two chemistry professors, Debbie

Tahmassebi and Tammy Dwyer, with giving her the edge she needed to win the scholarship.

"We're studying the structure of DNA containing non-natural nucleosides, and how these changes affect the binding of a drug to the DNA duplex," explains Cole.

This year's 323 Goldwater Scholars came from across the United States, and were selected on the basis of academic merit from a field of 1,081 mathematics, science and engineering students. Along with prestige, recipients receive up to \$7,500 to help cover the cost of tuition, fees, books, and room and board. Another USD student, Michelle Leibrand '07, received an honorable mention in the competition.

"My professors have told me becoming a Goldwater Scholar is a big ticket into what you want to do," says Cole, who plans on continuing her studies on the research side of pharmacology. "I guess it's a really big deal." 🌐



BARBARA FERGUSON

**Joanna Cole '07** thinks that spending last semester abroad studying science in Ireland might have made her application stand out.

# SAVE THE DATE

## May 26-28

### Commencement

The following ceremonies take place at the Jenny Craig Pavilion: Law School Commencement is on May 27 at 9 a.m.; Graduate Commencement follows at 1 p.m. On May 28, Undergraduate Commencement for the College of Arts and Sciences begins at 9 a.m.; Undergraduate Commencement for the School of Business Administration, Engineering and Diversified Liberal Arts follows at 2 p.m.

## June 18-22

### Science Conference

The Pacific Division of the American Association for the Advancement of Science comes to campus and invites all scientists, including students, to present their research results. Anne Sturtz, chair of the Department of Marine Science and Environmental Studies, serves as chair of the organizing committee. Go to [www.sou.edu/aaaspd/SanDiego2006/Index.html](http://www.sou.edu/aaaspd/SanDiego2006/Index.html).

## October 6-8

### Homecoming/Reunion Weekend

Get reconnected during this weekend that's loaded with fun for the whole family. Events include a "fun zone" just for the littlest Toreros, a golf tournament and a welcome reception. Reunions for the classes of 1956 (50th), 1961, 1966, 1971, 1976, 1981 (25th), 1986 (20th), 1991, 1996 (10th), 2001 and 2006 are planned. Call (619) 260-4819 or go to <http://www.sandiego.edu/homecoming>.

## October 13-15

### Family Weekend

A long-standing tradition returns, providing families with an opportunity to get an up-close-and-personal look at the daily lives of students. Attend a welcome reception, drop in on classes, check out student life seminars, celebrate Sunday Mass or sign up for off-campus outings showcasing the best of San Diego. Call (619) 260-4808.

**Ambitious from the start, Daniel Akech James initially planned to study three majors at USD: theology and religious studies, math, and philosophy. He ultimately dropped philosophy.**

[road warrior]

## HE'S GOT A LICENSE TO DRIVE

**Lost Boy gets behind the wheel, triumphs over tragedy once again**

by Krystn Shrieve

**D**aniel Akech James has been living his life in fast-forward mode since arriving in the United States in 2001. He got a job and earned his GED within the first week. He powered his way through community college and was admitted to the University of San Diego in 2003. After conquering all that, Daniel decided to learn how to drive. But it was in the fast lane that Daniel was forced to slow down.

On June 6, 2004, an acquaintance offered to teach Daniel the rules of the road. While navigating the sometimes crazy interchange between Interstates 5 and 8, the Explorer he was driving flipped three, four, five times. His left hand was crushed. The medical term was that it was “de-gloved” — the entire top portion of his hand, skin and all, had been ripped back.

“I was only worried about the woman,” Daniel recalls. “But the paramedics told me not to worry about her, and that I was the one who was dying.”

Doctors would have amputated his hand, but his USD math professor, Cameron Parker, and Judy Bernstein from the International Rescue Committee, an organization that sponsors about 100 Lost Boys living in San Diego, stepped in and found an orthopedic surgeon who conducted the numerous, delicate surgeries for free.

While a lot has happened to the one-time Lost Boy of Sudan since a story about his life's journey, “Finding Daniel,” first ran in

*USD Magazine* (Fall 2005), he's most excited about getting his driver's license on Jan. 6, 2006.

“I did a good job,” says Daniel. “The instructor said I was very cautious. I don't drive regularly yet, but I'll run errands for my friends. It's good practice.”

These days Daniel enjoys jogging from Alcalá Park to SeaWorld and back two or three times a week. He initially planned to graduate this month, but

postponed graduation so he could take a few more advanced math classes and better his chances of getting into graduate school at the University of California, Berkeley.

“I never went to high school,” says Daniel. “What matters to me is learning, not just earning the degree.”

This month Daniel will start searching for a summer job. He doesn't care where he works, he

just needs to earn enough to pay for the \$2,000 plane ticket to the Kakuma Refugee Camp in Kenya, to visit friends and family.

So what are his plans for the future? To begin with, graduate school and a stint teaching math at the college level. But he has his sights set on something even bigger. “I want to get a job with the United Nations,” he says. “I want to work there and help to change the world in whatever way I can.” 🌐



[rite of passage]

# NEWBIE 101

## USD to unveil program that takes the fear out of students' first year

by Krystn Shrieve

**M**errick Marino, USD's director of student learning initiatives, got his first glimpse of how his transition to college would play out not when his parents said goodbye and drove away, but on the first day of class. That was when Marino — who attended the University of Southern California — walked into his biology classroom to find a huge auditorium filled with 500 students.

"It hit me that I was on my own," Marino says. "Nobody was going to know if I attended class or did the reading. It was up to me to be accountable for what I got out of college."

That year was a turning point for Marino, who was so inspired that after he graduated he wrote a book called *College Under Cover*, which offered tips on how average high school students can become college standouts.

Marino, who'd planned a career as a Hollywood writer or producer, had no clue that the passion that drove him to write the book would eventually lead him to USD. That's where he became instrumental in helping develop the First-Year Experience, a new program the university will launch this fall to help 1,100 incoming students deal with everything from succeeding academically to making healthy choices.

"Success is habit forming. If you get off to a good start and have support, you can build from there," says Marino, who along with Jim Gump, history professor and associate dean of the College of Arts and Sciences, chairs the First-Year Experience committee. "If you get off to a rough start, you're playing a con-

stant game of catch up."

In the works for two years, the program has been a well-choreographed collaboration between academics, admissions, student affairs and other areas of campus. It has several components, but zeros in primarily on two areas — academics and residence life. On the academic side, USD updated its preceptorial program, which now includes workshops on topics such as study skills, time management, faculty expectations, choosing a major and university history. On the residence life side, resident assistants will help run First-Year Experience presentations on topics such as campus programs and tips on becoming an effective leader.

The program kicks off with Torero Days — which this fall runs from Sept. 2, when students move to campus, until Sept. 7 — an improved version of what used to be the orientation program. "We're recruiting volunteer faculty, staff and administrators who can guide students through various parts of the city, whether it's to Balboa Park or to Coronado for a bicycle ride," Gump says. "Students can sign up for these types of activities over the summer."

Steve Pultz, director of undergraduate admissions and a member of the First-Year Experience committee, says the program is key to the university's goal of becoming a preeminent national Catholic university.

"This program helps us make sure we're attracting the highest caliber student and that they have the tools they need to graduate and be successful alumni who loved their time here," Pultz says. "In no small measure that's what we're after." 📖



BARBARA FERGUSON

[little flower]

# UPON REFLECTION

## Years of work and love result in devotees bringing statue of St. Therese to campus

by Kelly Knufken

**T**here she stands in the revamped rose garden behind the Hughes Administration Center, wearing a habit of the kind nuns wore 100 years ago and carrying a rose, a Bible and a cross.

Of course, the serene statue has no idea of the commitment and work it took to bring her to campus by a number of believers who never lost faith.

Followers of St. Therese, a Carmelite nun who died of tuberculosis at age 24, are devoted. Trustee emeritus Robert Baker remembers his fascination with the saint some call the "little flower" beginning when he was in sixth grade, during the confusing time after his parents had divorced. A picture of St. Therese — then a relatively new saint — hung at the back of the schoolroom.

"Wherever I went, it seemed like the eyes of this picture followed me," Baker says. "I became very curious."

St. Therese continued to play a role in his life. He counts nine

times he should have been wounded or killed in Korea, yet he emerged unscathed. He believes that St. Therese was watching over him.

"Basically she has been with me all my life and taken care of me," Baker says. "She brings me inspiration." That's why he donated the statue to the university, as well as three others to local institutions.

Diana Githens is another who worked to bring St. Therese to USD. "In my family there has always been devotion to St. Therese," says Githens, an administrative assistant in the law school who's worked at USD for 23 years. She recounts her quest for the statue as six years of "work and love," complete with paperwork filling two binders.

"Seeing her beautiful presence here on campus — she'll be an inspiration to so many people," Githens says. "People can pray, genuflect, sit and meditate. It'll be a beautiful place for people to see her and reflect." 📖

[groundbreaking]

## GREAT EXPECTATIONS

**School of Leadership and Education Sciences building is Dean Cordeiro's longtime dream**

by Krystn Shrieve

When Paula Cordeiro joined USD in 1998 as dean of what is now the School of Leadership and Education Sciences, the school was housed in Harmon Hall, a building so small that two portable trailers housed the overflow from the school's 15 faculty members and 500 students.

Over the years, the school increased in numbers and added areas of focus and study. It created new centers and new ways to reach out to the community. It changed locations and even its name. In time, the number of

faculty and students doubled, and they were spread across campus; some in Alcalá West, some in the Joan B. Kroc Institute for Peace & Justice and some in Serra Hall.

So Cordeiro adapted. She got a golf cart to visit colleagues. She scheduled meetings across campus for her burgeoning faculty. She began hosting monthly dinner-with-the-dean events that students referred to as "Pizza with Paula."

But finally, after years of finding ways to work effectively with her students and staff, Cordeiro was overjoyed to break ground in April


on a \$36 million, 80,000-square-foot building for the school.

Cordeiro lights up when she talks about plans for the two-story building that will open west of Copley Library in Fall 2007.

"This is beyond belief for me," Cordeiro says. "I'm so glad we'll finally be together. For some of my colleagues, it's been 20 years in coming. I feel like I've died and gone to heaven."

Cordeiro's well-worn copy of the building plans represents the possibilities of both the school as well as the building. The first floor opens onto a *sala*, or living room, with a moveable, raised platform where speakers can address a large forum. That floor also features a 190-seat auditorium, a tiered classroom, an executive training classroom, project rooms, state-of-the-art classrooms with the latest technology and much more. The second floor includes additional classrooms, faculty office space and a reading room.

The new building will allow SOLES to continue strengthening its four areas of focus — education, leadership, counseling and marriage and family therapy.

"This is recruitment season for new faculty," Cordeiro says. "After I talked to one person about what our plans are, she said, 'I can't believe everything you're doing. Elsewhere, schools of ed feel so last century, but this feels like the future.'" 

# [etc.]

**Plagiarism can be** an easy temptation for some students. USD has opted to combat that urge by using Turnitin.com, an electronic tool to discourage and detect cheating. An uptick in academic integrity cases reported in the 2004-05 school year prompted a test of the system, which was deemed successful when cheating declined.

**With an eye toward** bulking up graduates' prospects, USD will launch a full-time MBA program in the fall. The focus will be on developing leaders with a strong ethical framework while also fostering the best analytical business practices.

**A prestigious faculty award** was recently bestowed on Vince Salyers of the Hahn School of Nursing and Health Science, who was selected as regional first prize winner of the Elsevier's Faculty Award for Nursing Excellence. Salyers will receive a cash award, a major donation to the charity of his choice and an honorary plaque.

**Let the fun begin:** The summer camps office at the University of San Diego offers 12 sport-specific camps for youth, two sessions of their famous All-Sports Camp, two adult tennis camps and a master's swim camp. USD alumni receive a 5 percent discount to any camp in 2006. Camps begin June 9 and end Aug. 5. Go to [usdtoreros.com](http://usdtoreros.com) or call (619) 260-2999.

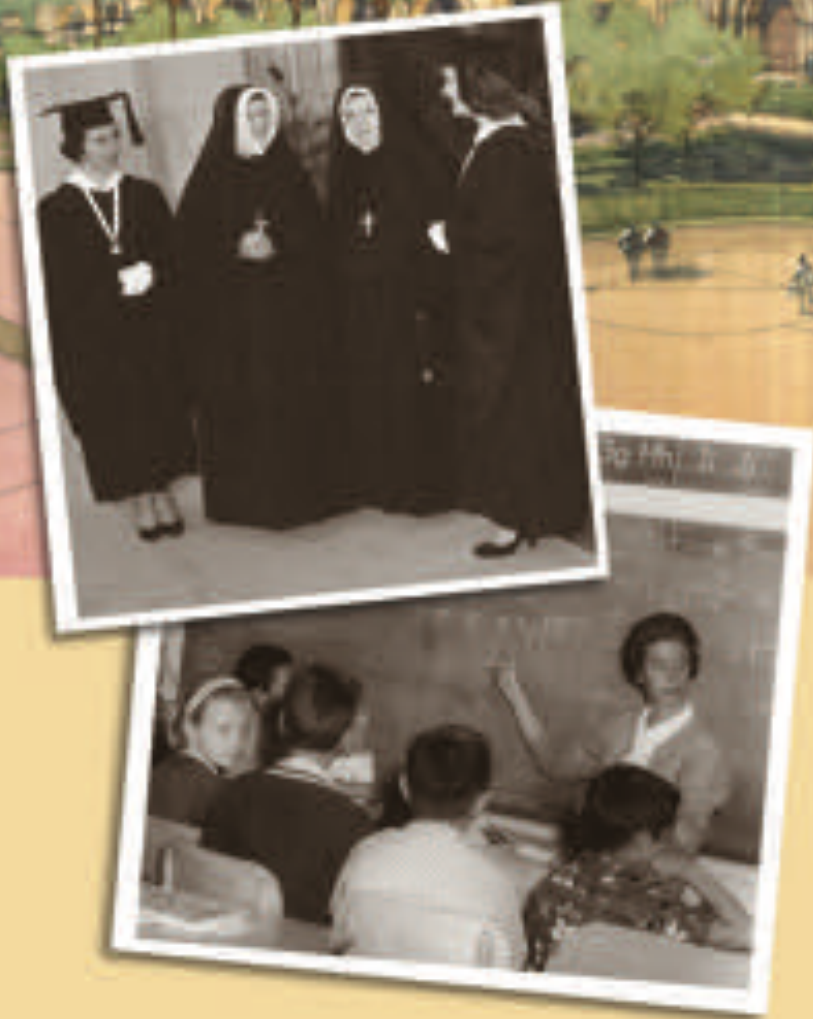
**Fabulous prizes await** the winner of the *USD Magazine* photography competition. Newly revised rules allow students and employees who are alumni to submit photos that epitomize key university values. Find an entry form on page one of this issue of the magazine or at [www.sandiego.edu/photocontest](http://www.sandiego.edu/photocontest). 



MARSHALL WILLIAMS

# Honoring the Past Transforming the Future

School of Leadership and Education Sciences



In April 2006, the University of San Diego broke ground on a new building for the School of Leadership and Education Sciences (SOLES). This critically needed 80,000-square-foot-facility marks a new era in educational leadership at USD.

The impetus for this growth can be traced to the San Diego College for Women and the influence of Mother Rosalie Hill and the Religious of the Sacred Heart. The then Department of Education — which prepared young women to be classroom teachers — helped make SOLES what it is today: a nationwide model noted for outstanding programs and innovative leadership training.

As we honor the vision of Mother Hill and the Religious of the Sacred Heart, we invite you to join USD in making this exciting new building possible. For more information please contact Gary A. Neiger at (619) 260-7783.

[catbird seat]

## DOUBLE PLAY

**Freshmen Brian Matusz and Josh Romanski opted to defer big league dreams in favor of a college education**

by Tom Davis

The Immaculata bells pealed last September, signaling the beginning of another school year for 4,968 USD students — and a dream deferred for Brian Matusz and Josh Romanski.

As Alcalá Park pulsed with the endless possibilities of a new semester, the freshmen who carried the future of USD baseball in their thunderbolt left arms seemed like most other students making their way through the knot of humanity on Plaza de San Diego.

Except these guys had escorts.

In all his years of coaching college ball, Rich Hill had never escorted a player to class, but he'd heard enough stories to feel uneasy about letting the cornerstones of the nation's 12th-rated recruiting class go it alone. He knew current stars like Shawn Green and Alex Rodriguez had signed contracts just hours before their first class, lured away by the dream of playing professional baseball.

Under baseball rules, no drafted player can sign a professional contract after he attends his first class at a four-year college. So when Matusz folded his angular 6-foot-4-inch frame behind a desk in his world history class, he went from being the Angels' fourth-round selection to the highest draft pick ever to attend USD. And the second Romanski scribbled his first note in his sociology class — poof! — the Padres'

15th-round pick was now a cannon-armed college baseball player, just like his father before him.

Time to forget about the majors and pick a major.

Although each of the pitchers turned down an eye-popping sum, opting to defer their ultimate dreams, neither is given to second-guessing himself.

"It would be different if I could have made the big league club," says Romanski, a pitcher and outfielder. "But I'd be in Class A or Rookie League if I'd signed. So, now I'm becoming better educated in all facets: school, life and baseball. To me, the minor league experience just doesn't equate to what I have here at USD."

"It's a good story for the future," Matusz says, of being the second-highest pick in the 2005 draft to end up on a Division I campus. "But it doesn't mean anything now because I have to go out there and prove I can compete at this higher level."

That won't be an easy task: To describe USD's 2006 schedule as competitive is like calling Carnegie Hall a nice room. The addition of quality arms like Matusz and Romanski fits nicely into Hill's "blueprint for success," a plan that calls for building around core groups of players, seasoned with experience in the WCC and in top summer leagues. Anchored by juniors



**Baseball players** Brian Matusz (left) and Josh Romanski came to USD even though they both were heavily courted by the pros.

Josh Butler, Shane Buschini, Steve Singleton and Jordan Abruzzo, Hill felt the Toreros were poised to handle an "insane" schedule.

The insanity began with a three-game series against Texas, the defending national champion. Romanski went 6-for-12 at the plate in that series, sparking the Toreros' first-ever three-game sweep of a No. 1 ranked team, earning Romanski WCC Player of the Week honors in the process.

The wins over Texas vaulted USD to the highest ranking in their Division I history. The Toreros stood 13th in the Collegiate Baseball Top-25 Poll when Matusz won his first start at UC Davis. USD had leapfrogged to eighth

nationally by the time he struck out 11 in a 3-1 loss at Georgia.

"You really have to hit your spots here or they'll make you pay," the lanky lefty reports. "Against Cal Poly we were losing 3-0 after the first three batters, but coming back from adversity was huge for me."

For his part, Coach Hill is pleased by the progress both have made. "These guys have shown a lot of guts to be thrown into the fire like this," he says. "Everything we do here is geared towards improvement, so we don't necessarily measure success by win-loss records or batting averages. We want to see how our players react under pressure and





SEAN MATERSON

how they handle failure. Both Brian and Josh have done that against arguably the toughest schedule in the country."

The amateur draft comes again in June, but it seems a world away for the pair. "That really isn't a part of our lives anymore," Romanski reports. "We're proud to be here and we're working on getting our team to the next level." That next level is the College World Series this June in Omaha, Neb.

"Everyone on the team has it set in their heads that we're going to Omaha this year," Matusz adds. "There's no doubt about it. We feel like we have the talent to do it and nothing is going to stop us."

Once their freshman season

ends, both are scheduled to play in the Cape Cod League, an elite summer league that counts nearly 200 current major leaguers as alumni. Hill also believes both have a shot at making America's junior national team before breaking the bank when they are draft-eligible again in 2008.

"I think a college education is worth millions over the course of your life," Hill says. "But history shows us that bonuses escalate, and bonuses for college pitchers can escalate 10 times. So, if these guys continue to improve they can both be multi-millionaires. Multi-millionaires with college degrees."

And you can take that to the bank. 🎯

[ different strokes ]

**INTENSITY SQUARED** Joan O'Hara has big plans for the women's rowing team. "I like to move in steps," she says. "The first would be to dominate the West Coast Conference, then to move on to a national level and be one of the top 20 in the country." Those goals are high, but they're fitting for a head coach who took over in August of 2004 and made such a quick difference that her efforts were rewarded with the WCC Coach of the Year title in 2005. She brought with her what she calls "a change in mindset" for the mostly walk-on rowers. "Our motto is, 'Practice like a champion,'" says O'Hara, who narrowly missed a slot in the 2000 Olympics. "The idea behind that is that you have to train with discipline and intensity in order to compete with discipline and intensity. So the practice is really the most important part — the every day training."



ERIC DROTTER

[to begin with]

## THAT PIONEER SPIRIT

**It's been 50 years since James Freed, the first graduate of the College for Men, received his diploma and made history**

**W**hen asked what he recalls most vividly about his days at USD, James Freed '56 doesn't hesitate before invoking the name of Bishop Charles F. Buddy. "He really was our buddy," Freed recalls. "He said Mass for us every morning. His office was at the chancery, and he lived on campus. He was always there if you needed him."

As first graduate of the College for Men, Freed holds a special place in the history of the university — especially this year, which marks the 50th anniversary of his graduation.

Transferring from St. Columban's Seminary in Milton, Mass., Freed came to campus as a senior in 1954. At that time, there were about 40 undergraduate men enrolled at USD, along with another 60 in the School of Law. "We were the stepchildren," he says with a laugh. "We went to


class across Linda Vista Road, where the University of San Diego High School used to be."

When looking back, he fondly recalls mingling with students at the College for Women. "I minored in bridge," he quips. "We'd always meet in the women's lounge and play cards." He's well aware that times have changed since those early days. "We weren't the Toreros then," he recalls. "We were the Pioneers."

Though an actual graduation ceremony wasn't held for the men until 1959, Freed returned to campus to formally receive his diploma. "They called us old-timers back, and we went through the whole ceremony," he says. "It was a big celebration."

After earning his undergraduate degree in philosophy, Freed was drafted and did his military service in Germany before returning to San Diego, where he'd lived since 1941. "I worked at Teledyne Ryan for 36 years," he explains. "Back then, the aerospace industry was San Diego's bread and butter."

He'll be 76 years old when his birthday comes this September, and Freed feels great. "I'm hale, fit and hearty!"

He looks back on his place in USD's history with a hint of solemnity: "The men's college blossomed and grew from humble beginnings to the great university we became. Bishop Buddy was a visionary." 



FRED GREAVES

[giving back]


## PASSING THE BUCKS

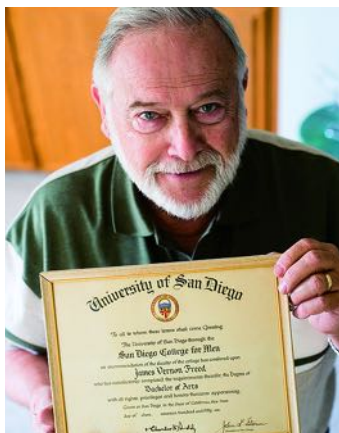
**Senior Class Legacy is a lasting gift by students, for students**

**A**s the Class of 2006 prepares to say good-bye to their undergraduate experiences, they have an opportunity to lend a hand to those remaining behind. For nearly two decades, seniors have pitched in toward their own Senior Class Legacy, a scholarship program "by students, for students."

Since 1989 each outgoing class has raised funds to benefit students who are still in the midst of their undergraduate years. This year, the Class of 2006 has a \$25,000 goal, with the funds intended to sponsor a scholarship for the incoming class of 2010.

Ideally, at least 250 seniors will pledge a gift of \$100 to the project over a four-year period.

Sam Attisha has a vested interest in the program's success; as president of the Associated Students in 1989, he was a member of the core group that started it all. "We wanted to keep our connection to USD," he explains. "Since we knew we couldn't give a lot, we came up with this idea of making gifts that would be payable over a certain number of years. We all came from different majors, and were heading off to different futures, but at the end of the day, we were all students at USD." 



FRED GREAVES

First male graduate James Freed '56.

# REUNIONS



**Oct. 6-8, 2006**  
Reconnect at  
Reunions Weekend



Call Alumni  
Relations  
(619) 260-4819  
[www.sandiego.edu/homecoming](http://www.sandiego.edu/homecoming)





[ e n d l e s s l o v e ]

## NOTHING BAD EVER HAPPENED TO ME

**When Sandy (Seaburg) Rowley '89 graduated, she expected her life to be perfectly normal. But things don't always work out the way you think they will.**

It's funny how unexpected changes in life can set you on a course into the unknown. It turns out that how you deal with those changes determines how your life will end up. Like many of today's graduating seniors, my life as a fourth-year in 1989 was full of endless opportunities; nothing bad had ever happened to me. I was in a sorority. I was a cheerleader. I wasn't rich, but that was fine. I loved the small classes and the beautiful campus. The cocoon of USD left me certain that I would continue on this road toward my own perfect life, or at the very least, a normal one.

After graduation, I got a good job and began my career. I soon met a great guy, got married, and gave birth to our first daughter, Paige. In 1997, we had another happy and healthy daughter named Laina. Things were wonderful; I'd kept most of my college friends, and they were getting married and having kids too. We were all in this together.

Everything was great until — between the ages of 2 and 3 — Laina started to lose speech and her fine motor skills decreased. When she gradually stopped talking, that was the first indication we had that something was wrong. Friends said that Paige was talking for her and the doctor said that this wasn't uncommon among younger siblings. But when Laina started getting the words "Mommy" and "Daddy" mixed up, that felt really wrong to us, and the doctors agreed.

After a year of searching for an answer — a search that included three neurologists, an MRI, an

EKG and several blood tests — we found out that Laina had Rett Syndrome. It is a neurological disorder on the autism spectrum that affects the X chromosome, and is seen almost exclusively in girls. I was distraught, to say the least. We found out that not only was she never going to speak again, but that she could lose her ability to walk, develop seizures, have repetitive hand movements and irregular breathing.

Rett Syndrome affects about one in every 20,000 female births in the United States. Nothing, not even a college degree from USD, could have prepared me to deal with this. For a time, nothing could break me from my despair. I kept asking, "Why me?" Just seeing other children younger than Laina talking and playing normally made me feel ill inside.

During that time, my husband and I tried everything we could possibly think of to try and "fix" our precious little girl. We tried prescription drugs, occupational therapy, physical therapy, speech therapy and a gluten-free/casein-free diet. We even tried unconventional therapies; in one, a doctor from India told me to rub the back of her neck in a circular motion and that in three months she would be fine. As much as I hate to admit it, I actually bought into that one. I was a desperate mom willing to believe anything, I suppose.

I don't think there was any one thing that helped me through that time. Certainly faith and a special needs support group helped, and there were some old friends from col-

lege who really stepped up to the plate and were there for us. But when I think about it, time is what has really healed me. That, and choosing to look at the situation differently.

My daughter's diagnosis was a life-changing experience for all of us, and my own life has turned out far different from what I expected when I graduated from USD. I finally decided that it didn't have to be all negative; I just needed to look at it in a different light.

Laina is 8 now and a beautiful little girl. She communicates in her own special way, and although she has many challenges to face, she is still one of the happiest kids I know. I don't know of any other child who will happily go in the car on errands, eat anything that you give her without complaining, give you hugs and kisses all day long, and never whine in a toy store. (The truth is, if she pays attention to a toy for longer than a minute, I buy it for her.)

We are going to enjoy every minute of her life, and have promised to provide her with a comfortable home and a life full of interesting adventures.

This child has taught me the meaning of unconditional love. The girls with Rett are nicknamed "silent angels." I'm very proud to say that I have one. 🌟

*To learn more about Rett Syndrome, go to the Web site of the International Rett Syndrome Association at [www.rettsyndrome.org](http://www.rettsyndrome.org).*

*To share your "Point of View," contact Julene Snyder for guidelines at (619) 260-4684 or e-mail [julene@sandiego.edu](mailto:julene@sandiego.edu).*





BY THOMAS LARSON

**S T A R K S**

photography by Fred Greaves

Lt. Cmdr. Lavencion Starks, who heads the Naval Medical Center San Diego's emergency room, spends most of his time behind a desk but he loves to lend a hand on the floor.

**Taking care of people is what Lt. Cmdr. Lavencion Starks loves best — and he's very, very good at it.**

[healing touch]

# THE PATIENT PERSON

**Elaine Allen, a 66-year-old retired Navy captain, is being wheeled into the emergency room at the Naval Medical Center San Diego.**

Her body and head are strapped to a backboard and her neck is collared; she blinks at the fluorescent ceiling lights whizzing by above her. It's not clear yet how serious her injuries are — 15 minutes ago, she was hit from behind by a driver doing 80 mph. Allen asked to be brought here because she's Navy and she knows the hospital's reputation. She's rushed into a curtained bay where a nurse leans over her and makes eye contact. He tells Allen that he's here to take care of her. She's frightened, disoriented. He says he knows how uncomfortable she must be with her head pinned. The nurse, an open-faced man with a satiny shaved head, says he and his team are going to move her: she may feel a jolt.

"Are you ready?"

She responds with a question. "You military or civilian?"

"Military."

"What's your rank?"

"I'm Lt. Cmdr. Starks, U.S. Navy, head of nursing."

"That's good," says Allen. "A lot of my Navy friends are nurses." She reaches her hand up to Starks' rubber-gloved hand, and he takes it. They squeeze, and he counts, "One, two, three." She's lifted from the paramedic's gurney onto an ER bed.

Soon Starks stands aside for Dr. John W. Love, one of two physicians on the floor today. Love begins the medical exam, telling Allen that he's concerned about internal bleeding, broken ribs, the pain in her back she's already noted. Allen is now relaxed and joking with the attendants; X-rays will later show her injuries are minor.

Providing this critical initial connection to patients is something Lavencion Starks would like to do more of. But his days bulge with duty; he's in charge of the emergency room's 35 nurses and 40 enlisted staff. He's also fresh out of the University of San Diego's graduate nursing program, with a master's in executive nurse leadership. Prior to that he served at the White House under President Clinton. As an executive, he chairs meetings, whiteboards the schedule and chooses who will be deployed to Iraq, his toughest call. All of that can be taxing. Which is why several times a month the 39-year-old loves to don turquoise scrubs and work a 12-hour shift. It's not only that he likes being reminded what "my people are going through." It's that administrating can drive him *loco*. "You might say getting out here to care for patients keeps me sane."

**To be a nurse and a male is not as incongruent to Starks as it may seem to some of us. The trade runs in his family. His mother, a single parent for several years, was a nurse in Chicago, where Starks was born and raised.**

"We didn't have a baby sitter, so when the pager went off, we'd get in the car and take off. I would travel with her to Cook County Hospital. I'd sleep on the gurneys in the hallways while she worked in surgery. Then, in the morning, if she was still busy, one of the nurses would take me to the cafeteria for breakfast, and if she was still busy, somebody would take me to school." He says the bond between nurses and their families is special. "It's the best part of the nursing culture."

At 15, Starks took advantage of one hospital's summer program and worked as an intern beside his mother. "I was an orderly, helping transport patients, empty bedpans, take bodies to the morgue." When he was trying to decide on a career when starting college, his mother put the nursing bee in his bonnet: "You'll always have a job," he recalls her saying. "You'll always be able to take care of yourself. It'll offer you diversity if you decide you want to go into anesthesia or the operating room; it offers you dynamics and range."

Central to his decision was the glowing example of his mother. "Doctors historically get all the credit," he says. "But I saw things from the nurse's perspective. My mother was my idol. I saw her in a position of authority, (having) a great deal of control. Wow! She was saving lives. I wanted to emulate that."

When he enrolled in the nursing program at Delaware State University, Starks was the only man in a class of 40 women. "I feel like I'm a pioneer in the field. The percentage of males has grown; that's a very good thing for the profession. But yes, then, I was a minority of minorities."

Rather than face gender discrimination as a nurse, Starks says that "many of the guys on campus were envious of me, being around women." The question Starks usually gets when people find out he's a nurse is, 'Didn't you want to be a doctor?' As if men would only see nursing as a rung on the ladder to physician. His answer is straightforward: "I've had no desire to be a physician. I like what I do. Nursing, because of my mother, is a very comfortable and natural position."

In 1989, during his senior year of college, the Navy recruited him. "They offered me the opportunity to come to California. I grew up in Chicago; I went to college on the East Coast. I was young. I wanted some adventure." He signed a three-year contract and was sent to officer training school. From there, he got his first command at Naval Medical Center San Diego, a facility that today employs 6,000 military and civilian personnel.

He first shipped out on the *USS New Orleans*, a small helicopter carrier ship. Duty also took him for eight months to Saudi Arabia and Kuwait during the Persian Gulf War. There, with a mobile medical group, he provided care to Marines. Starks is still struck by the daunting challenge of fighting a war on the other side of the globe. "America basically takes a big shovel, scoops up our armed services and transports them halfway around the world. They must sustain themselves with food, tents, vehicles, weapons, everything. My unit was attached to a major re-supply detachment that carried the beans, the bullets, the water, the fuel for the soldiers. As the fighting forces went forward, we were 20 miles behind them."

Starks' unit stabilized the wounded and sent them back to larger facilities. "Those injuries were nothing like the high-intensity combat injuries we're seeing now in Iraq," he says. "We did see limb injuries, and unfortunately, almost as many friendly fire incidents." He particularly

## Deciding which nurses to deploy to Iraq is one of the toughest decisions Starks has to make.

remembers the fear of massive casualties at the war's inception — and the widespread relief when doomsday scenarios failed to materialize. "For the first three days, people were saying, '3,000 casualties, man, it's going to be horrible.' But the Iraqis didn't want to fight. They were surrendering to everybody, even to medical people. We spent a lot of time feeding them, seeing to their malnutrition, dehydration and infections."

**In 1996, three years into his stint in the intensive care unit at the Naval Medical Center, Starks got word about an opening for a nurse at the White House. He fit the criteria, was selected as a finalist along with six others (3,000 applied), flew to Washington for interviews and landed the position. Starks worked for three years as part of a 20-person team in the Old Executive Office Building next door to the White House. He cared for President Clinton and Vice President Gore, as well as their families. When Clinton traveled abroad on Air Force One, Starks was sent ahead to survey hospitals and clinics where — in case of an emergency — his boss might have to go.**

In his office, three candid photos of Clinton and a beaming Starks line the wall. In one, Starks is cutting a cake on Air Force One and celebrating the end of his White House tenure. Clinton, Diet Coke in hand, is making Starks laugh. "He was commenting on not missing some of the exams we used to give him." Because of patient privacy, Starks can't share certain specifics, but he does recall President Clinton with affection.

"What I learned in the political arena is that generally there's a certain person you see when the camera and the lights are on, and there's a different person when the camera and the lights are off. Clinton was

always the same person. He was the kind who would walk through the aircraft and find the guy handling the trash and talk sports with him. I was a low-ranking military officer, and he still took time out to say, "Thank you very much for everything you do. I appreciate it." On his right shirt pocket, whether it's his khaki or bright white uniform, Starks wears a Presidential Support Badge, the seal of the president — an eagle whose talons grasp an olive branch and a cluster of arrows.

After his time at the White House, Starks was assigned for three years to a small U.S. base in Atsugi, Japan. He lived in the city and met his future wife; they now have a 2-year-old daughter. But then, in 2003, he decided that "for my professional growth, I needed a master's degree." Starks applied to the University of San Diego as part of a Navy program that would pay for his two-year grad-school education and continue his salary as long as he stayed in the Navy for four years following graduation. Fifty percent of the nurses in the program were men: "Times have changed."

Starks put on his civvies and spent his first year in class and writing papers. His second year was devoted to clinical work at hospitals in Escondido. On campus, he says, "I was a little lost. There's a different thought process for those of us who've been out on the grindstone." Then, he met two women who were major influences. Clinical professor Linda Urden was one of them. "She was the first one who helped me develop direction, tunnel my focus. She's an incredibly smart lady, a visionary."

Urden remembers Starks as having a "big-picture approach" to health-care systems. "He's inquisitive and questioning; he's very articulate, very well-read. He quickly synthesized information and came to conclusions."

From professor Jane Georges, Starks learned grant-writing, information-gathering and

the fundamentals of research. "I enjoyed her coursework the most. She showed me how to find the science behind any particular problem in health care for which you need money to solve."

Starks beams, recalling the school's *esprit de corps*. "I loved it," he says. "It was an incredible, remarkable, wonderful experience. I was always happy on that campus. It's beautiful. If anyone wants to provide Lt. Cmdr. Starks a scholarship so he can get his Ph.D.," he jokes, "he'd be more than happy to take them up on it."

Doctorate or no, he's delighted to be working at the Naval Medical Center again. Nursing will always demand long hours and emotional strain. He's got to be ready, he says — reviving a shipboard metaphor — for "whatever falls on the deck plates." But to continue to be stationed in San Diego? "I'll sign any contract."

**In January, Starks chose four nurses from his staff for deployment to Iraq. He's sent others before, but this group is new to war. He says it's always a tough decision. "I won't send a brand-new nurse. But I will make sure they have the skill sets and the experience to do the job." How did they take the news? "They know they may have to go to war when they sign up," Starks says. "They will be forward deployed, which means wherever the Marines are — even on the front lines — that's where they'll go."**

About the conflict, Starks says, "I look at CNN just as you do. You could be driving down the street in a Humvee and be hit by a roadside bomb, or they could lob missiles into the chow halls. Everyone is at risk."

Back in the ER, Starks is assessing a procedural change he has just





**Starks says that getting out on the floor and interacting with patients keeps him sane.**

implemented. One day last October, every ER in San Diego was overwhelmed. Full moon or freakish fate, all day long the waiting room at the Naval Medical Center was clogged. Ambulances arrived hourly.

"It was a hospital traffic jam," Starks recalls. "In America, people want high-quality health care, and they want it right away. We had to make changes." Starks focused on triage time. "There's no reason we shouldn't be getting to patients in the first five minutes."

It's later in the day now, when the critical-care volume picks up. A boy with a bruised face goes by in a wheelchair. At the bedside of a sleeping woman, a soldier in camouflage and tall black boots stares at a monitor, its electro-luminescent waveforms tracking to the right. The manic pulse of television's "ER" is rare, though it does happen. Most

people who come through the door need non-urgent care. But that doesn't keep Starks from innovating: "You never know when we're going to be bursting at the seams again. I want my people to make quicker decisions."

In the waiting room, a big sigh comes from a frazzled, bed-headed man in a T-shirt, shorts and sandals, his legs ghostly white. It's a sigh of relief: a corpsman is cradling his arm and pumping up the blood pressure cuff.

Soon, the man is on his feet and shuffling into the ER, holding out an elbow for Starks, who, taking it, greets him. "Good afternoon, sir."

His touch is gentle, affirming.

"You a doctor?"

"No sir. I am a nurse." 🏥



BY KELLY KNUFKEN

T O W N S E N D

photography by Brendan Smialowski

Frances Fragos Townsend speaks to the press outside the White House, alongside Secretary of Homeland Security Michael Chertoff (center) and U.S. Secretary of Health and Human Services Michael Leavitt (left).

**No-nonsense style helps Frances Fragos Townsend get the job done.**

[defender]

# THE TOUGH COOKIE

**It was Christmas 2003 and Frances Fragos Townsend was worrying. Anxious. She wasn't alone. All of America was on edge. Every day** dawned with unease: Would this be the day terrorists picked to attack us again? But that weighty dread wasn't Townsend's only concern. Tomorrow was Christmas Day, and Condoleezza Rice — then national security adviser and Townsend's boss at the time — had just asked President George W. Bush via videoconference what time he wanted his morning briefing.

Townsend braced herself, but could say nothing. How could she leave her kids on Christmas morning? She waited for the bad news. Rice waited. Finally, the president responded. "I want to be briefed after the Townsend children open their Christmas presents."

"Sure enough, the president of the United States got his briefing after I had Christmas morning with my kids," she recalls.

This is the life of Fran Townsend '84 (J.D.), now assistant to the president for homeland security and counterterrorism. She has a family. She also has a responsibility to serve the country and the president. "I take the job very seriously," she says. While the power level of her duties may be high, the ceilings are low in her West Wing office, just 6-and-a-half feet. That makes the huge 3-foot by 4-foot image of the mountain of debris containing what had been the World Trade Center at New York's Ground Zero all the more imposing. It's an emotional gut-punch that provokes comment from every visitor.

The aftermath of 9/11 has transformed Townsend's world view. "I know very well that our enemies not only want to attack us, but plan to attack us," she says. "I worry about that every day. I do think I see the world differently. Part of my job is to worry and ask, 'Are we doing everything we can so the American public can go about their day without it having to be a constant worry?'"


Townsend is well aware that she's viewed as hard-charging, independent and focused. "Do I think people would describe me as very intense and committed to the mission? Yes. I take that as a compliment," she says. Her reputation as being smart and tough no doubt helped earn her a spot on a White House team that tends to choose staffers who are known quantities. At a time when the country is extremely divided over its leadership, Townsend has gained the trust of Bush, even though she served a role in the Justice Department during the Clinton Administration, where she had the ear of Janet Reno. It's a shift seen as somewhat remarkable.

"It's funny because I came to the White House as a career public servant. And at this level that's unusual," she admits. "Most people who've been part of the president's team have either a personal or a political relationship with him. I came here a different way."

Briefing the president carries a certain level of intimidation. "You realize how important it is when you walk in there to be well prepared, and make sure you're giving him only those facts you know are accurate," she says. "Every time you go in, you feel the burden of responsibility and an enormous sense of pride when you feel you've served him well." She says that Bush is "enormously empowering" of his staff, with high expectations for every assignment. Indeed, he tapped Townsend to lead the inquiry into the federal government's response to Hurricane Katrina, which was widely deemed inadequate. "The report focuses on what steps we can take at the policy level and where improvements can be made to help us be more prepared in advance and more efficient in response — for natural disaster or terrorist attacks," she says.

But while she says the effort expended by the federal government "wasn't enough," she did observe "extraordinary lessons of courage and compassion" in the aftermath of the disaster. She notes the Coast Guard — where she once served as assistant commander for intelligence — saved more than 30,000 lives, and she admires the faith-based groups and private citizens who put themselves in danger to help others.

With responsibilities like the Katrina inquiry, it's not surprising that Townsend's job comes with long and unpredictable hours. Consequently, her husband and two sons are called upon to be extremely supportive. "The burden placed upon them and the sacrifices they make for the country — I couldn't do it without that." The other person who helps her achieve a home life and a White House life is perhaps an unlikely character. "When I hired my nanny, of course I wanted her to be loving and keep my children safe," she says. "The fact is, she's as much a mother to me as she is to my children."

Townsend is struck by the unlikelihood of her own road to the White House. "Nobody could have been more surprised than me by the opportunity." After all, she was the first person in her family to graduate high school, and had to take out loans to pay for her graduate school tuition at USD. "I've always taken particular pride that I attended a Catholic university." She plans to express that pride by speaking at the School of Law commencement ceremony on May 27. These days, her 4-year-old son, Patrick, wants to be president when he grows up. A lofty goal, but Townsend was almost sorry when she asked him why. "Because then we'll get to be together all the time," he told his mom. The comment "took my breath away," she says. But Townsend remains committed to the mission. After all, she's from New York and lost a good friend in the World Trade Center on that terrible day in 2001. "This job," she says, "is really an opportunity to give back." 



BY KELLY KNUFKEN

**D R I N A N**

photography by Tim Mantoani

When the talk turns to political science, Patrick Drinan leans back, puts his feet on his desk and settles into conversation. He talks politics with his wife for a few hours every day, even on vacation.

**Patrick Drinan's passions range from academic integrity to politics and beyond.**

[poli-sci guy]

# THE ROLE MODEL

**He's proud of the faculty he's built. He's proud that the Donald P. Shiley Center for Science and Technology was built under his watch.**

He's proud of USD's advances in academic integrity. And he's proud of his filing system.

Huh? Well, outgoing College of Arts and Sciences Dean Patrick Drinan's filing system may not be in the same lofty category as his other achievements, but it's impressive nonetheless.

"One of my passions is information," Drinan says. "I have one of the best filing systems on campus. Sister Furay, for years the provost, used to come down here when she'd lose things. And she was pretty darned good about that kind of thing."

With a filing system that's numbered and cataloged and meticulously ordered — his most current curricula vitae can be found right where it belongs, in the file marked 7.01 — all the information he's gathered since becoming dean in 1989 is at his fingertips.

Now, after a 16-year stint, Drinan has decided to leave the dean's position at the end of the spring semester, though he'll teach at USD as a full-time professor. "Whether he is the dean or not, Dr. Drinan will remain one of the important leaders of this university," says USD President Mary Lyons. "Among the most significant legacies of Dean Drinan's leadership is the quality of faculty he hired during his tenure."

It's also one of Drinan's proudest accomplishments. He took the number of tenure-track faculty from about 115 when he started, to some 190 — 130 of whom he hired — by the fall of 2005.

And along the way, he's kept the liberal arts character of the college front and center, while seeking "excellent faculty who know that most of their career success is going to come from teaching undergraduates successfully." At the same time, he brought the average teaching load down from 24 units annually to 18 units now. "That gives faculty time to pursue excellence in both teaching and research," Drinan says.

He may have well-developed ideas about the importance of a strong faculty, but it doesn't take long to discover Drinan's true passion. It's when he starts talking political science that he puts his foot up on his desk and settles into the conversation. He reads four newspapers a day and talks politics with his wife, Mary Ann, also a political scientist, a few hours "every single day, even on vacation," he enthuses.

He's made a point of keeping his hand in the classroom by teaching a course a year as dean, usually an international relations seminar. "It keeps me abreast of the entire field of international politics. I love teaching it. It's analytical, historical." When it comes to how USD history will look at his years here, the completion of the Donald P. Shiley Center for Science and Technology is likely his splashiest achievement. The feat took "a lot of time and a lot of people working on it together."

Among his many accomplishments, he points to increasing faculty diversity, earning Phi Beta Kappa status, strengthening academic integrity and developing a Master of Fine Arts program that has earned a national reputation among his successes. And he strongly believes that the school is strengthened by an increased discourse about the Catholic identity of USD.

But now he's reinventing his role on campus. He says that the culmination of several long projects — including the general education renewal, the completion of the Donald P. Shiley Center for Science and Technology and Camino Hall's renovations of art studios and classroom space — helped him realize it was time to move on.

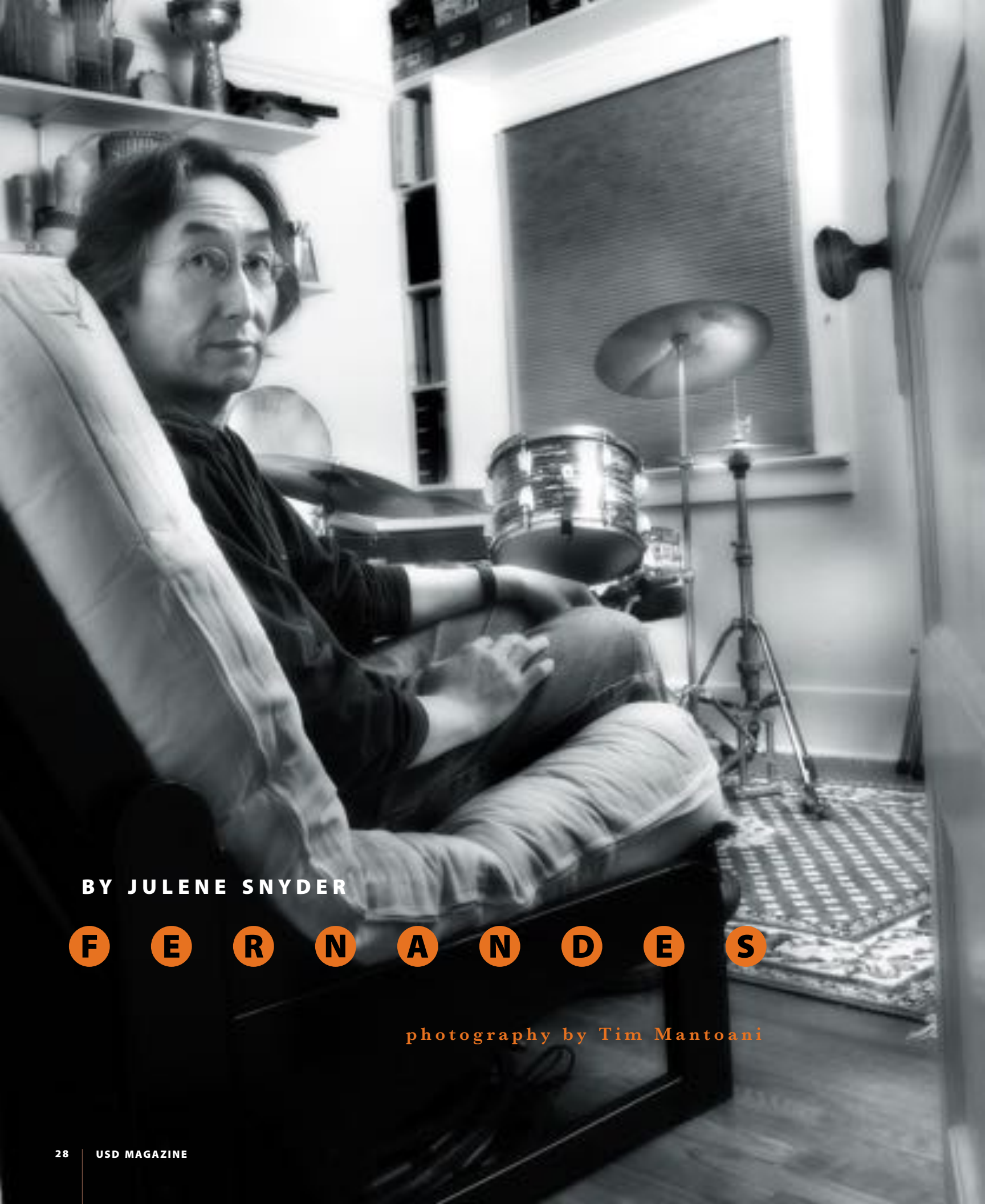
Besides, he didn't want to find himself staying in the same post for too long. "The college needed new blood," he says. "My successor is going to be a marvelous dean. He's a fine man." That fine man is Nicholas Healy, previously associate dean at St. John's College of Liberal Arts and Sciences in New York, who is scheduled to start July 1.

When he thinks about his own legacy, Drinan comes back to his work as a political scientist. "I really like to think about the political culture in the very best sense of the term," he says. "I'm not one of these people who wants to lead by surprise or be unpredictable. I like to court predictability. You should expect people to do their best. You have to model that for others."

But the truth is that there will be some poignancy in vacating the dean's office. "When you leave a position like this, you miss the dedicated staff. We've built a great staff here. It's hard to think of doing something else. It's the people you're going to miss more than anything."

That said, he's looking forward to having more time to spend with his seven grandchildren and to getting back to teaching full time before taking a sabbatical next spring. One project he's planning to dig into is his research into the organization Opus Dei's relationship to the democratization of Spain. With the attention *The DaVinci Code* has drawn to Opus Dei, Drinan finds himself in demand on the lecture circuit.

"I'm having a lot of fun with that," he says. "The intellectual life ought to be playful. You ought to work hard — and it ought to be playful and enjoyable." 📍



BY JULENE SNYDER

F E R N A N D E S

photography by Tim Mantoani

**What a long, increasingly strange trip it's been for musical innovator Marcos Fernandes.**

[free bird]

# THE BOUNDARY BUSTER

**It's a safe bet that when Marcos Fernandes gets into a groove on stage — say at last December's "Festival Beyond Innocence," in Osaka, Japan — no one in the audience yells out, "Free Bird!"** This is a good thing: When you're a solo-improviser/sound artist/percussionist who's built a career out of exploring the outer limits of the experimental music scene, you're pretty much past dealing with exhortations by audience members to rock out. Of course, Fernandes wasn't born yearning to break musical boundaries. That part came later. But as a child he did revel in the joy of the jam, especially when it came to watching his extended family get together, break out the instruments and play together into the wee hours.

"It was before home entertainment," he says. "I'd watch them get together, get drunk, have a good time. I miss those days." Born in Yokohama, Japan, Fernandes — the son of a Portuguese/Japanese father and a Japanese mother — started taking drum lessons at age 12, then formed a band with his parochial school classmates. After high school, Fernandes told his dad that he wanted to hit the road and play music. Not surprisingly, that wasn't seen as a viable career choice. "He told me, 'No, you're going to college.'" So the teen left Japan to attend USD, where he started out as a biology major.

"I thought I'd save the seals," he says. "But it turned out I had a little problem with math. Also chemistry." So he switched his major to literature, and immediately started having more fun. "I started meeting other musicians. We'd play at parties, do a little jazz, some Grateful Dead." Any "Free Bird?" "Sure, we played that song," he admits, perhaps just a bit sheepish. "We played casual gigs, you know, like weddings, bar mitzvahs."

And his education in the avant-garde jumped into high gear. "I was heavily into progressive rock back then. King Crimson, Tangerine Dream. Then I got exposed to a lot of 20th-century music, stuff like Stravinsky, John Cage. That just opened up a whole different world for me."

By his junior year, he felt like his education was really starting to gel. "It all came together. My interest in drama, art, music, it was all on a parallel track. I got a good historical perspective on all of this stuff. It started to make sense to me." He also got involved with the drama department, playing in the pit orchestra and doing theatrical lighting for plays on campus.

When he graduated in 1978, Fernandes was more into music than ever, and played in a variety of different bands. One of them was with fellow USD alumnus Scott Himmelstein, who's now California's deputy secretary of education. "We'd play rock, new wave, some blues," Fernandes recalls. In the mid-'80s, he hooked up with the players in the worldbeat band Burning Bridges. It was that group that provided the impetus to take him to the next level: founding an artist-based independent record label.

Not that it was wholly a noble cause, at least at first. "Of course, I founded Accretions so we could release our own stuff," he explains. "While there were some people in the band who had notions of being discovered, I was already in indie-mode. Getting signed wasn't a priority for me. I wanted to do it myself." Meanwhile, he served as curator/concert promoter for San Diego's now-defunct Wikiup Cafe and Intersection Gallery, which gave him access to the very few local experimental musicians and artists he hadn't met yet. When he decided to release a solo CD by multi-instrumentalist Marcelo Radulovich in 1994, in Fernandes' mind, "that made the label official. Putting out Marcelo's record made us a real label, and not just a vehicle for our own stuff."

His involvement with the Wikiup whetted his appetite for boundary pushing even more. "I'd been immersed in world music for so long," he recalls. "But the Wikiup opened me up to non-commercial, non-mainstream fringe art. I was happy to go back to it, especially after 10 years of world music; now there was this whole different language that I'd acquired."

Fernandes formed the Trummerflora collective in 2000 as a way to hook up with other musicians who shared a similar sensibility. "We had a mission statement: To produce, promote and help distribute improvised or experimental music in Southern California." The players involved were disparate in origin: "Some were academics, some had a rock background, some played jazz, there were new music composition-type people. But the collective really focused our energy: A lot of music was made, we got a lot of gigs and got connected with all sorts of organizations and festivals."

So what kind of music does Fernandes make, exactly?

Well ... that's a little difficult to describe. Short answer: Whatever kind of music he feels like playing at the time.

"Some musicians have a hard time playing this sort of thing," he explains. "When there's no rhythm, no tempo, no parameters, no beat to follow ..." his voice trails off. "It's all about listening, really. Making split-second decisions. There's a collective consciousness that happens when you're improvising with a room full of people. You can tell when they're there, really there, with you."

He leans back, satisfied. "That's what I enjoy most. Being in that moment." And as far as the path he's chosen? "If I'd have known as a teen-ager that you could go to a college and study the kind of music I actually liked, I may have become a music major." He laughs out loud. "And then I probably would have wound up an accountant." 🎸



BY JULENE SNYDER

**S C H W A B**

photography by Tim Mantoani

A conservative estimate of the number of parties Margo Schwab attended in the 1990s would certainly number in the thousands; in those days, she'd go to 10 to 15 parties a week.



**Everybody who's anybody knows Margo Schwab, chronicler of San Diego's upper crust.**

[fabulosity]

# THE SOCIAL REGISTRAR

**Which former football-player-turned-TV-game-analyst is a total flirt with the ladies? What almost-certain baseball Hall of Famer is so shy he can barely make eye contact? Which Academy-Award winning leading man is even nicer in person than the highly principled characters he built a career out of playing? Margo Schwab knows all this and much, much more. You see, a conservative estimate of the number of parties she attended in the 1990s alone would run in the thousands.**

"In those days, I would go to 10 to 15 events a week. It was TMP!" She answers the unspoken question. "Too Much Party." Though she's toned down that once-frantic pace — focusing these days on parties "for a good reason," such as benefits and fundraisers — Schwab still keeps a social schedule that would exhaust mere mortals. There are luncheons and dinners, charity events and athletic competitions, all vying for her attention and that of her online social diary, a popular chronicle of soirees, shindigs and happenings among San Diego's most prominent citizens. Oh yes, and there's also surfing to be done.

"I went to a luncheon last week with my hair still wet," she says with an infectious laugh. "I just pulled it back into a ponytail. It's important to keep things simple. I don't want to spend all of my time having my hair done."

Since it's mid-afternoon in the middle of the week, there are few patrons in the La Jolla Beach and Tennis Club dining room. Schwab is dressed down; long platinum hair is pulled back in a tangle under a Mercedes Benz baseball cap, faded jeans are tucked into pale pink Ugg boots, oversized leather jacket is flung over the back of the chair next to her. Her body language suggests that there is absolutely nowhere in the world that she'd rather be than right here, right now, talking, laughing and sipping a non-alcoholic beer while the sun starts its evening descent into the ocean.

Born in Claremont, Calif., Schwab earned her undergraduate degree at Scripps College, and went on to pursue an M.B.A. at USD, which she earned in 1987. "I loved it," she says of her days at USD. "What's not to love?" During a trip to Kenya as an undergraduate, Schwab discovered that she had a passion for photography. Before long, a friend asked her to snap some photos at a party, and she found herself shooting a different breed of animal. "People are a lot like wildlife," she says, deadpan. "They hunt, they prey on one another. I love to observe them in their natural habitat."

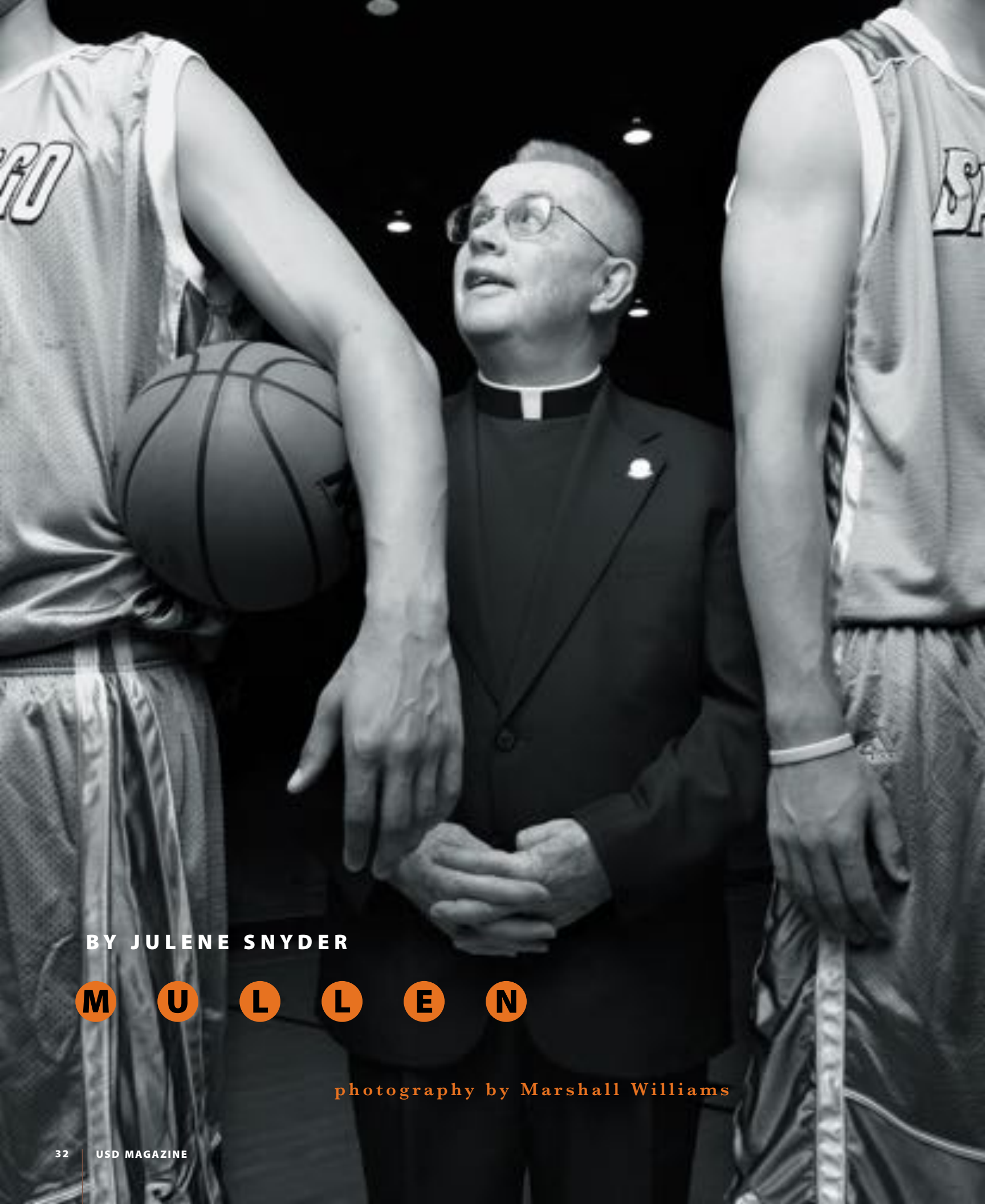
From there, it was writing stories and taking photos for all sorts of publications. Among them were the *La Jolla Village News*, *San Diego Woman*, the *Voice of San Diego* and the *La Jolla Light*. Not surprisingly, she has lots of stories about the rich and famous: "Junior Seau told his friends to be careful what they say to me," she says with a deep chuckle. "Because I just might print it." Schwab's quick wit is likely a refreshing change to celebrities used to people walking on eggshells while in their presence. "When I met Kim Basinger, I told her that every time I saw her she reminded me of my first marriage." Pause. "Nine-and-a-half-weeks."

To call Schwab's path eclectic is an understatement. Along with writing and photography, she's done modeling (magazine and runway), been an actress on TV and film ("I was one of David Hasselhoff's 500 girlfriends on 'Baywatch,'" she confesses) and given private surf lessons. Though her hectic social life has slowed down, it's a deliberate choice. "I used to do everything. I'd hit five events on a Saturday night. Now, I take it easier." Why? "Well, for one thing, I have a great husband, who I like to be alone with sometimes." While his vocation as a police officer might seem incongruous, the way she was introduced to future spouse Scott Johnston is not: Naturally, their eyes first met at a dinner party.

Even though she's slowed the pace a bit, Schwab has gathered enough stories to dine out on for years, and of course, the perks are fabulous. For example, she was a passenger on *San Diego Union-Tribune* head David Copley's private Gulfstream plane one year when she was his guest for the "Fire & Ice Ball" in Los Angeles. "I felt like a princess," she says, beaming. When asked what makes her good at what she does, Schwab doesn't hesitate. "I like people. I'm entertained by them, and find them all really interesting." She smiles. "And of course, I know how to have fun. I enjoy the party."

As for what comes next? Well, there's the constant updating of her online social diary, of course. "I'm enlisting other writers," she confides. "They're priceless. And I want to grow and organize the site better, maybe add video." Oh yes, and there's the possibility of a TV reality show starring Margo Schwab. She's also working on a novel. "Semi-fictional," she says. "I'll have to run it by an attorney." Though the book's working title is "Shhhhhhhh," it's a safe bet she'll spill at least a few bits of juicy gossip, even if legal counsel does end up advising that she change names and identifying details of those involved.

The sky is aflame; clouds of pink and gold wisp across the horizon. Schwab takes in the view and sighs with pleasure. When pressed to reveal what might surprise people about her, she answers without hesitation. "I know that I appear to be very happy-go-lucky, but I really do value strong values. It's important to be kind, to do some good, to have a base of integrity. I do aspire to that." 🍷



BY JULENE SNYDER

M U L L E N

photography by Marshall Williams

**After a 15-year absence, Father Owen Mullen is back on campus and busier than ever.**

[cool cleric]

# THE GOOD GUY

**The sheer heft of the mountains of food borders on the comical. Piles of chicken, mounds of fries, bulging burritos, overstuffed sandwiches, wobbly pyramids of hard-boiled eggs, hearty salads and — just in case — bananas, apples and cookies.**

It's noon and the "lunch bunch" is in full effect. Nearly a dozen hungry young men have pulled a few tables together in the Main Dining area of the University Center, where they're methodically turning plates loaded with chow into boundless bursts of energy. Judging by their clean plates when they're (finally) done eating, they might just make it to dinnertime without fainting dead away from hunger.

In the midst of the fray sits Father Owen Mullen. A fixture on campus throughout the '80s, Mullen is back, doing what he does best: listening, laughing, advising and providing a breathing example of what a life lived in service and honor looks like. While his plate is more modestly filled than those of the students who surround him, he is most definitely in the center of the action.

"Hey Father! If we'd won the games we lost, it would have been a great season!" The table erupts with laughter. While this particular group is made up of members of the Beta Theta Pi fraternity, which Mullen advises, he tends to hop from table to table during the lunch hour. It's the only way he can be sure of touching base with all the students he knows. But for now, he's here with the Betas, and the priest is giving them his full attention.

You'd think keeping up with the myriad student groups he's involved with would be a nightmare of logistical planning, but in truth, the priest has hit upon a guaranteed way to make himself available: hanging out near the all-you-can-eat food at lunchtime. Works like a charm. "It's fairly spontaneous," explains Mullen. "It just works out. Some days I sit with the football players, sometimes these guys, it just depends on my schedule."

While his demeanor suggests he has all the time in the world, there'll be little room for lollygagging once the students scatter to class. After all, being the spiritual adviser to not just the fraternity, but the football, basketball, baseball and lacrosse teams is enough to keep any one person hopping. But Mullen also has writing to do — he hones his homilies and team prayers until they gleam — and he presides over Mass several times a week, as well as ministering to an entire San Diego police division in his nonexistent spare time.

"Yeah, and he's a colonel," says ROTC member Burns, a soon-to-be Naval officer. "When I need advice, he understands, because he's been there, done that." He goes on to explain that he also relies on Mullen to pull strings when it counts: "He'll put in a good word for me, not just with command, but with God."

Mullen's barely touched the food on his plate, but he looks satisfied. Though not a tall man — in fact, the students tend to tower above him — he's got the comfortable calmness of someone who's at home in his skin. As one student heads out for class, another pulls up a chair.

"Hey, Father, what's the bracelet?" asks the newcomer.

The priest pulls up his sleeve and reveals a Torero blue circlet of rubber. "I was the first one to get one at the baseball game the other day," he says with a grin. "It says, 'No Excuses. Play Like a Champion.'" Everyone nods in agreement. That's not just a slogan to this group of fraternity brothers. It's a way of life.

**To hear Father Mullen tell it, when it came time to buckle down and hit the books, there was no substitute for a Catholic education.**

Barely into his teens, he lobbied his parents to send him to the La Salle Institute, an all-male Catholic military day school near his boyhood home in Troy, N.Y. He looks back on his experiences there as pivotal in shaping his life's work.

"The Christian Brothers pushed me to do things I wouldn't have done otherwise," he recalls. "And that made me want to do the same thing for others down the road." He continued his studies at Maryland's Mount St. Mary's College, where he went into the seminary and stayed on for the next eight years, studying theology and earning his degree. He ultimately was ordained for the Diocese of Wilmington, Del., and assigned to a parish in 1964. That's when he began to realize that his true calling was in education. He subsequently earned a master's degree in educational psychology from Villanova University so that he could counsel young people.

But the tumultuous times sparked his own sense of patriotism. "It was during Vietnam, and I'd thought about going into active duty military," Mullen recalls. "But the Bishop would only give me permission to go into the Delaware National Guard, so that's what I did." It wasn't an easy time to wear a uniform, but easy has never held any kind of allure for Owen Mullen.

Along with his Guard service, he continued working with high school students until 1979, filling just about every possible role: principal, guidance counselor, athletic director, coach, you name it. A bit of an overachiever, Mullen added another role to his overstuffed resumé when he transferred into the U.S.

Army Reserve. There, he was assigned to the admissions area of West Point. It's an institution he admires greatly; so much so that for more than 25 years, he's spent a month out of every summer there, counseling groups of raw cadets as they go through the grueling days of basic training.

"I just help them handle their stress and try to be their friend," he explains. "The upperclassmen treat them like new soldiers. They are not their buddies, not by any means. The whole point is to break them down so they can be built back up as a team."

And when Father Owen Mullen talks about the importance of teamwork, you can tell he means it.

**When he first arrived at USD over two decades ago, his first impression was of overwhelming beauty. But more important, Mullen says that he immediately sensed the "close cohesiveness between the faculty and students."** Hired in 1981 as the graduate and law school chaplain, it wasn't long before he was back on the field, counseling football players.

"I was not an outstanding athlete myself," he says, with a shy smile. "But I love football. There's so much emphasis on team, on working together, achieving a goal, paying a price to meet those goals." Of course there are parallels elsewhere in his life.

"In the Army, you have to establish a close-knit unit. You rely on the person next to you. Athletics simulates that." A fixture at most athletic events during the '80s, Mullen has touched the lives of untold numbers of USD students over the years.

"He had an outstanding relationship with the players," recalls USD Director of Athletic Development and former Toreros football coach Brian Fogarty, who used to room with Mullen during trips to away

**"I love football. There's so much emphasis on team, on working together, on paying a price to meet those goals."**

games during the '80s. "Even today, when they see him in the stands at a Torero game, alumni always make a point of seeking him out and talking to him."

Besides his close connection with current and former students, Mullen is memorable to alumni as the Harley-Davidson riding priest. Though it's what many mention first when they talk about him, he tends to downplay the notion that there's anything remarkable about his preferred mode of transportation, these days a pearl-white Heritage Softail. In fact, he's reluctant to assign any significance whatsoever to any of the several Harley motorcycles he's ridden over the years. After all, it's not what's important about him.

"People always get a kick out of the Harley," says Fogarty. "That's the first thing they remember about him. But what's really striking is how concerned he always is about whether he's doing a good job. Did he give good prayers? Did his homilies inspire the players?" He pauses, then laughs. "And the answer is always yes. He's had outstanding relationships with the players over the years. He does exactly what he's

there for: He provides that Catholic side to our student-athletes."

After giving it his all for eight years on campus, Mullen took a full-time position at West Point in late 1989. He loved his time there, at least partly because of his continuing work with the student athletes. In conversation, it's clear that the discipline it takes to succeed — whether on the playing field, on the military training ground or in the priesthood itself — is a key theme of his life. Faith, duty and honor are Father Mullen's touchstones.

Transferred to Oahu, Hawaii, he served as senior chaplain at Scofield Barracks before deciding to retire at the rank of colonel to take over the parish and school of a church in Honolulu. It was paradise, but when Father Peter McGuire '85 contacted him in 2003 to see if Mullen was interested in coming back to USD, the answer was an emphatic yes.

And since returning to his old stomping grounds in the summer of 2004, he's busy as ever, unfazed by the toll of passing years, still enthusiastic about the mission of the university. "There's been very little change since I was here in the '80s," Mullen says. "The campus is more beautiful than ever, but the actual character of the school hasn't changed at all."

The priest is as excited about the opportunities provided by a Catholic education today as he was as a knowledge-hungry teen. "All of our students know they're getting a solid education. I have never heard a single student make a negative comment about the professors or their classes"

**Though it's a safe bet that he doesn't spend much time there,** Mullen's office provides a glimpse of a life lived in service. The walls are sprinkled with photos of outstanding career moments. There are the photos of him with presidents George W. Bush and Bill Clinton.

There's a snapshot of him shaking hands with the Honolulu police chief. There's a picture of a much-younger Mullen on the field with a football player in the '80s. "That was Parents' Day," he recalls. "He had no father, so I told him I'd be there for him." And tucked on a shelf, there's a scale replica of a turquoise Harley-Davidson Heritage Softail.

Mullen is unfailingly polite, but his eyes keep straying to his watch. He's got to meet up with the guys from the baseball team before they head out to the weekend's away games. Though Mullen's other duties keep him from traveling with the team — after all, there are a whole lot of away games in a given baseball season — he does join the football and basketball teams when they hit the road.

"I do a private Mass for the football players a few hours before each game," he explains. "I try to keep it ecumenical enough so that it won't offend non-Catholics." The themes of these sermons echo the values that Mullen has spent a lifetime celebrating: achievement, doing one's best, standing up for your beliefs.

"The groups I'm involved with are inspiring," he says, blue eyes gleaming. "These students have not lost appreciation for their families and the others who care about them. They can tell if you mean it. You can't fake genuine caring."

Several days a week, at noontime in Founders Chapel, Mullen celebrates Mass. His voice seems more sonorous from the altar, his stature taller in long red vestments, his attention focused on the familiar rites. The theme of his homily on this particular day is a reflection on wealth,



**In the '80s, Mullen was well-known as the Harley-riding priest. While he keeps a lower profile these days, he still enjoys riding his bike.**

and whether it's possible to be simultaneously affluent and virtuous. "Wealth often accumulates as a means to a pleasurable life," he muses. "Though it's easy to equate happiness with pleasure, the two are closer to antonyms than synonyms." He pauses and looks directly at the congregants seated before him. "Remember that pleasure is transitory. Happiness is a more enduring peace."

When the service ends, emerging from the dim light of the chapel into the sunlit day is a revelation. It seems likely that more than one blinking attendee will spend the afternoon pondering their own quests for lasting happiness.

Given that his devotion to students shows in every aspect of his work, it's only fitting that they reciprocate, in spades. Back at the lunch

table, the guys can't say enough good things about him.

"Father Mullen has had more of an influence on the students than anyone else on campus." In between bites, senior Mark Kondrat is emphatic. "I look forward to hearing him say Mass. Some homilies are kind of long and drawn out, but Father Mullen throws in some humor."

Fellow lunchtime regular Joe Burns is eager to put in his own 2 cents. "We have never had a more dedicated adviser. He's been a friend and mentor to all of us. If you asked anyone in the fraternity, they would all point to him as the person who made the biggest impact."

Mullen, busy bantering with the lacrosse players who just joined the table, misses the accolades.

No matter. He probably already knows. 🏠





TIM MANTOANI

Baghdad was like before she fled. Certainly there was war, but she also recalls times of relative peace. Girls had a 98 percent literacy rate. Women were artists, singers, politicians. Women working in government jobs earned salaries equal to men in the same positions. And women weren't afraid.

"Before, women could walk through the streets of Baghdad in the middle of the night and not worry," George says. "Now they're afraid to go out unless they're covered and escorted by a male companion."

George knew her country changed after she left it, but she realized just how much last summer, when she returned to celebrate her engagement to Alaa Hanna. During her two-month visit, bombings were a near daily occurrence. The day of her engagement party, a suicide bomber targeted the exact spot where her fiance's car had been parked. The day after the engagement party, a suicide bomber struck her aunt's neighborhood.

"I didn't recognize my country; it wasn't the country I'd left behind," George says. "Every day I heard reports of people who were killed on the side of the road. Dead bodies were always floating in the Tigris River. My country is in ruins and I say it with the deepest regret."

Since the seventh century, when Islam spread to Iraq, George says the relationship between the Shiites and Sunnis, who practice two different branches of Islam, has been tenuous. Over the centuries, whatever bond they managed to form was easily broken by outsiders.

"It's become a vicious cycle," George says. "We need to stop accusing each other of past betrayals. We need to make that relationship stronger so we don't need British mandates or American occupation to help us replace an oppressive regime. It will take years to heal old wounds, but I believe it's possible." 🙏

independent so they can balance a government that, right now, has been taken over by men."

George, the daughter of an accountant who worked for the ministry of agriculture under Saddam Hussein's regime, says her family was granted political asylum and arrived in Tennessee in 1992. But the U.N. sanctions against Iraq left people desperate for food, clean water and medical supplies. When she arrived in the U.S., George was a waif at 75 pounds, mostly because of the stress of war.

Although she's lived half of her life in the United States, George has memories of what life in

## 1950s

[ 1957 ]

**KATHLEEN (GRENNAN) WILLIAMS (B.A., M.ED. '66)** is retired. She is busy caring for her sick husband who was in and out of the hospital and senior care centers from Feb. 13 to June 11, 2005.

[ 1958 ]

**ANDREA SMITH (B.A.)** is no longer a nun. After she graduated, she went to Peru to do missionary work. She recently returned to Peru to celebrate 40 years of working in missions. "I think I was in the first class to graduate from the College for Women," she says. She left religious life in 1974. From 1997 to 1998, she went to Slovakia to teach English. "The Religious Order of the Sacred Heart must have instilled in me the spirit of adventure, or should we say prophesy," she says.

[ 1959 ]

**MARY ROSA GIGLITTO (B.A. '59)** retired five years ago from San Diego City Schools after 41 years of teaching. Now she is a Rolling Reader at Ocean Beach Elementary School, where her daughter Angela teaches. Mary is a 10th-grade confirmation teacher at St. Agnes Church, where she also is a Eucharistic minister.

## 1960s

[ 1961 ] 🎓

**MARY DUGAN (B.A.)** enjoyed her first trip to Italy, where she visited Rome, Florence and Venice. "Still studying the piano — no talent, just enthusiasm!" She would be happy to give alumni tours of the historic streets of Greenwich Village, Manhattan.

**MARY (FIORINO) ORRADRE (B.A.)** and her husband have nine grandchildren, ranging from age 12 to 6 months. Mary was selected as Monterey County's Agricultural Woman of the Year for 2005. She is on the committee to restore and retrofit Mission San Miguel, which was damaged in a December 2003 earthquake. The church has been closed since the quake.

**DEANNA ROSE VONBARGEN (B.A.)** says that even at her "advanced age," she takes pleasure in

being coordinator of young adults at the Catholic Newman Club at Lewis Clark State College. "In my spare time, I enjoy caretaking for my mother, as well as just being back in my hometown, Lewiston, Idaho," she reports. "Everybody here calls me Deanna Rose, so I had to put the 'Rose' back in my name. And I even like it now!"

[ 1962 ]

**JAMES DELANEY (B.A.)** has served in the Air Force for 43 years; 23 years active duty and 20 as the chief operating officer of its official charity, the Air Force Aid Society.

**ERMILA RODRIGUEZ (B.A.)** has been teaching Spanish at Palo Verde College as well as serving as a substitute teacher at Palo Verde High School in Blythe, Calif., in recent years.

**PATRICIA (YOUNG) WILLIAMS (B.A.)** just retired, though she still has a few clients she assists. Her daughter, Reina (Williams) Robinson (B.A. '95) had a son, Samuel Scott, on Oct. 16, 2004. Her other daughter, Andrea, just accepted a position as coordinator for Golden Gate National Recreation Area. Patricia's mother, known by many of her classmates, passed away from brain cancer on Jan. 11, 2005. "We miss her!"

[ 1963 ]

**JENNY (LEAVENWORTH) ANTONIAK (B.A.)** retired from teaching French in June 2004. Being retired has allowed her to travel with husband Chuck and also to spend time with grandchildren in Texas and Maryland.

[ 1965 ]

**WILLIAM WILSTERMAN (B.S.)** keeps busy with hobbies such as playing computer games and studying Spanish, German and French.

[ 1968 ]

**MICHAEL STRADA (B.A.)** lives in Kailua, Hawaii, at Pipeline on the North Shore of Oahu, and also in Deer Valley, Utah, near Park City. He also is a senior institutional consultant for Morgan Stanley in Honolulu and owns two large Mexican restaurants in Park City and Holiday. He's involved in professional surfing events on the North Shore of Oahu.

He is divorced with one child, 18-year-old Ryan, who lives in Park City. Michael received his master's in special education at California State University, Los Angeles.

## 1970s

[ 1970 ]

**ESTELLE (RUBENO) KASSE-BAUM (B.A.)** is president of Marian Catholic High School. She has been named the new president of Mater Dei Catholic High School, the new high school in southern San Diego's Otay Ranch. The school will be completed in the fall of 2007.

**DAVID SCHMELZLE (B.S.)** has been married 34 years and has five children and five grandchildren. One child graduated from USD. He has been in private pediatric practice for 26 years.

**EDWARD SMITH (B.S. '92)** is retired. He now volunteers, walks and reads books.

[ 1971 ] 

**RANDON WOODARD (B.A., M.ED. '73)** retired after 30 years as an assistant dean in student affairs at UCSD. He moved "back home" to Colorado in 2001. Randon would love to hear from old friends.

[ 1972 ]

**JOHN BELLEAU (B.A.)** earned his master's in management from the University of Redlands in 2004.

**MICHAEL HALL (B.S.)** has a growing family. He is still a practicing OB-GYN. His wife Martha is an attorney and midwife. As for his children: Kevin, 28, flies an F117 stealth bomber; Kristyn, 28, is a CPA; Nick graduated from the University of Colorado and works for Ball Aeronautical; Matt Halfar (B.A. '01) is starting medical school; Tim Halfar attends ITT Tech; Nate, 15, and Mikey, 14, are in high school; Mary, 12, made dance troop; twins Emilie and Jordan are 7, "and keep us young." Michael also says he was sad to see USD chemistry professor Patricia Traylor retire. "She was one of USD's greatest teachers and mentors, and I will treasure her forever."

**SISTER MARIA WHITNEY (B.A., M.A. '86)** is now retired after



PHOTO COURTESY OF MARILYNN NEVILLE

## [ Longevity ]

**HOW DO YOU BUILD A MARRIAGE THAT LASTS 50 YEARS? "My mother told me that getting married is like taking out a contract to build a bridge," says Marilyn (Mayer) Neville '56. In June, she celebrates her 50th anniversary to husband Tom at the same little log chapel on the Notre Dame campus where they were engaged. "My mother and dad watched the Golden Gate Bridge being built. She said that you begin with great plans and excitement, but when the actual building gets under way the hard work begins. And so it was. But now we can look back at what we have accomplished and marvel at the beautiful thing we have built, with the help of God."**

teaching 52 years and offers her services to St. Mary's School as spiritual counselor.

[ 1973 ]

**FRED CARMEL (B.S.)** earned his master's in electronics and computer technology from Indiana State University in May 2004. "During this time, for my master's project I invented 'liquid circuitry' utilizing liquid conductors for the transmission of signals and a liquid resistor for voltage dividing."

[ 1975 ]

**FELIZA CAUGHLIN (B.A.)** starts most days reading the *Christian Science Quarterly* weekly Bible lessons. Afterward, she turns her attention to

books that are classified as historical romance novels, reading half a book a day. At night she listens to Christian Science tapes that "encourage the allness of God." Most of her time is spent reading and keeping up with her favorite authors.

**CAPT. WILLIAM UBERTI (B.A., M.A. '78)** recently became the commander of U.S. Coast Guard Sector San Francisco in charge of all maritime law enforcement, search and rescue, homeland security and marine safety in the Northern California region.

[ 1976 ] 

**JOHN JAKUBCZYK (B.A.)** was re-elected president of Arizona Right

to Life. In 2005, he introduced several key public figures at events, including: Sen. Sam Brownback (R-Kansas); Bobby Schindler, sister of Terri Schiavo; Alvida King, niece of the late Martin Luther King Jr.; and Jennifer O'Neill. He has 11 children, three of whom are in college, two in high school, four in grammar school and two at home. He is still practicing law and hosts a blog called Jakubczyk on Life.

[ 1977 ]

**HAROLD JACOBSON (B.A.)** has been practicing dentistry for 26 years and endodontics as a specialty for nine years. He is an assistant professor of endodontology at Loma Linda University School of Dentistry and is involved with dental continuing edu-



cation and teaching residents and undergraduate students. He has been happily married to his wife, Kathy, for 20 years, and they have two daughters, Elizabeth, 16, and Kristin, 11. His hobbies include sportfishing, following the Padres and building computers.

#### [ 1978 ]

**WENDY (TOLL) GREENE (B.S.)** and husband John Greene (B.S. '77) have been happily married for 27 years. They just sent their daughter, Nicole, off to Scripps College. Son Jeff is a junior at Torrey Pines High School.

#### [ 1979 ]

**ALOMA (SHRIBER) GENDER (B.S.N.)** was promoted to administrator of Christus St. Michael Rehabilitation Hospital in April 2005, in addition to being director of nursing. The facility is an 80-bed free-standing hospital in Texarkana, Texas, which is part of Christus Health, the seventh-largest Catholic health system in the country. She has been presenting papers nationally, including a paper on a documentation tool for three user group workshops and a paper on patient satisfaction at the Associates of Rehabilitation Nurses annual conference in Palm Springs in October 2005. She presented a poster in England in November 2005 at the third International Rehabilitation Nursing Conference, sponsored by the Royal College of Nursing.

## 1980s

#### [ 1980 ]

**LORI BONELLO ERTZ (B.A.)** and husband Ron celebrated their 21st wedding anniversary on Sept. 16, 2005. They have a daughter, Suzanna, 16, and a son, Cisco, 10. They have lived in the same house their entire marriage. Suzanna wishes USD had a women's golf team so she could go to USD!

**DOUGLAS HELZER (B.B.A.)** had her third child on June 12, 2005. Grace Suzanne joins big brother Jack, 3, and Madison, 8.

#### [ 1981 ]

**HELEN (KASPERICK) FINNERMAN (B.B.A.)** and husband John Finnerman (B.B.A. '80) are proud to report that their son, John IV, is in his sophomore year at USD. He is an R.A., as was his mom.

**DAVID LEAHY (B.B.A.)** has been in real estate for 23 years, 11 as a property manager working for large developers and 12 years as a business broker helping Main Street "mom and pop" business owners sell their firms. He owns his own coin laundry business and sold his wife a card and gift store. David says they are living the American dream. They have two kids, both in community college. "Sad to say, we looked at USD but found tuition, room and board now — compared to 1981, when I graduated — to be a budget-breaker for our family."

#### [ 1982 ]

**DAVID DASSOFF (B.A.)** has been living in Klamath Falls, Ore., for the last 11 years. He works as a family physician. He has been married 22 years to his college sweetheart, Laurel. They have two children, ages 9 and 12. "I have a lot of gray hair!" he reports.

**MARK GARIBALDI (B.A.)** has a self-help business, called The Garo Method, at [www.thegaromethod.com](http://www.thegaromethod.com). It is designed to improve and maximize self-esteem, academic performance, athletic ability "or virtually any aspect of life" for various students and adults. The program is available on CD, cassette or via private or group sessions.

#### [ 1983 ]

**JULEE (CARPER) CLARK (B.A.)** and her husband have a beautiful, 4-year-old adopted daughter from Nanchang, China, named Jemma Grace. "We traveled to China to get her when she was 11 months old in 2002!" Julee says. "I am mostly a full-time mother, and I work my private psychotherapy practice eight to 10 hours a week."

**LISA (FEASEL) CAUDILLO (B.A.)** and her husband have a new baby boy, Christopher John, born Aug. 5, 2005.

**VEKENO KENNEDY (B.B.A.)** became general counsel of United Development Group, a San Diego construction services company, in January 2005.

**BRUCE PILEGGI (B.B.A.)** is living in Highlands Ranch, Colo., with his wife and three sons. His 20-year-old daughter recently moved out and is attending Metro College in Denver. Bruce has been busy opening two new ALTA College campuses in Atlanta, managing

the aviation camps in LA and growing the national and international admissions in Denver. The family is enjoying the Rocky Mountains and doing a lot of snowboarding in the winter and golfing in the summer. They all miss San Diego and hope to return in the near future. "Let me know when you have an opening for a new dean of admissions at the college and I will apply," he says.

**MARK WEEDMAN (B.A.)** continues his "dual studies" as a stay-at-home dad and deejaying at wedding receptions on weekends. His wife, Mariclaire Patton, who completed USD's Educational Development Leadership Academy in 2005, is in her second year as a vice principal at Wilson Middle School in San Diego.

**BARBARA (ZUGATES) LEAR (B.A.)** planned to receive her master's of education from George Mason University in Fairfax, Va., in the spring of 2006. She is married to an Army colonel and veteran of Operation Desert Storm and Operation Iraqi Freedom. They have two children, Rachael, 15, and Sean, 13.

#### [ 1984 ]

**MICHAEL CAPLINGER (B.B.A.)** and his wife, Brenda, are preparing to celebrate the third anniversary of his firm, Caplinger Tax, which specializes in helping businesses solve sales tax issues. His daughter, Carrie, expected to enter her third year of college in the fall of 2006. "Our rescued wire-fox terrier, Scruffy, is just starting to slow down a little with his 13th birthday." Michael says.

#### [ 1985 ]

**FRANCES (POLITO) ALGYA (B.B.A.)** and her husband own four stores throughout Arizona. Most recently, they opened a dealership and equipment rental in north Phoenix.

#### [ 1985 ]

**TAMMY (ANDERSON) MORRIS (B.B.A.)** and her husband are busy with two boys, Jordan, 13, and Skyler, 4. The boys are active in sports. "We are currently building a new home, which has been a fun, yet slow, process."

**MANUEL COITO (B.B.A.)** and his wife have four children.

**KEVIN KLEIS (B.A.)** and his wife have two boys, Kevin Jr., 14, and Connor, 9.

**FRANK KURUCZ (B.A.)** earned an MBA at Colorado State University and was inducted into Beta Gamma Sigma, a national business school honor society.

#### [ 1986 ]

**LORI (NEWMAN) HODGSON (B.B.A.)** and husband Bill have been married 18 years. They have two daughters, Emily, 12, and Madeleine, 10. They are very active in their parish school and church. Lori owns a business that lets her work from home, and Bill is a mortgage broker.

#### [ 1987 ]

**TIMOTHY MCDOWELL (B.A.)** and his wife were blessed in January 2003 with the arrival of their second son, Alexander. Timothy completed a master's of science in information technology in August 2003. Most recently, he completed a graduate certificate in homeland security from the University of Colorado. In June 2005, he was promoted to regional manager with Perot Systems for systems administrators within the U.S. Air Force Space Command. "God bless all of you," he says.

#### [ 1986 ]

**CRISTINA (LURIA) SORIA (B.A.)** has been busy doing television spots for SDG&E this past year. She and her husband, Wilfredo, will be relocating to Uruguay, South America, sometime in 2006.

#### [ 1987 ]

**MAUREEN (MCCARTHY) TOSCANO (B.A.)** has been living in the Boston area since graduation. She and husband Joe have five children, ages 1 to 8. Maureen used to work in sales, but is now a stay-at-home mom.

**RANDEL MOORE (B.B.A.)** lives in Alpharetta, Georgia, with his wife Mary (Coenenberg) (B.A. '87) and their children, Dylan, 13, and Madison, 11. Randy works as the CFO for Network 21, and Mary is a consultant for Cabi, a women's designer clothing line. "We just recently celebrated our 16th wedding anniversary!"

#### [ 1988 ]

**MICHELE (PIEKSMAN) BAKER (B.B.A.)** and her husband are the proud parents of a new child, son Garrett Michael, born Feb. 21, 2005.

**JAMES PIERIK (B.A.)** and his wife have a new daughter, Ailey Marie, who joins Audrey, 12.

**ADAM REEK (B.B.A.)** calls October 2005 a good month. "I finally got married and also earned my executive MBA from Saint Mary's College," he says. He is associate publisher of *Cycle Sport Magazine*.

[ 1987 ]

**CYNTHIA DURYEY (B.A.)** is the director for the Liverpool Community Nursery School. She has two daughters, Jessica and Amanda.

**MICHAEL HERRINGTON**

**(M.B.A.)** married Kim Coplan on June 17. The couple traveled to the Virgin Islands for their honeymoon and live in Madison, Ala., with Michael's sons, Christopher and Alec, and Kim's son, Riley. Michael works for Boeing, and Kim works for Wachovia Securities.

**ANTHONY LONGERETTA**

**(B.B.A.)** is living in Burbank, Calif., and is administrator and owner of the Teamsters Legal Benefit Plan in Southern California.

**MARY MARTINEZ (B.A.)** earned her doctor of pharmacy degree in 1993 from the University of Southern California. She married and moved to Vancouver, Wash., in 2000. She has been working as a pharmacist in long-term care and hospital settings since 1993. "No children, just three spoiled cats!"

**MICHELE (WILSON) RANCK**

**(B.A.)** received her S.T.B./M.A. in religious studies and theology from the University of Louvain, Belgium. She taught high school religion for seven years and is now a full-time stay-at-home mom to five children.

[ 1988 ]

**THOMAS FOLEY (B.B.A.)** lives in Ann Arbor with his wife, Michelle. They have three children: Sara, 7; Ryan, 6; and Megan, 5. "All are doing well," he reports.

**ERIC NASLAND (B.A.)** bought a beautiful home overlooking Mission Bay in August 2003, the same month he married Heidie Hamer. "Heidie is the oldest of seven, six girls, and I am the youngest of seven, six boys. It has been a perfect match." Eric also reports that, "With the help of modern medicine, Heidie delivered our little miracle, Jack Kelly, on Sept. 27, 2005." Eric's son, Jesse, 14, is overjoyed to be a

big brother once again. Eric also says his family will always remember Caitlin Marie Nasland, who died in 1998 at age 5.

**ELLEN ORR (B.S.N.)** has started working in home health. After previously working in inpatient facilities, she finds the new venture quite exciting.

[ 1989 ]

**KEVIN CARLIN (B.A.)** and wife Denise welcomed Sean Patrick Carlin on Feb. 18, 2005. He weighed 10 pounds, 13 ounces and was 21½ inches. Sean's older sister, Taylor Nicole, is 5.

**SEAN COUGHLIN (B.A.)** recently left his previous partnership to open his own law office. He will remain in San Diego and continue representing clients in real estate and general business matters.

**BARBARA (GUTSMIEDL) REN-**

**TLE (B.A.)** left behind more than 10 years in the corporate world for a more personally satisfying career as a deputy sheriff for Riverside County. She also has decided to get her master's degree, and is about a quarter of the way through the program. She lives in Palm Desert with her husband of 16 years, Craig, and their three dogs.

**KRISTIN SOLOMON (B.B.A.)** and her husband moved from Arizona to Newport Beach, Calif. Steve is an automation sales consultant for McKesson Automation. They have three children: Isabella, 8; Sam, 6; and William, 4. Kristin has stayed home with the kids for eight years.

## 1990s

[ 1990 ]

**RANDALL BURGESS (B.A.)** and his partner Steve adopted two boys, Ryan, 21 months, and Nathan, 5 months.

**RICHARD DORN (B.A.)** and his wife had their second child, Mary Kavli, on July 16, 2005. She joins brother Henry, 3. Rich heads up strategic planning for Wells Fargo Financial. The family lives in Edina, Minn.

**THANE HALL (B.A.)** recently was commissioned as a spiritual director in the spirituality at St. Ignatius of Loyola.

**PAMELA (POTTER) DRUM-**  
**MOND (B.A.)** and husband James, after 11 years of marriage, were blessed with their first baby, Katherine Grace, on Oct. 20, 2004. Katie was adopted as a newborn from Idaho. "I love my new career as a full-time mommy!" Pamela says.

**ELIZABETH SMITH-LIEVERS**

**(B.B.A., M.I.B. '98)** has two children, Riley Andrew, 2, and Tate Richard, who was born Aug. 19, 2005.

**LAURA THOMPSON (B.A.)** began working as the assistant dean of students at Franklin College in Lugano, Switzerland, in June. Before that, she had spent two years working for the University of Redlands in Salzburg.

[ 1991 ] 

**JAMES ALEXANDER (B.A.)** and wife Christy have two kids, Emily, 10 and Jackson, 6.

**SAMANTHA "SAM" GARTON-**

**GALE (B.B.A.)** is living in beautiful Colorado with husband Michael and their two girls, Brennecke, 5, and Mackenzie, 3.

**ROBERT JACKSON (B.A.)** started his own company, Renaissance Financial Services. He subcontracts through Performance Capital Corp., providing equipment leasing, SBA loans and commercial mortgages to businesses. He says the 100 percent commission occupation is a great one for someone who enjoys sales and finance.

**KATHLEEN SNYDER-PARAMPIL**

**(B.A.)** has three great children: Anya, 10; Aidan, 7; and Ava, 5. She is attending Eastern Michigan University to get her master's as a teacher of English to speakers of other languages. She and husband Suresh just celebrated 13 years of marriage; and Kathleen reports that they love Ann Arbor.

[ 1992 ]

**SAMUEL BARTHOLOMEW (B.A.)** is a chief resident with the Department of Surgery at Oregon Health & Science University. He will be continuing his training in plastic surgery at the University of California, Davis, next year.

**PETER CELESTE (B.B.A.)** was recently promoted to regional general manager of the Americas for Yahoo.

He lives in Pasadena, Calif., with wife Victoria, son Jake, 6, and daughter Mikaela, 4.

**JEFFREY CRANE (B.B.A.)** and his wife have had an exciting year. Their son, Joshua David, was born on March 7, weighing in at 9 pounds. He joins sister Sarah, 4, who was to start preschool in Fall 2005. Jeffrey works for Thrivent Financial in San Marcos, and earned the Certified Financial Planner designation in 2005. He also was installed as president of the local National Association of Insurance and Financial Advisors and qualified for the prestigious Million Dollar Round Table. In June, the family attended the MDRT convention in New Orleans and extended the trip to Houston to see the Padres play the Astros on the Fourth of July. "I'm not trying to toot my own horn," he says. "It's just that after 12 years in business, things are coming together well, and I love what I do for a living. And I love being a daddy."

**RUTH (EARLY) NELSON (B.A.)**

has been teaching art, photography and yearbook in a public high school for the last 10 years. She is also a painter who has been shown locally over the past four years. She is involved in ministry in her local church, and took a mission trip to Grenada in 1998. Ruth has been married since 1998 and has one son.

**DENISE (ETTARI) CAIN (B.A.)**

and husband Doug welcomed their third child in February 2005. John Charles joins big sister Anna, 5, and brother James, 3. "Life is perfect!" Denise says.

**SALLY (FIELDS) HOLBROOK**

**(B.A.)** is still living in beautiful San Diego and teaching Spanish at Point Loma High School. She married Tim Holbrook in March 2005.

**JORGE LUHAN (B.B.A.)** is living in

Dana Point, Calif., where he owns and operates his own restaurant and consulting company, Paradigm Restaurant Group. He recently finished the Ironman World Championship in Kona, Hawaii, in 11 hours, 19 minutes and 50 seconds. He's looking to better that time this year.

**KEVIN MAJOR (B.A.)** finished six years of general surgery and surgical critical care training at Cedars-Sinai Medical Center in Los Angeles. He is

now in the second year of a two-year vascular surgery fellowship at the University of Southern California.

**CASSIE (PAULSON) JACOBSON (B.A.)** and her husband had a beautiful baby girl in November 2003 and a wonderful son in August 2005. She is enjoying being a mom while continuing her career in clinical research at 3M.

**MITCHELL WILLET (B.B.A.)** has two kids, Chase, 3, and Delaney, 5, and is working hard.

**[1993]**

**RAQUEL HICKS CRAVEN (B.A.)** is very happily married and recently joined Hawaii Pacific Health as director of organizational effectiveness.

**GABRIELLE (BRANT) FREEMAN (B.A.)** and husband David welcomed Aurora Gabrielle on July 31, 2005. "She is our first child and is doing well," Gabrielle says. Gabrielle is still teaching English and humanities at Edgecombe Community College in Tarboro, N.C.

**2ND LT. JAY JANAVICE (B.B.A.)** is serving at Fort Dix, N.J., in the U.S. Army National Guard as a platoon leader with the 505th Engineer Battalion. The 505th was to deploy to Iraq in October 2005 for a one-year tour of duty.

**SARAH KELLOGG PLOCHER (B.A.)** and husband Barry had a daughter, Caroline, on Aug. 25, 2005. She joins older brother Tyler, 3. They are living in Portland Ore., where Sarah is a stay-at-home mom and Barry is a product developer for Nike. She would love to hear from any alumni in the area.

**CARRIE (LAURITSEN) KRAMBECK (B.A.)** and husband Scott had their first baby, Lucas Ryan, on March 30, 2005. They live in Denver and have their own company, KRAMCO, which is contracted with furniture manufacturers for wholesale sales.

**RANDELL LEACH (B.B.A.)** and wife Cary (Casey) Leach (B.A. '93) had an exciting 2005. They welcomed their son, Milo James, on May 30, 2005. He surprised them by arriving seven weeks early and spent four weeks in the intensive care unit. "He's healthy, happy and growing fast," Randell says. Cary is enjoying staying home with

**[folk tale]**

# AUTHENTIC TALENT

## Making original music is Kelly Davis' passion

by Kelly Knufken

**W**ith three original folk CDs already under her belt, Kelly Davis '99 wanted to get out of her comfort zone for her next project. While her earlier CDs were just Kelly and the guitar featuring original music, her latest venture is a marked departure.

After all, what could be farther from folk than techno?

She describes her new sound as "Club Kelly," with fewer personal lyrics than she's written for past efforts. In fact, this time out, her collaborator gave her strict instructions: "He said, 'You can't write about God and society, or racism or politics,'" she recalls. "It was the most challenging project to write, because I couldn't write about my typical things. These lyrics are about love and heartache. It's dance music"

A business major at USD, after graduation Davis began working as a buyer. But her outsized personality has always gravitated toward more creative projects. It didn't take long for her to decide she needed to find a way she could work with children and stretch her artistic wings. She found that outlet by becoming a junior high school teacher.

"I don't think anyone I went to school with at USD would be surprised that I'm an English and drama teacher," says Davis, whose teen years were spent singing and acting



FRED GREAVES

**Teacher and musician Kelly Davis revels in connecting to people through her music. In recent months, she's been in search of a record label, so she can share her vision.**

in musical theater all over San Diego and Europe.

Davis says that she started writing her own music while an undergraduate and that she once performed at the on-campus Aromas coffeehouse. Since graduating, she's played her music at various venues around San Diego. She's found those to be the sort of gigs she enjoys the most.

"I had played Dorothy numerous times in the 'Wizard of Oz,' I was Sandy in a production of 'Grease'" she says. "I didn't want to be a pretend person anymore."

The techno CD — which isn't yet finished but may be made commercially available when it is — is certainly a departure from theater and her other songs, which explore themes such as how she feels about racism or what it means to her to pray. Davis is philosophical about the ways her musical endeavors have evolved thus far.

"Now I'm trying to communicate something about myself," she says. "Being Dorothy is about entertaining people. Being Kelly is about enlightenment and honesty and reality." 🎸



ALLAN BURCH

him and doing some freelance work on the side editing high school biology test preparation materials.

**KEVIN MCSWEENEY (B.B.A.)** got married to Anne Bunte on Feb. 25, 2005, in Kauai, Hawaii. Jim Hafner (B.B.A. '93) and Dave West (B.B.A. '93) were in the wedding.

**MARCUS ROHLFS (B.B.A., M.B.A. '94)** has been busy. He married Melissa Harris two years ago, was promoted to marketing manager for State Farm Insurance in the Pacific Northwest and just bought a new home.

**[ 1994 ]**  
**JEANINE (DEGAGNE) BOYERS (B.A.)** says life is good. "I have finally traded in my Ann Taylor suits and office with a view of the state capitol for a pair of jeans and comfy sneakers, and a view of my living room covered in a sea of toys," she says. "Who knew I'd be so fulfilled staying at home, baking bread and creating memories with my two wonderful children?"

**ANDREW CLEVINGER (B.B.A.)** and wife Darcy (Long) Clevenger (B.B.A. '94) got married on Sept. 24, 2004. Andrew was promoted to major in October 2004. They had their first child in November 2005. Darcy has been working for Grand Pacific Resorts for just over a year as their direct marketing manager.

**MATT GILDERSLEEVE (B.A., M.A. '96)** moved back to San Luis Obispo, Calif., with wife Justine, son Bryce and daughter Kea.

**AMBER (GUNN) WESTLAND** and husband Max were blessed by the birth of their "happy, healthy daughter," Zara Phillipa, on June 4, 2005. They are living in Washington, D.C., where Amber splits her time between staying home with Zara and working in neuropsychology with soldiers returning from the war at the Defense and Veterans Brain Injury Center at Walter Reed Army Medical Center.

**AMY (GUNNESS) DE STEFANI (B.A.)** and husband Robert De Stefani (B.A. '97) welcomed baby Lindsey Nicole in March 2005. She joins big sisters Marissa, 6, and Natalie, 4. Amy is taking a few years off teaching to be home with her three girls.

[ h o o p s t a r ]

**MAGGIE DIXON [1977-2006]**, the women's basketball coach at West Point, died unexpectedly on April 6, 2006, of a sudden irregular heartbeat. She was 28. Dixon, who received a B.A. from USD in 1999, was hired by West Point just weeks before the 2005-06 basketball season. She led the Black Knights this year to their first Patriot League championship and automatic invitation to the "big dance," the National Collegiate Athletic Association Tournament.

Dixon played four years under former USD coach Kathy Marpe, and was a standout player on the team throughout her college career. In her senior year she was team captain and also was named to the All-Tournament team for USD's Masry & Vititoe Classic. Her death was reported by news media across the nation. She was laid to rest in West Point Cemetery, an honor usually reserved for high-ranking officials.

"I am deeply saddened by the loss of Maggie Dixon," Marpe says. "She will be greatly missed by all of us who were fortunate to be part of her life."

**KJIRSTEN LANGLAND (B.A.)** and her husband welcomed daughter Annika Grace to their family on April 4, 2005. She joins brother Erik, who adores her.

**BETH MITCHELL (B.A.)** married Craig Bengtson on Nov. 6, 2004, at Boojum Tree Hidden Gardens in Phoenix. They live and work in central Phoenix.

**COLLEEN (MURPHY) HOBBS (B.B.A.)** recently returned to work as a product manager for a global medical device manufacturer, after staying at home with her two children, Karynn and Connor, since 2003. Colleen and husband Chris recently celebrated their seventh anniversary and have moved to La Jolla.

**ERIN (PACE) DERMODY (B.A.)** married Jeff Dermody at The Immaculata on Oct. 29, 2005. The reception was on the North Island naval base, and they went to St. Lucia for their honeymoon. Jeff is an F/A-18 pilot in the Navy, based at Miramar. Erin is a recruiter in Pacific Beach.

**LORI (HONE) MARTINEZ (B.B.A.)** and her husband had their second child, Marissa, in July 2004.

**JONAH WEINBERG (B.A.)** was recently hired as chief of media relations and public information officer for the San Mateo County Transit District. He moved from San Diego to San Francisco for the position.

**JENNIFER (BROOKINS) WILLIAMS (B.A.)** and a partner started a business, Hopscotch Designs. They specialize in designing young children's clothes and bedding, and are expanding their manufacturing.

**[1995]**  
**CHAD BUCHANAN (B.B.A.)** and his wife had their first child, Jack Charles, on Dec. 20. He weighed 6 pounds, 8 ounces. Chad has celebrated his 10-year anniversary with Charles Schwab.

**JENNIFER (CRANE) WILLIAMSON (B.A.)** became the executive director of Golden Care Workforce Institute in November 2004. "It's been four years since I left the private sector and a promising career in public relations," she says. "I haven't looked back once. This is the best job I've ever had."

**BREE (KIRBY) LEWIS (B.A.)** had a baby girl, McKenna Bree, on July 13, 2005.

**DYNA LUNGLHOFER (B.A.)** and husband Jeff welcomed their first son, John Frederick, on Nov. 28, 2004.

**HYTHAM MANSOUR (B.A.)** started a construction trucking company in Escondido specializing in aggregate materials and heavy equipment hauling.


**TINA-MARIE MASSIMINI (B.A.)** married Christopher Lesko in November 2004 in Kauai, Hawaii. She is working as a sales manager for the Western United States for Presperse, a personal care raw materials chemical supplier. She lives in Tustin, Calif.

**SARA (TANGEMAN) ADAMS (B.A.)** is teaching second grade in Huntington Beach, Calif. She and her husband have a 3½ -year-old boy, Jack. Daughter Kendall Anne was born on July 15, 2005. The family has lived in Irvine, Calif., for 10 years.

**WILLIAM THOMPSON (B.A.)** and his family — wife Patricia, daughter Stefanie and son Edward — have lived in Norfolk for a year, as William begins his second year of doctoral studies in oceanography at Old Dominion University. They moved to Norfolk after William finished his master of science at University of Windsor in Ontario, Canada.

**JENNIFER (WRIGHTSON) BAKLENKO (B.A.)** and her husband welcomed their second child, Luke, on Jan. 12, 2005. At 11 pounds, 12 ounces, he was the biggest baby born in Hood River Hospital. Sister Cami is 4.

**KAREN (YONTZ) FREIBURGER (B.A.)** and husband Ron had their third child, David Charles, on May 16, 2005. Siblings Katy and Michael are having lots of fun with their baby brother. Karen is a stay-at-home mom and Ron works for Farmers Insurance.

**[1996]**   
**GEOFFREY CHEW (B.A.)** recently was promoted to the senior software engineer level. Wife Heather Bartlett (B.A. '99, M.A. '02) continues her third year as a teacher in Temecula. They spent the summer in Greece and look forward to other upcoming travel adventures abroad.

**VALERIE (DALTON) THOMPSON (B.A.)** and Seth Thompson (B.A. '97) welcomed their second son, Asher, on Oct. 1, 2005. He joins big brother Tobias, who is 2.

**KRISTEN (DE FAZIO) SCHMIDT (B.A.)** and her husband welcomed their first child, Ayden Donovan, on Aug. 5, 2005.

**ALISON (DWELLE) WILLIAMS (B.A.)** moved to San Francisco after completing her master's degree in occupational therapy. She met her husband, a citizen of the United Kingdom, in San Francisco. The couple lived in London for a few years, then traveled for six months before returning to California to live in the Bay area. Alison works as an occupational therapist.

**ANNE (EVANISH) YUNGLING (B.B.A.)** says nothing exciting is happening now. "I'll fill you all in next time," she says.

**DREW ISHII (B.A.)** earned his Ph.D. in mathematics education in the summer of 2005 from Ohio State University. He was planning to start at Whittier College as an assistant professor of education in the fall of 2005.

**STEPHANIE LA BACZ (B.A.C.)** lives in Los Angeles, and is working at Deloitte & Touche as a senior manager in the research and development tax services group.

**DIANNE (RICHARDSON) SERIVA (B.A.)** has been a stay-at-home mom since her second child was born in June 2002. She is enjoying her time with children Ethan, 6, and Sydney, 3, but probably will go back to work in some capacity in 2006.

**STEFFANIE RIES HOIE (B.A.)** had a daughter, Mackenzie, in 2003. "Over the past six years, I've been working in USD's admissions office, recruiting future alumni," she says.

**[1997]**  
**COLLEEN (CRAWFORD) BOEHM (B.B.A.)** and husband Mike had their first child, Elizabeth Grace, on Aug. 8, 2005. Colleen will be a stay-at-home mom while growing her own business, Event Artistry, a full-service wedding and event design company. They live in Sussex, Wis.

**DANIEL COBIAN (B.A.)** and wife Lilian (Mamou) Cobian (B.B.A. '97) proudly announce the birth of their first child, Danica Paige, on July 17, 2005. Lilian temporarily has stopped working as a CPA to stay home with Danica. Daniel continues to serve in the U.S. Navy. The family currently lives in Yokosuka, Japan.

**KATIE (GERHARDT) DUFORD (B.S.)** and husband Derek welcomed their second child, Grace Margaret, on March 27, 2005. She joins big brother Grant, who is 3. The family moved to Virginia Beach, Va., in July 2005 "and loves it!"

**ELIZABETH (PORTO) TISOR (B.A.)** married Travis Tisor on July 30, 2005, at Founders Chapel. They live in Costa Mesa, Calif.

**KRISTIN ROWE (B.A.C.)** and husband Paul had a beautiful baby girl, Kaela Conley, on Oct. 27, 2005.

**MARY JOY SOTIC (B.A., B.S.)** recently earned her executive master's in business administration from National University and had her second child.

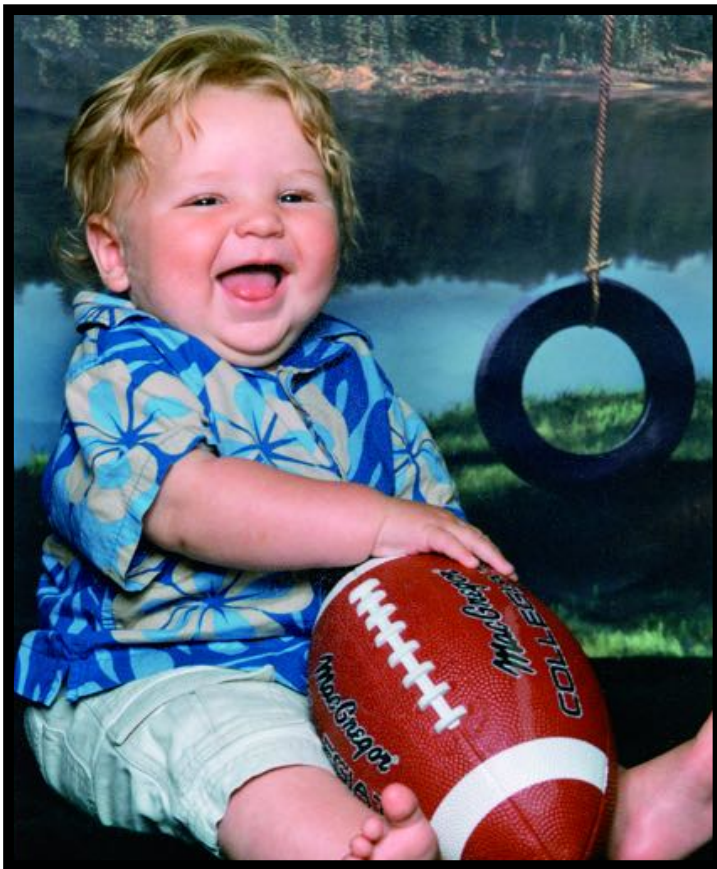
**STACY (BUNTEN) SUMMA (B.A.)** has been working as a physician's assistant with an orthopedic surgeon in Orange, Calif. She and husband Peter are in the middle of a remodel and addition to their home.

**KRISTINA ZELLER (B.A.)** was married at Founders Chapel to Scott Yanover on Sept. 10, 2005.

**[1998]**  
**CHRISTINA COVINGTON (B.S.N., M.S.N. '00)** and husband James renewed their vows in Founders Chapel in April 2005 for their 14th anniversary. The reception was at the San Diego Natural History Museum.

**AMBER (CROSS) WILSON (B.A.)** married Jeff Wilson, a teacher and soccer coach, in San Francisco on Sept. 7, 2005. Sarah Coleman (B.A. '97) was a bridesmaid.

**RONA DURAN-SIERRA (B.A.)** lives in the San Francisco Bay area. She married Francisco Sierra, a civil engineer, in December 2003 on her island home of Kauai, Hawaii. Rona is the owner/administrator of several residential group homes serving the developmentally disabled population.



## [ h e r c u l e s ]

**RECORD-BREAKING BABY Jennifer (Wrightson) Baklenko '95, who's 6-foot-two-inches tall, says she and her even taller husband knew the baby she was about to deliver was going to be big. But she was surprised when the doctor delivered him and said, "Congratulations, you have a 3-month-old!" Luke was born on Jan. 12, 2005; he weighed 11 pounds, 12 ounces. The nurses pored over hospital records and proclaimed him the biggest baby ever born in the history of Oregon's Hood River Hospital.**

**NICOLE (LAMPERIS) HANLEY (B.A.)** has been married to Brett Hanley (B.B.A. '98) for five years. In July 2004, they had a baby boy, Jack. "He is great!" Nicole says. She has taken a leave from teaching to be a full-time mommy.

**LINDA (RABIN) BENSADOUN (B.B.A.)** married David Bensadoun in San Diego on Aug. 21. They also had a second wedding in France on Sept. 4, as David is French. Linda met David in his native country when she was working on her master's degree. They live in San Clemente, Calif.

**STEPHANIE (RAYMER) MOORMAN (B.A.)** was married to Ryan Moorman in Pasadena, Calif., on Nov. 12, 2005. USD alumni in attendance included: bridesmaids Valerie Millard (B.A. '98); Veronica (Cramer) Irvin (B.A. '98); Cindy Wiesendanger (B.A. '96); and guest Aaron Shannahan (B.B.A. '98). Stephanie is a third-grade teacher in the Los Angeles Unified School District.

**CANDICE TAFFOLLA-SCHREIBER (B.A.)** received tenure at Southwestern College in the San Diego region in the fall of 2005.

**KAREY (WEBBER) JACQUES (B.A.)** got married at Founders Chapel on Sept. 30, 2000. She had her first child, son Drake Lee, on Nov. 10, 2004. She is taking time off from teaching high school English to raise Drake. She lives in La Mesa.

**JENNIFER (WOLFF) FINNERTY (B.A.)** married Jeff Finnerty on Nov. 12, 2005, in Greenwich, Conn. Members of the bridal party included: Alexandra Morall (B.A. '98); Annie Salmen (B.A. '98); Erica (Crook) Castellanos (B.A. '98); and Sandy (Rivera) Aziz (B.A. '98). Jen and Jeff honeymooned in Los Cabos, Mexico. They recently moved from New York City to Orlando, Fla.

### [ 1 9 9 9 ]

**GIBSEY BECKETT (B.A.)** is events coordinator of Peachy Canyon Winery where her husband Josh Beckett (B.A. '98) is a winemaker. Their daughter, Sydney, just turned 1.

**KELLY DAVIS (B.B.A.)** is having the time of her life teaching language arts and drama. She also teaches yoga. She keeps in touch with all her USD friends and will always cherish her years at USD. "P.S., I just finished my fourth original album!" (see page 41).

**SHAWN GOULD (J.D.)** is now specializing in employment law in private practice.

**CHRISTINA (GRAVES) REMICK (B.A.)** is working as a kindergarten teacher in San Diego's Mira Mesa area. She was married on Aug. 21, 2004. Daughter Isabel was born Jan. 9, 2004.

**JULIETTE MCDONOUGH (B.A.)** and husband Jim welcomed their first son, Brady James, on Nov. 4, 2005. "We are so thankful for our son," Juliette says. "We are getting the itch to move out of the chilly Northeast and intend to explore the Phoenix area."

**MIRKA "MIMI" (RADMAN) FORGERON (B.A.)** is working as an emergency room registered nurse and earning her master's in nursing at USD. She married in October 2004. "Still enjoying life to the fullest!" she says.

**SARA STRAUHAL (B.A.)** works at the University of Massachusetts, Lowell, and expected to complete her master's in community and social

psychology in the spring of 2006.

**ALISON TAYLOR (B.A.)** married in 2003 and became an instant mother to three boys, ages 9, 7 and 5. On June 3, 2005, she gave birth to her first baby — a boy, Dallas Payton.

**GENO VILLANUEVA (B.A.)** says the most exciting news is his marriage to Michelle Coziahr on Oct. 8, 2005, in Founders Chapel. The following USD alumni were in the wedding party: Priscilla Villanueva (B.A. '97); Edward Coderes (B.A. '02); new brother-in-law and DTD fraternity brother Mark Coziahr (B.A. '98); and Josh Paul (B.A. '98). Other alumni attending the wedding included: Greg Jackson (B.A. '01); Chris Tata (B.B.A. '02); Jay Moore (B.B.A. '01); Lt. Bryan Weatherup (B.B.A. '99); Peter Mendiola (B.B.A. '02); and Rob Renovales (B.A. '00). The couple is living in San Diego and Geno is approaching four years working as a special agent with U.S. Immigration & Customs Enforcement (formerly the U.S. Customs Service).

**LOUIS WRIGHT (B.A.)** is a field artillery officer in the U.S. Army. He recently returned to the United States after living in Germany for three years, a time that included 14 months in Iraq in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom. He has been married to Daphne for four years, and they have a 2-year-old daughter, Gabriella.

## 2000s

### [ 2 0 0 0 ]

**ERIC DANIELSON (B.A.)** accepted a new position in August as vice president of Harris Construction. He says things continue to go well for him in the Kansas City area. He and his wife, Allison, spent a week in London over the summer. They continue to enjoy traveling and looked forward to a scuba diving trip to Jamaica in November.

**RUSSELL DAVIS (B.B.A.)** reported that two weeks after graduating from USD he went to work for a Dutch corporation, OCE Printing. He started in sales and after two years transferred to another division. He now travels with the sales people, doing demonstrations and closings.

**ERIN ENGLAND (B.A.)** and her husband, Jeff, welcomed their first

child, Samantha Elizabeth, in September. They live in Orange, Calif.

**CAROLYN (CARETTO) ESCOBAR (B.A.)** says she and her husband recently bought their first home, in Arizona. Carolyn is enrolled in a teacher credential program to get her elementary education certification.

**CHRISTOPHER FALCIONI (B.A.)** married Stacey Roa on Oct. 23, 2004, in Orange, Calif. The couple honeymooned in Maui. They live in Brea, Calif., where Christopher is an account manager for Capital One Auto Finance in Irvine, Calif.

**TONY GLENN (B.B.A.)** and his wife, Sarah (Cook) Glenn (B.S. '00) celebrated the birth of their first child, daughter Sydney Marie, on June 8. She weighed 8 pounds, 7 ounces and was 21 inches. Tony says the family is healthy and doing well. Sarah reports that the baby is the pride and joy of their lives. The couple bought a home in Sacramento, Calif. Tony is a firefighter and Sarah teaches science at Sacramento High School.

**NOE JARAMILLO (B.A.)** married Jalena Lynn Alvarez on July 30 in Culver City, Calif. These alumni were among members of the wedding party: Fernando Rejon (B.A. '01); Ignacio Guzman B.A. '01 and Luis Bautista (B.A. '00).

**PAUL JULIAN (B.B.A.)** married Angelique Breau (B.A. '00) in August 2004. He works in development and brokerage at Maguire Properties while attaining a master's degree in real estate development from the University of Southern California.


**JENNIFER REMENSPERGER (B.A.)** graduated from veterinary school at University of California, Davis, in June. She works at a small general practice in Martinez, Calif.

**MONICA (ESCOBEDO) SCHEIN** married her husband, Charles, in March 2001 in Founders Chapel. Son Carlos, is 2½ and they have a new baby, Diego. Monica is a homemaker and says Charles is the marketing and membership vice president for the Fresno Economic Development Corp. "We miss San Diego greatly," she says.

**ANNELISE WEISS (B.A.)** married Daniel Davis on June 25 in Jackson, Wyo. Alumni in attendance were:

Ann (Caro) Wright (B.A. '89); Kristen Iacobelli (B.A. '01) and Michelle Anderson (B.A. '00). Annelise and Daniel honeymooned in San Jose del Cabo, Mexico, for 10 days and make their first home in Fall City, Wash. Annelise works at a think tank as director of events and membership. Dan works as a rehabilitation specialist for Gentiva Health Services. They have a 1-year-old yellow lab, named Duke, and plan to move to Jackson in two years.

**RENEE YEH (B.A.)** can't believe it's been so long since graduation. She visits campus a lot and says she can't get over all the new buildings and designs. She's especially excited about the expanding visual and performing arts community and hopes to one day make her home in San Diego. After graduation, Renee worked in the art field for a while at the Museum of Contemporary Art in San Diego, which led to a move to Sacramento, Calif., where she worked for the Arts Commission. Eventually, she landed back in her hometown of Pasadena, Calif. After earning a master's degree in political science at California State University, Los Angeles, Renee is in the process of earning another master's degree in education, along with a multiple-subject credential at the University of Southern California. "I'm still a Torero fan, no matter how much Trojan brainwashing," she says.

**[2001]**  **AMY APPRILL (B.A.)** received an M.S. degree in biological oceanography from the University of Hawaii, and is pursuing a Ph.D. in the same field at that university.

**MICHAEL AVILA (B.B.A.)** and his wife Christine (Pierce) Avila (B.B.A. '02) had their first baby, Benson Pierce, on Oct. 1. He weighed 6 pounds, 15 ounces and was 18.5 inches long.

**JENNIFER BALL (B.A.)** married Rich Reinebach on Oct. 21 at the First United Methodist Church in San Diego's Mission Valley. Molly Ravenscroft (B.B.A. '01) was a bridesmaid. Rich is a graduate of Christian Heritage College in San Diego, and originally is from Detroit.

**CARLOS CAMPBELL (B.A.)** is in his third year of law school at California Western School of Law.



BARBARA FERGUSON

## [ alumni board ]

# MEET THE PRESIDENT

**R**enda (Aladray) Quinn '86, who chaired Homecoming Weekend two years after she graduated, and has been an active member of Alumni Association ever since, recently was named president of the Alumni Association Board.

Quinn, who joined the board in 1994 and has been taking leading roles in planning signature events such as Alumni Honors since graduating, says she's proud to see how much momentum the association has gained in recent years.

"USD has a special place in my heart," Quinn says. "I'm so proud to be part of this university and this board that I don't think they're ever going to get rid of me."

Quinn, wife to Brian Quinn '88 and mother to 8-year-old triplets, says she had an incredible experience as a student and was connected

to many alumni who were either friends of the family or advisers to her sorority.

Today, she keeps in touch with students through events like Homecoming, the Senior Legacy program, the Student Alumni Association and the Finals Feeding Frenzy. She says that maintaining relationships with students will help the Alumni Association have more influence in the future.


"I have so many goals," says Quinn. "We've already got a great start, but I look forward to helping the Alumni Association grow even more. My biggest goal is to increase alumni participation. Our alumni can make a difference by volunteering locally or regionally, being an advocate for USD, donating to the university to improve our national ranking, helping USD qualify for grants, and most importantly, helping the students." 



PHOTO COURTESY OF DAVID WOLFE

So far, he's written three books. He founded Nature's First Law, a raw food organization based in San Diego, with a store in El Cajon, specializing in all things raw. And, perhaps in part as homage to the tangerine, but mostly to promote fresh fruit, Wolfe also started The Fruit Tree Planting Foundation. Its goal is to plant 18 billion trees around the world. Wolfe says he loves to get his hands dirty planting trees on Native American reservations and just about anywhere else people will let him dig a hole and drop a seed.

Wolfe concedes that for some people a raw food diet seems monotonous. "People always ask, 'So do I have to eat lettuce and oranges for the rest of my life?'" he says. The answer is no. Some of the staples of the diet are fruits and vegetables, nuts and seeds, beans, grains and legumes and coconut milk. But, in addition to these are what Wolfe calls super foods — things like wild honey, bee pollen, maca (which is a root in the radish family), cacao nut (which is the purest form of chocolate), and goji berries, similar to raisins, only red.

"Not everyone will jump from what their diet is to what my diet is," says Wolfe, who's lanky at 6-foot-tall, and weighs 168 pounds. He no longer owns a stove.

"Anybody can eat goji berries and realize they're incredible. We meet people wherever they're at, and usually start by introducing them to the super foods. From there they can try adding more fresh fruits and vegetables to their diets, pull out that juicer they've never used before and see what happens, or buy a raw foods book and start experimenting. They don't have to take the whole thing on at once." 🌱

*For more information about Nature's First Law, go to [www.rawfood.com](http://www.rawfood.com).*

[ go raw ]

## IT'S MISTER FRESH MAKER

The next food revolution is here and it's delicious

by Krystn Shrieve

**D**avid Wolfe makes it his mission to get fresh with people. Sometimes he gets downright dirty. In fact, most would say he's just plain raw.

And it's all in a day's work.

Wolfe '98 (J.D.), who grew up thinking a french fry was a perfectly respectable vegetable, is now at the forefront of the raw-food revolution. The raw-food movement — popularized by celebrities like supermodel Carol Alt and actors Woody Harrelson and Demi Moore — is based on

the belief that cooking food reduces its nutritional value. Raw foodists also don't eat meat, dairy, eggs or other animal products.

For Wolfe, what has become a lifestyle all started with a tangerine. He was 7 when he moved to San Diego with his family and, while visiting an uncle, plucked a tangerine off a tree in the back yard.

"I'll never forget that tangerine," says Wolfe. "I'd never had anything that fresh and vibrant. What

happened for me in that moment was that I realized I could be eating this way all the time."

As a teen, Wolfe stopped eating dairy products. In college, he dated a girl who only ate organic foods. Then he became a vegetarian. By the time he got to USD's law school, enough people asked about his diet for him to start giving lectures and write a book. First he sold 10 copies. Then 100. Then 1,000. Before he knew it, he'd sold 100,000.



**MEGHAN CLARK (B.B.A.)** is a commercial real estate broker in Boston and is active with fund raising for the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society, Komen Race for the Cure and the American Cancer Society.

**KRISTEN DENNIS (M.B.A., J.D. '04)** lives in Washington, D.C., and works for the Under Secretary of Defense for Intelligence at the Office of the Secretary of Defense.

**LOURDES EPLEY (B.A., J.D. '05, LL.M. '05)** graduated from the School of Law in May and went on to earn an LL.M. in taxation on Dec. 31.

**MARGARET HOGG (B.A.)** married Chris Herr in July on Martha's Vineyard. They planned to move back to San Diego in March so that Chris could join a helicopter squadron at North Island in Coronado.

**MARISA HUBER (B.A.)** is starting her second year of law school at Santa Clara University, after studying abroad for the summer in the Greek Isles and at Oxford University, where she spent time with her fiancé, who is British.

**KATIE LAZARUS (B.A.)** married Jason Bettini, a California Highway Patrol officer, on April 26, 2003. Their son, Gabriel Joseph, was born on March 7, 2004, and they live in Napa Valley, Calif.

**MIYE MCGRATH (B.A.)** is a kindergarten teacher in Palos Verdes, Calif. She's been teaching for four years at Mira Catalina Elementary School.

**NICOLE (NUNES) MURRAY (B.A., M.B.A. '04)** married Jason Murray in October 2004 in Founders Chapel. She lives in Orange County, Calif., where she works in residential real estate.

**SUFIA WALI (B.A.)** expects to graduate in May from her fourth and final year of dental school at the University of Southern California.

**[2002]**  
**BRANDIE BRAMSEN (B.A.)** graduated from Pepperdine's law school in May 2005. She works in commercial real estate development in San Diego and is earning her master's of science in real estate from USD.

**YVETTE CANABA (B.A.)** is beginning the second year in a master's program in public health at San Diego State University. She also is acting as project director for a grant, based out of the San Ysidro Health Center, which seeks to reduce the incidence of chronic diseases in the Latino populations of San Diego County's South Bay area.

**JEREMY CARRINE (B.A., B.B.A.)** is finishing his master's degree in communication at New York University.

**TRACE HAGGARD (B.A.)** reports that he has left Puerto Rico for Spain. He lives in Madrid and is studying for an International M.B.A. at the Instituto de Empresa.

**MICHAEL HASKINS (M.A.),** who worked in the publications office at USD for 12 years — and won 25 awards for the department, including several for *USD Magazine* — moved to Charleston, S.C., in March to take a job as vice president for marketing at the College of Charleston.

**SHANNON JACKSON (M.A.)** announced that she and her husband, Shane, celebrated the birth of their daughter, Ainsley Marie, on Oct. 28. Ainsley was welcomed by big brother Holden.

**ALISHA JOHNSON (B.A.)** is working on her doctorate in psychology at Pepperdine University.

**SERENA LONG (B.A.)** graduated from the University of California, Hastings, College of Law, in May 2005.

**LAURA STEVENS (B.A.)** attends culinary school in Los Angeles and works for a catering company.

**NICHOLAS TANDY (B.B.A.)** is busy snow skiing, mountain biking and working. He plans to pursue a graduate degree in business.

**[2003]**  
**KIMBERLY BURNETT (B.A.)** married Christopher Buck (B.B.A. '04) on Aug. 6 at Founders Chapel. Alison Heilman (B.A. '03) and Adam Thomas (B.B.A. '03) were in the wedding party. Kimberly and Christopher live in Hermosa Beach, Calif. Chris is a material program manager at Raytheon and Kimberly teaches first grade in Venice Beach, Calif.

**RYAN DE YOUNG (B.A., M.S. '04)** is building 200 to 300 homes a year in California's Fresno and Clovis areas.

**JENNIFER FRANKLIN (B.A.)** married Brian Lipinski on Sept. 18 in Irvine, Calif. The following alumni were in attendance: Jennifer Wagner (B.B.A. '03); Amanda Thoday (B.A. '03); Sarah Blaylock (B.B.A. '03); Shaunessy Reidy (B.A. '04); Leslie Johnson (B.B.A. '03), Tim Hamlin (B.A. '03); and Kara Marsh (B.A. '04).

**JOANNA HJORTH (B.B.A.)** and Christopher Denny (B.A. '99) were married at Founders Chapel on Sept. 10. USD attendants included: Pete Bennett (B.A. '97); Anna (Grobe) Hjorth (B.A. '01); Chris Calacci (B.A. '02); and Anna Smithson (B.A. '03).

**LESLIE JOHNSON (B.B.A.)** married Keith Helmacher on Oct. 29 in St. Paul, Minn. In attendance were fellow alumnae: Jennifer Wagner (B.B.A. '03); Amanda Thoday (B.A. '03); Shaunessy Reidy (B.A. '04); Jennifer Franklin-Lipinski (B.A. '03) and Kara Marsh (B.A. '04).

**ADAM LYNCH (B.A.)** worked in Auckland, New Zealand, for a year, with New Zealand Funds. Now he works in Maui for a condo development company called Goodfellow Construction.

**MARTIN MUTH (B.A., M.ED. '05)** is a special education teacher in the San Diego City Schools district. "I truly enjoy working with these children and seeing how even small achievements can change their lives," he says.

**JEFFRY NAHMIA (B.A.)** says he's studying medicine.

**ROBERT NEFF (B.S.)** a navy ensign, recently was designated a naval flight officer while serving with Helicopter Training Squadron Eight, in Milton, Fla. The presentation of the coveted "Wings of Gold," marked the culmination of Neff's 18 months of flight training.

**RICHARD ROMERO (B.A.)** says after graduating from USD, he entered law school at the University of Southern California. He's now beginning his final year at the law school, after which he plans to return to San Diego to practice law.

**[2005]**  
**KELIN (HITCH) RAPP (M.A.)** is working as a career adviser at The Art

Institute of California, San Diego, where classmate Sarah Gottry (M.A. '05) is teaching a career development class.

## In Memoriam

**ARLINE (RAYMOND) CURTISS (B.A. '56)** passed away on Sept. 16, 2005 at her home. Her husband, Toby Curtiss, says Arline had an inoperable brain tumor and that she passed away after receiving radiation and chemotherapy.

**LEANN (MAHONEY) HOWARD (B.A. '56)** passed away on Nov. 13, 2005.

**PATRICIA (WILSON) LARKIN (B.A. '67)** passed away on Aug. 24, 2005 in Jacksonville, N.C.

**EDGAR MERCADO (B.B.A. '86)** passed away on Dec. 28, 2003. Wife Gina says Edgar was a successful businessman and father, well-liked and admired by many people, especially Gina and their children, Andre, Jeanette, Veronica and Rebecca.

**BERNARD SIEGAN**, who was a professor in the School of Law from 1973 to 2006, passed away on March 27. He was 83. Professor Siegan, who worked at USD until his death, was one of the key legal and constitutional thinkers in the movement of ideas that became known as the Reagan Revolution. He was dedicated to advancing the idea that the right to private property and the right to earn an honest living were as important as the right to free speech and the right to vote.

**CLAIRE (STEHLY) GIUFFRÉ (B.A. '79)** passed away on April 1 at the age of 48. She was the owner of a therapeutic massage company. She and her family, many members of which are also alumni, are well known to the university community.

**SISTER MARY SUDDER (B.A. '56)** passed away on Sept. 9, 2005. She was 97 years old. Sister Sudder was born in Springfield, Ill., which is where she professed her vows with the Dominican Sisters of Springfield in 1932. She also earned a master's degree and was in education her entire working life. "Sister Mary was very proud of her degree from USD," wrote her 99-year-old sister, Sister Mary Imelda Sudder.





# Teachers and scientists and artists ... oh my!

**Your planned gift to the University of San Diego can help her make big discoveries.**

By designating a USD scholarship fund as a beneficiary in your will, living trust, insurance policy or IRA, you enhance the lives of future Toreros and help them realize their dreams. If USD is already in your estate plan, please let us know so that we can welcome you to the Puente de Oro Society. For more information, contact the USD Planned Giving office at (619) 260-4523 or visit [www.sandiego.edu/plannedgiving](http://www.sandiego.edu/plannedgiving).

**Make discovery happen.**





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

**OFFICE OF PUBLICATIONS  
AND MARKETING COMMUNICATIONS  
5998 ALCALÁ PARK  
SAN DIEGO, CA 92110-2492**

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

**ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED**