

# USD MAGAZINE

UNIVERSITY OF SAN DIEGO / FALL 2014



## *About Face*

*The remarkable story of how* **LIAM MCGEE '76**  
*transformed The Hartford*



[ o c t a d i c ]

## PAVING THE WAY

## Eight new women faculty members join the university



**A**s a new semester begins, I'm excited to welcome our community back to campus. Among them will be eight new faculty members who are joining us as part of a five-year project to recruit and advance female faculty in the fields of science, technology, engineering and mathematics. Launched in the fall of 2012, and dubbed Advancing Female Faculty: Institutional Climate, Recruitment and Mentoring (AFFIRM), the project was supported by a \$600,000 grant from the National Science Foundation. Please join me in welcoming these eight new professors, who will be working in an interdisciplinary cluster:

**Jessica Bell, PhD**, is joining the Department of Chemistry and Biochemistry.

She completed two postdoctoral fellowships: one on the "structure/function studies involved in the cytotoxic T lymphocyte response," and the second focused on the "structure/function studies of receptors that recognize pathogen, triggering our innate immune response."

**Molly Burke, PhD**, will become a member of the Department of Biology. Her work in studying how organisms adapt to novel environments has shed light on how evolution shapes life-history traits like aging and development. Her work is regarded as high-impact in the field of evolutionary biology and was published in the journal *Nature*, where it received considerable acclaim and press coverage.

Engineering education scholar **Odesma Dalrymple, PhD**, will be joining the faculty of the Shiley-Marcos School of Engineering. Her research has been on tools and techniques that can be readily applied in real engineering learning environments to improve student learning and teaching. Her scholarly work is spread across multiple venues with the intent of primarily reaching practitioner educators at the university and K-12 levels.

Mechanical engineer **Imane Khalil, PhD**, will also be joining the faculty of the Shiley-Marcos School of Engineering. Much of her career has focused on industrial and government research. After a stint at Hamilton Sundstrand, she worked at Sandia National Laboratories where she was a developer on nuclear power plant modeling software and Sandia's primary physics simulation codes. There she managed teams of engineers working on multi-million dollar projects such as the Mars Curiosity Rover and the Strategic Petroleum Reserve.

Marine scientist **Jennifer Prairie, PhD**, joins the Department of Environmental and Ocean Sciences. She specializes in biological-physical interactions in marine environments, particularly involving plankton. For the past three years, Prairie was a postdoctoral researcher and visiting lecturer at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill in both the Department of Marine Sciences and the Department of Mathematics.

**Amanda Ruiz, PhD**, is joining the Department of Mathematics and Computer Science. When working toward her doctorate in mathematics from Binghamton University, she started the Graduate Women's Organization to help women support each other in the academic environment. She also served as president of the Binghamton University Parent's Collective, an organization aimed at creating a community of graduate students who are juggling the responsibilities of school and children.

**Joan Schellinger, PhD**, will become a member of the Department of Chemistry and Biochemistry. Her teaching and research interests are in the areas of organic chemistry. Her research program at USD will involve working with undergraduate students towards the synthesis and evaluation of biologically relevant molecules focusing on chemical modification of peptides for increased bioactivity.

**Divya Sitaramin, PhD**, joins the Department of Psychological Sciences. Her work has been devoted to understanding how genes alter cells and their excitability in producing dynamic neuronal circuits that underlie behavior. After her PhD training in behavioral neuroscience, she trained extensively in developing genetic tools and neurophysiological approaches in the pursuit of a rich and diverse research and teaching program.

Please extend a warm welcome to these new faculty members.

— Andrew T. Allen, PhD, Vice President and Provost

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# ALUMNI GIVE BACK

*Make a USD EDUCATION possible  
for the next generation of TOREROS*



"I came into USD my freshman year knowing I had the passion and the drive to do something really wonderful and that God would put me on the path to find my mission in life. And I really believe that USD helped me find it. Now that I know how I will create justice in the world, I have peace in my heart. I'm committed to giving back to USD and I hope to inspire others to do the same."

— Justine Darling '08, '11 (MA)

*As a donor and alumna, Justine knows that giving back is important. Please make your gift to support USD student scholars today.*

**Go to [www.sandiego.edu/giving](http://www.sandiego.edu/giving).**



# USD MAGAZINE

UNIVERSITY OF SAN DIEGO / FALL 2014

## FEATURE

CONTENTMENT IS THE GREATEST TREASURE.

### 16 / INTO THE AMAZON

Stephen Wallace '00 (JD) journeyed into the Ecuadoran Amazon to interview and photograph the Achuar people earlier this year. Although by our standards they live in primitive conditions, he found them uniformly happy, in harmony with the rainforest and its many inhabitants. He wants to spread the word about why these content and self-sufficient people are now asking for help.

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Keeping students engaged and excited about learning was the focus of an intense brainstorming session on campus over the summer.



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Check out some facts that show USD's commitment to creating an empathetic and compassionate campus culture.

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An art exhibition of prints is the first in a planned series in an unprecedented partnership with the British Museum.

#### 8 / *Family Legacy*

Martin Dickinson, local philanthropist and longtime donor to USD's Hahn School of Nursing and Health Science, is the epitome of civic pride.

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New Veteran's Student Services Center aims to better serve those who serve us, providing them with the resources they need to succeed at USD.



# 16

CHANGE THE WORLD.

### ATHLETICS

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The receiving duo of Reggie Bell '15 and Brandon White '15 have playing styles that couldn't be more different than one another, and that's a good thing.

### ON THE COVER:

Photo of Liam McGee '76 by  
Jonathan Fickies/Bloomberg.



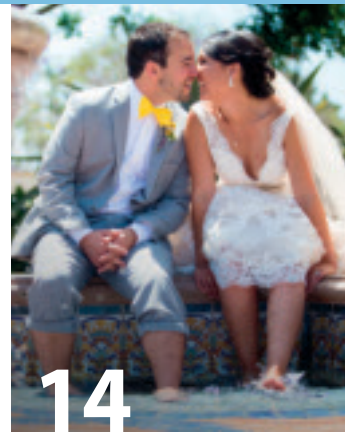
## COVER STORY

**20 / ABOUT FACE**

Few turnarounds have been as remarkable as that of The Hartford's under CEO Liam McGee '76. On his first day at work, he faced one of the toughest rescue operations in the annals of the financial crisis. His job was simple: save a venerable institution that had been around so long that it had helped to finance the Golden Gate Bridge and the Hoover Dam. When he stepped down this past June, the company's financial turnaround was largely complete. The story of his stewardship is a story of cultural transformation.

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## CELEBRATE LIFE AND ALL ITS MANY POSSIBILITIES.



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Every week, couples are surrounded by family and friends at one of the most beloved spaces on campus, where they celebrate their nuptials and pledge to spend their lives together.

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USD's sixth annual Wine Classic was the most successful to date.

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Jill Hepp's shark conservation efforts are part of a larger effort to manage the world's oceans.



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A letter to USD President Mary E. Lyons, PhD, has a theme of circles within circles and what it means to truly help transform the world.

**36 / *Ms. De Lara Goes to Washington***

The first student from USD to participate in a student program at the nonprofit Washington Center, Michelle (De Lara) Ibarra '99 recalls her time in the nation's capital as an invaluable component to her education.



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[wondrous]

# CURIOUS BEASTS

Major partnership between British Museum and USD

(Below) Francisco de Goya, *Al toro y al aire darles calle*, etching, aquatint, and drypoint, 1816-1824, © The Trustees of the British Museum; (at right) George Cruikshank, *The Mermaid!*, hand-colored etching, 1822, © The Trustees of the British Museum.



will feature singular works such as Albrecht Dürer's famed woodcut, *Rhinoceros* (1515), George Stubbs' etching, *A Sleeping Leopard* (1791) and Francisco de Goya's aquatint *Al toro y al aire darles calle* (1816-24), alongside other less known and seldom seen treasures. These works were typically small-scale, easily transported, comparatively affordable and were also accessible to many levels of society. They comprise a fascinating record of early modern imagination, creativity and popular tastes.

"From the early Renaissance forward, European artists were intrigued by discoveries of new species and participated in efforts to understand the wondrous creatures in both scientific and creative terms," Cartwright explains. "The British Museum's holdings offer an unparalleled opportunity to study these images, and we plan to make the most of having these works with us throughout the fall term."

The exhibition is divided into four sections. After a brief introductory section, a large group of prints will illustrate the symbolic and allegorical roles that animals have played through the ages. Another section explores how prints were used to understand the natural world

by Liz Harman

**T**he British are coming! And they're bringing rhinos, tigers and all manner of beasts with them to USD. This fall, the university will begin a five-year partnership with the revered British Museum, which holds one of the most extensive and historic collection of prints and drawings in the world.

The exhibition, *Curious Beasts: Animal Prints from Dürer to Goya*, in USD's Hoehn Family Galleries, is the first in a planned

series of three collaborations that "will result in extraordinary images coming to San Diego, many for the first time," says Derrick Cartwright, Director of University Galleries and Professor in the Department of Art, Architecture + Art History. "No other San Diego arts institution has ever collaborated with the British Museum at this level." The partnership will also include opportunities for USD students to intern and study abroad in London.

The exhibition, which runs from Oct. 3-Dec. 12, examines humanity's enduring curiosity about the animal world through the beautiful and occasionally bizarre imagery found in the British Museum's vast collection of more than two million prints. *Curious Beasts* features 86 rare woodcuts, engravings, etchings, mezzotints and lithographs from the 15th to the 19th centuries.

Specifically, *Curious Beasts*



# [gifts at work]

## **The John and Gerry McGee Endowed Scholarship Fund,**

totaling more than \$550,000, was established by Mr. and Mrs. McGee through a bequest from their estate. This McGee Family legacy will provide scholarships to graduate students pursuing teaching credentials. This extraordinarily thoughtful gift will produce annual scholarship funds of more than \$22,000.

## **CIGNA University has given \$100,000**

to support USD's 2014 Women PeaceMakers Program. The program, in its 12th year at the Joan B. Kroc Institute for Peace and Justice, documents the stories and best practices of international women leaders. Each year, four international fellows are chosen to spend two months in residency at USD, where they speak to classes and give presentations on efforts to defend human rights and build peace in their countries. CIGNA University is the educational arm of CIGNA Corporation and provides on-demand learning at no charge via [www.itstimetofeelbetter.com](http://www.itstimetofeelbetter.com).

## **School of Law alumnus Jack McGrory, '81 (JD),**

gave \$100,000 to help fund expansion of the law school's commitment to serving veterans of the U.S. military. His gift will support USD's Initiative to Protect Student Veterans efforts — which educate and protect military veterans from the misleading practices of some for-profit educational institutions and lenders through statewide and national advocacy. Additionally, his gift will support veterans needing assistance with discharge upgrades and Veterans Administration disability claims appeals, by providing free legal assistance through USD's Veterans Legal Clinic.

## **The Bill Hannon Foundation has awarded \$75,000**

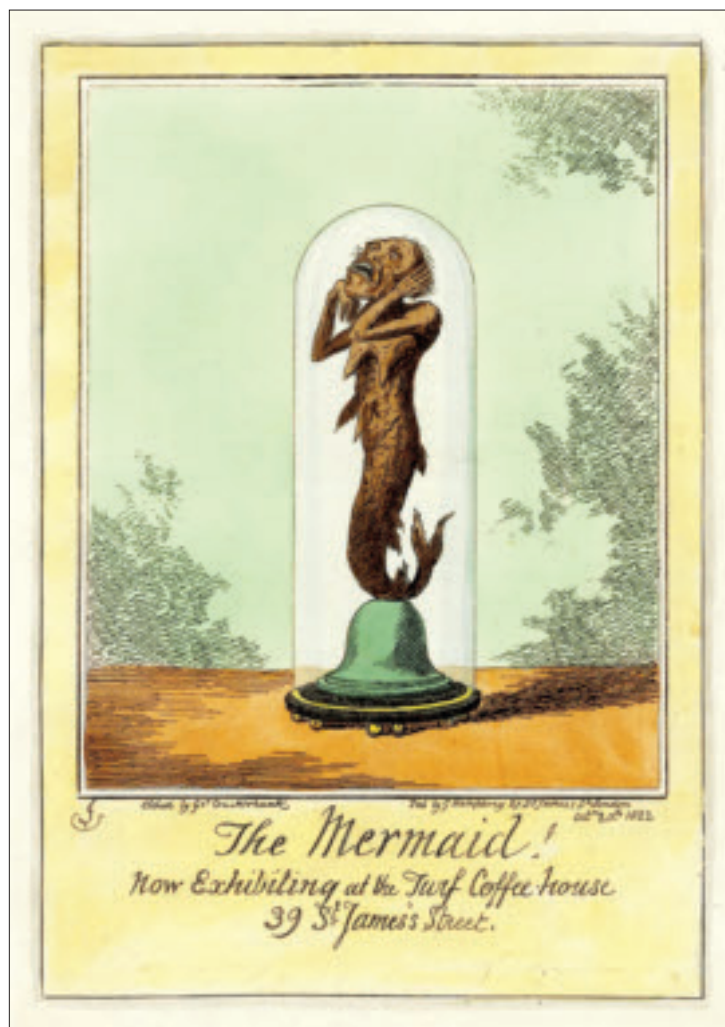
to the College of Arts and Sciences for scholarships in art, music and theatre. Previously, Hannon has endowed scholarships that have supported USD students studying in the areas of marine science, nonprofit management, engineering and peace, as well as students who are recognized as USD Changemakers. The foundation supports Roman Catholic higher education, primarily in the Los Angeles area.

## **Michele '84 and Ken Moore gave \$50,000**

for the second year in a row to the Kenneth E. and Michele L. Moore Endowed Scholarship Fund at the School of Business Administration (SBA). Distributions from this fund are used to provide annual scholarships to deserving and qualified undergraduate students in the SBA who demonstrate financial need. Michele attended USD on scholarship and was very appreciative of the support she received which enabled her to become a Torero. Both she and Ken are excited to have the opportunity to give back to the next generation of USD students. Michele has also recently joined the SBA Board of Advisors.

## **This spring, the newly minted Torero Clubs**


led the inaugural Torero Regional Rally. This friendly competition had the goal of raising money for student scholarships while boosting alumni participation in the process. The Chicago, Ill. and Kansas City, Mo. clubs were the first to reach the 15 percent goal, with Kansas City alumni edging out the competition with 23.5 percent participation. USD's overall alumni participation rate is 12.51 percent.



and how these images were put to use within the scientific community. A final section demonstrates how prevalent animals were in the everyday life of people from the 16th through 19th centuries and how they came to be viewed as artistic subjects in their own right.

Alison Wright, the British Museum's curator of the exhibition, says she's delighted that the project will be coming to USD. "The British Museum's astonishing collection of prints has proved a wonderfully rich resource for exploring the ways in which the natural world has inspired and fascinated artists across the centuries. It's a privilege now to be able to share the show with an institution with such an outstanding commitment to the study and appreciation of prints."

The presentation of prints from the British Museum will be augmented by a selection of prints of animal subjects from USD's own rapidly growing collection. Due to the generosity of a number of donors, USD's print collection has nearly doubled in size over the past two years and now represents one of San Diego's most important visual resources for print culture.

The prints that will be shown alongside the British Museum's works include some of the finest works in the university's print collection, with rare examples of USD's own images by Dürer and Goya, as well as several recent acquisitions. 

For more about the exhibition and upcoming events, go online to [www.sandiego.edu/galleries](http://www.sandiego.edu/galleries).

**Civic leader Martin Dickinson (pictured with his wife, Carol) heads the Donald C. And Elizabeth M. Dickinson Foundation, which has made significant contributions to USD's Hahn School of Nursing and Health Science.**

[ torchbearer ]

# FAMILY LEGACY

## Martin Dickinson links generations through civic pride

by Trisha J. Ratledge

For some, retirement brings long-anticipated time to rest and reflect on a life well lived. For Martin Dickinson, retirement definitely opened up time, but not for rest. In fact, after more than 40 years in the banking industry, Dickinson has spent many more hours in the boardroom than on the back porch since turning in his corporate key. He doesn't mind; he considers it his family's legacy to advance the work of organizations throughout San Diego, including longtime support of USD's Hahn School of Nursing and Health Science.

Born in room 703 at San Diego's Mercy Hospital during the Great Depression, Dickinson learned early that a community is not just where you live; it is a part of who you are. His mom, a homemaker who was active in the community, and his dad, a banker and former Eagle Scout who lived with a heart condition resulting from rheumatic fever, quietly supported the organizations that were important to them, such as the Boy Scouts of America, The Salvation Army and Scripps Hospital. The emphasis was always on "quietly."

"My dad would get a call from The Salvation Army at Thanksgiving and they would say, 'We don't have enough money to hold the Thanksgiving dinner this year,'" Dickinson recalls. "And



COURTESY OF MARTIN DICKINSON

he would say, 'I'll do it for you, but don't mention my name.'"

After earning a BA in economics, Dickinson served four years in the Navy, then earned an MBA in finance and rose to leadership positions in many of San Diego's top commercial banking institutions, including La Jolla Bank & Trust Company and Scripps Bank. He then co-

founded Legacy Bank, which ultimately merged with Landmark National Bank.

True to his parents' example, Dickinson became a civic leader as well, lending his expertise to 25 corporate and nonprofit boards over the years, from CBS to Scripps Health to the National Cowboy & Western Heritage Museum in his dad's hometown

of Oklahoma City. His wife, Carol, is similarly engaged, serving on the boards of the San Diego Botanic Garden and Mingei International Museum, among others.

Today, as president of the Donald C. and Elizabeth M. Dickinson Foundation, which was named for his parents and funded largely by their estate after they passed away, Dickinson and his family support about 20 organizations primarily in San Diego County that are dedicated to education or the medical arts.

Dickinson's children serve the foundation as well, with son, Kris, as executive director and daughter, Rebecca, as a member of the board. All of the foundation's efforts pay homage to Dickinson's parents, including the group's significant contributions to USD's School of Nursing.

Since the late 1990s, the Dickinson Foundation has awarded \$1.4 million to support the nursing school's efforts — and in particular, the Master's Entry Program in Nursing. The Dickinson Foundation awarded a gift of \$2 million to the school in 2013 for the Elizabeth Dickinson Smoyer Nursing Simulation Center in memory of Dickinson's sister, who was active in the family foundation and passed away in 2012. The new clinical simulation and education center, which will be built as part of the Betty and Bob Beyster Institute for Nursing



Research, Advanced Practice, and Simulation, will expand upon the school's renowned clinical simulation program and serve as a national model for nursing education.

"Having been associated with the Scripps Health Board for many years, it was evident that one of the challenges hospitals face is finding enough qualified nurses and administrators," Dickinson says. "The nursing school is turning out the master's and PhD students who fill those roles. We are not a brick-and-mortar charitable organization, but this building is essential for (Dean) Sally (Brosz Hardin) to be able to expand her organization."

"The Hahn School of Nursing and Health Science has been a pioneer in bringing nursing simulation to educate advanced practice nurses," says Hardin. "Mr. Dickinson has been a wonderful spokesperson for us and has volunteered his personal time to help us. Very few people understand how significant the role of nursing is, especially graduate-prepared nurses, and Mr. Dickinson and his family get that. We are very grateful to him and to the entire Dickinson family for their support."

Embracing more of the "rest" side of retirement recently, Martin and Carol Dickinson are carving out time for their hobby of attending art auctions and art shows to collect Western art, and for travel, often to visit grandchildren in college. And just as his parents did for him, Dickinson continues to demonstrate the importance of his family legacy for these younger generations the best way he knows how: by quiet example.

"I have always felt very strongly — as my mom and dad did — about giving back to the people and the community we live in," Dickinson says. "I have a good life in San Diego, so it's important to support the community and help it grow." 📍

[transnational]

# iVIVA MADRID!

## USD establishes permanent center in Spain

by Ryan T. Blystone

The University of San Diego is a leader in providing international education experiences for students through study abroad programs in more than 70 countries. And now, USD has established its first permanent international studies facility in Madrid, Spain.

Denise Dimon, USD's associate provost for international affairs, announced recently that the university signed a lease for a 10,000-square-foot space in the heart of Madrid, near Retiro Park, the Prado Museum and tree-lined streets replete with sidewalk cafes, shops and more.

The opening of the USD Madrid Center once again raises USD's international profile, which has been nationally

ranked among the top three universities for its percentage of undergraduate students participating in undergraduate study abroad in each of the past five years via the Institute of International Education's Open Door Data.

"This is a natural progression. It's about expanding our footprint," says Dimon, a veteran USD economics professor and director of the International Center and Ahlers Center for International Business. "There is something very special about Madrid. It's important that USD is in Spain. It's about the Spanish culture, the people, the language and the city itself."

Dimon says the facility will have "many active learning spaces," with multiple class-

rooms, mobile learning technology capabilities as well as meeting and study spaces.

An inauguration celebration for the center will take place on Nov. 17 in Madrid. Celebrants will include President Mary E. Lyons, PhD, board of trustee members, alumni and friends of the University of San Diego.

"This center definitely puts USD on the map," International Studies Abroad Director Kira Espiritu says. "USD is not just talking about international education, we're walking the walk. When students return from Madrid they'll know they've had a true international experience." 📍

To learn more, go online to [www.sandiego.edu/madridcenter](http://www.sandiego.edu/madridcenter).



Then-USD students Heather Rasameetham '14 and Hillary Gomez '13 studied abroad in Madrid in 2011.

**USD Veteran Student Services Coordinator Laura Paquian (center) is flanked by USD students (from left to right) Adrimarie Ramirez, Bethany Woloszyn-Redman, Ruben Orosco and Steve Leader.**

[ b a s t i o n ]

# CLOSING THE GAP

**New USD Veteran's Center serves those who serve us**

by Mike Sauer

For the better part of three decades, Laura Paquian earned her stripes as an educational counselor and career coach in the United States Navy. Along the way, she

learned how vitally important it is to provide service men and women with the resources, support and encouragement they need to make a seamless and successful transition from

active-duty to civilian — even when they don't ask for it.

"One of the things you learn about veterans is that they typically don't look for help; there's a vulnerability in that,

that they're typically unfamiliar with," says Paquian, who now serves as USD's veteran student services coordinator. "Life in the military is very regimented; in that kind of system, it's very easy to find what you're looking for. That's not always the case in civilian life."

And in the case of the men and women who seek to advance their educational and career opportunities by returning to college after they rotate out of service, that transition can be jarring. Student veterans who may have been out of school for years — as well as those fresh out of the military — can find it challenging to connect with their new classmates, who are often many years younger and unfamiliar with military culture.

As if that hurdle isn't high enough, there's also the struggle to find their niche. A study at Arizona State University suggests the power of social relationships directly impacts a veteran's decision to stay in school. Post-traumatic stress and multiple deployments are thought to unravel the ability of some to connect with their campus community — and subsequently stay in school long enough to earn their degrees.

Since veteran's priorities are often different from those of the typical college co-ed,



TIM MANTOANI



what can USD do to recruit and retain members of this valued and highly motivated student demographic? Enter the newly constructed University of San Diego Veteran's Center, a place where student veterans can connect with their peers, share experiences and enhance their comfort level with life on campus.

After researching available on-campus resources for veterans at peer-group institutions (private, faith-based universities) here in California, Paquian found that USD is the only school with a dedicated space for student veterans. That's a huge advantage, especially given the large military community on USD's doorstep. "We have such a large armed forces presence here in San Diego, and the Veteran's Center will be such an important recruiting tool to attract the best and brightest from the various branches here in town," Paquian says.

The center, which opened this fall, is designed to function as a one-stop shop where students can have questions answered on topics ranging from military benefits and financial aid packages to professional networking opportunities. Located on the second floor of the Hahn University Center, the space will include an all-purpose area where students can hold meetings, study sessions, or just relax and talk with folks who understand their experiences and speak their language.

"I have a very neat picture of how it's all going to work in my head," Paquian says, smiling. "The center's going to be a great place for our veteran students to get to know each other and network, but it's also a place where they can go and blow off steam, knowing that the people there understand exactly what they're going through." 📍

[Innovative]

## BREAKING GROUND

### Construction begins on Beyster Institute for Nursing Research

by Liz Harman

This spring, USD officially broke ground on the \$18 million Betty and Bob Beyster Institute for Nursing Research, Advanced Practice, and Simulation (BINR). The institute "ultimately will stand as a symbol that nursing is indeed a science, as well as an art, and that nursing research and practice save lives," said Sally Brosz Hardin, PhD, RN, FAAN, dean of USD's Hahn School of Nursing and Health Science, who spoke to some 200 guests on the lawn adjacent to the nursing school where the new facility will be constructed. The 30,000-square-foot, three-story building will be connected to the current school by a bridge and a plaza.

The new building will include The Elizabeth Dickinson Smoyer Nursing Simulation Center, the keystone of the school's clinical teaching facilities. The center was funded by the San Diego-based Dickinson Foundation, which has been a committed supporter of the school for more than a decade.

The Beyster Institute also

includes the Krause Family PhD Research Library/Study, which was made possible by a gift from Gale and James Krause.

The third-floor research center houses three units that focus on critical health care issues of perinatal women's health; healthy aging, cognition and end-of-life care as well as military and veterans' physical and mental health. There also will be an innovative Elder Adult Laboratory Apartment to assess and conduct research on the elderly's functional status and activities of daily living, along with high-tech and executive classrooms.

A lead gift of \$8 million from Dr. and Mrs. J. Robert Beyster helped make the institute possible. Other donors include School of Nursing faculty, 90 percent of whom have contributed to the BINR, alumni, students, staff and friends. "We are so grateful to our donors who share our vision for an institute that will allow us to significantly influence nursing policy and practice at the regional, national and global levels," Hardin said. 📍



USD President Mary E. Lyons, PhD, Betty Beyster and School of Nursing Dean Sally Hardin, PhD, RN, FAAN.

NICK ARADILLA

## [etc.]

**USD is ranked 14th nationally** in the 2014 "Cool Schools" list of the greenest colleges and universities, according to a list released by *Sierra* magazine in August. "Toreros everywhere can take pride in our efforts to cut water use, reduce energy costs, recycle electronic waste and plan wisely to conserve resources for generations to come," said USD President Mary E. Lyons, PhD.

**Patricia Márquez, PhD, began her role as dean** of the Joan B. Kroc School of Peace Studies in August. "The Kroc School has a most powerful vision laid out by Mrs. Kroc: 'to build a unique school for scholars and practitioners to advance the work of peace and justice,'" she says. "My goal is to lead the school to fulfill that vision."

**Dee Aker, PhD, was named director** of the Joan B. Kroc Institute for Peace and Justice (IPJ) of the Kroc School of Peace Studies, effective Sept. 1, 2014. She has been serving as interim director of the IPJ. Everard (Ev) Meade, PhD, was named director of the Kroc School of Peace Studies' Trans-Border Institute in March; he is a published scholar with extensive experience teaching courses on the history of Mexico and human rights.

**After 16 years as dean** of the School of Leadership and Education Sciences (SOLES), Paula Cordeiro, EdD, has elected to step down and return to a faculty position in the summer of 2015. During her tenure as dean, SOLES achieved significant milestones. The school is consistently ranked in the top 100 schools of education in the nation and all program areas now hold national accreditation.

While their styles may differ, USD wide receivers Brandon White (left) and Reggie Bell (right) are both exceptional talents.

[compatible]

# EXACTLY OPPOSITE

Exceptional USD receivers thrive on their differences



TIM MANTOANI

by Mike Sauer

If you've spent any time at Torero Stadium over the past few seasons watching USD football's prolific passing attack wreak havoc on opposing defenses, consider yourself fortunate. After all, it's not every year — or every few years, or even every decade for that matter — that you'll have a chance to witness a more dynamic receiving duo than Reggie Bell '15 and Brandon White '15.

Both possess an unbridled passion for the game of football. Both believe that the whole is

always greater than the sum of its parts. And both are more than willing to put in the work it takes to reach their maximum potential on the field.

And that's where their similarities end.

"Both Reggie and Brandon are dynamic athletes who have the ability to change a game with one play," says USD Football Receivers Coach Cory Martin. "Their playing styles couldn't be much more different though, and that's a good thing."

A fifth-year redshirt senior,

Bell is a fleet and frenetic force of nature who led the Toreros in receptions (65), and receiving yards (1,050) in 2013. He also has no problem letting teammates know exactly how he feels they're performing — be it good or bad. "I'm a vocal leader, and I expect a lot out of my teammates," he says. "I know what it takes to win, and if we're not doing what we need to do on the field to be successful, I'll let people know."

As the reigning offensive MVP for the Toreros, Bell takes his responsibilities as a leader to

heart. He volunteered to organize a variety of team drills over the offseason and served as drill sergeant in-residence when the players hit the weight room.

"No one has worked harder in preparation for this season than Reggie, and he sets an extremely high standard," Martin says.

Nicknamed "the silent assassin" by his coaches, White's cool, calm and collected personality stands in stark contrast to Bell's vociferousness. His height and silky-smooth style have made him a very attractive target for USD quarterbacks, especially when the Toreros are on the march deep in their opponent's territory.

"I know I'm not the fastest guy in the world, but I know how to get open," White says. "I know how to use my height, and I can read the ball well when it's in the air, so either I catch it, or nobody does."

More often than not, those catches end up putting points on the board for the Toreros. White led the team with 12 touchdown receptions in 2013, and he feels he can add to that impressive total this year — with a little help from his pass-catching partner, of course.

"Reggie's so smart, he's got a lot of different moves that he can teach me that I'm sure will help my game," he says. "We may not look or play alike on the field, but we're always pushing each other to be better, and that's what makes us so effective." 🏈



# GETTING TO KNOW ...

## SPORTS BRIEFS



TIM MANTOANI

## KIM CUPINI

**AGE:** 33. **HOMETOWN:** Rochester, NY. **SUPERLATIVES:**

A five-time West Coast Conference (WCC) coach of the year in women's rowing, Cupini led the Toreros to the program's first-ever NCAA National Championships appearance in 2014. As a three-time team MVP and two-time All-WCC performer during her student rowing days at USD, Cupini knows what it takes to be great — and inspires her charges with a simple mantra. "I ask our athletes to believe in the power of gratitude for their experience, and the willingness to reach their greatest potential as athletes and as people." **PRACTICE MAKES PERFECT:** "We work extremely hard in the offseason and motivate each other. We've developed a culture of fitness and overall health that is vital to the development of our athletes, along with the support they give each other." **DOWNTIME?** "In order for me to be at my best in coaching and life, keeping up my fitness is very important. I love to be out in nature: cycling, running, surfing, you name it. It keeps me grounded and focused. I also try to compete when I can to stay in touch with that feeling the athletes have to go through."

**PRINCESS OF TIDES:** "I was an environmental studies major, and I've always loved the water. I try to use my knowledge of the local tides to maximize our efficiencies during practice, and it can make a big difference. Anything to get an edge, right?"

**In late June, USD announced** that Bill Grier received a contract extension to remain as head coach of the USD Men's Basketball program. In 2014, Grier helped guide the Toreros back into the postseason for the second time in his seven-year tenure. He's also been at the helm for all three of USD's NCAA Division I postseason wins, which includes the thrilling victory over the University of Connecticut in the first round of the 2008 NCAA Tournament.

**Former USD standout Kris Bryant** has been nothing short of phenomenal during his stint in the Chicago Cubs minor league organization — and one of baseball's top talent scouts has taken notice. ESPN Lead Baseball Analyst Keith Law recently ranked Bryant No. 1 on his "Top 50 MLB Prospects" list, and says it's only a matter of time before we see the former Torero displaying his prodigious talents at the major league level.

**It was a season to remember** for USD rugby. They were the first team in club history to go undefeated in conference play, finishing with a perfect 7-0 record in the Pacific Gold Coast Rugby Conference. The club maintained its momentum all the way through the postseason, ultimately earning a ticket to the Final Four of Division I-AA National Rugby, held in May, at Stanford University. The dream run ended with a loss to Central Florida in the national semifinal, but there's plenty of optimism for future success. "It was an incredible year, with our senior leadership stepping up and setting the expectations from day one," says USD Rugby Head Coach Andrew Castle.

Nicole "Niki" Even '06 (BA) was married to Jeffrey Barrios at Founders Chapel on April 26, 2014. Many alumni were in attendance (as evidenced in photo below).

[nuptials]

# GOING TO THE CHAPEL

**Sacrament of marriage a living example of Christ's love**

One of the most beloved spaces on campus, Founders Chapel has an even more special place in the hearts of those who marry there. Weddings there are reserved for alumni, faculty, staff and administrators, as well as the children of those groups. And at least one of the marriage partners must be Catholic.

"All of our brides and grooms have a deep connection to the university," explains Founders Chapel Wedding Coordinator Darlene Polak. "That makes these weddings all the more special, because the couples have such a deep love for this campus and for the chapel itself."

In guidelines that are provided to each couple, USD's Vice President of Mission and Ministry, Monsignor Daniel J. Dillabough '70 provides sage advice: "You have been given the opportunity by a specific community of faith to share their worship space with you for your special day. May the Lord greatly bless your marriage, and may your happiness together be limitless."



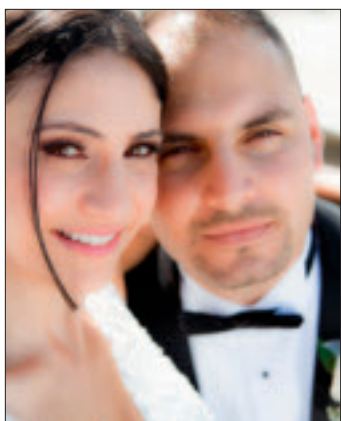
ZELO PHOTOGRAPHY





EISENHOWER PHOTOGRAPHY

BILL BERGHOFF '92 (BBA) and Lyndell Werling (BBA, '94) were married in Founders Chapel on April 26, 2014. Bill is president of Sportsplex USA with locations in Poway, Calif. and Santee, Calif. Lyndell is a project manager for Compass Analytics. "We were thrilled to get married on the campus where we met."



DAVID GUTIERREZ



JOEY & APRIL BERTOCCHINI

PAMELA CAPPIELLO '12 (MA), shown at left, was married to Diego Armando Gonzalez at Founders Chapel on June 7, 2014. "Founders Chapel is beautiful! We are so lucky to have had the privilege to be wed in this chapel."

ANNIE (TOTH) McILVAINE '07 (BA) married Drew McIlvaine on June 15, 2013 in Founders Chapel (shown at right). More than 20 USD alumni and staff were in attendance. "We had a long engagement," she writes. "Drew is in the Navy and was deployed for nine months, returning home just four weeks before the wedding. We were so fortunate to have Father Owen Mullen as our officiant."



HALF FULL PHOTOGRAPHY

HEATHER MANLY '02 '05 (MED) and Kevin Dooley '93 were married at Founders Chapel on August 16, 2014 with several fellow alumni in attendance. Heather will take over as Alumni Association board president in July 2015; Kevin is the founder of the USD Wine Classic. The couple met at USD's Alumni Honors event in 2008.



BUTCH OWENS

BRANDON McCREARY '10 (MA '12) and Lindsay Yuen '09 married June 7, 2014 in Founders Chapel. The couple met on Brandon's first day of move-in, as Lindsay was the resident assistant downstairs. Other USD grads in the wedding party included Julie Boyle Dewberry '09, Jennifer Gunsch '09 (JD '13), Alan Tun '10 and Brett McCreary '12. Brandon is currently on staff at USD, working as a community director of Maher Hall, where the couple resides.



# Into the Amazon

UP CLOSE AND PERSONAL IN THE RAINFOREST  
WITH THE ACHUAR PEOPLE

The Pastaza and Kawapi Rivers in Ecuador come together near the border of Peru. At their confluence, fresh water pink dolphins rise to the surface and nod their heads, as if to say hello. Nearby, toucans and parrots eat clay that neutralizes the poison in the berries they have just eaten. These animals are a part of the ecosystem that is as pure and unadulterated as any in the world. These pristine surroundings are also inhabited by the Achuar people, who put on face paint to protect themselves from harm while moving through the rainforest.

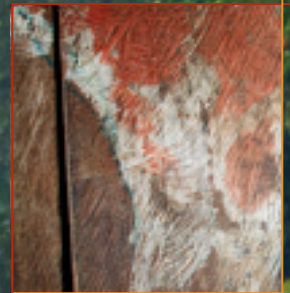
They live in harmony and in reverence of the rivers, trees and animals that inhabit their spectacular surroundings. The rainforest is where the Achuar find their food, medicines and raw materials to construct anything they need. It is their sacred place of worship.

The Achuar live without electricity. They have no automobiles or roads. They hunt with blowguns and curare darts. They believe the dreams they have while consuming hallucinogenic plants all come true. They are self sufficient, needing nothing from the outside world.

So, why are they so frightened?



Words and Photography by  
**Stephen Wallace '00**



**In the spring of 2014, I spent eight days** with the Achuar people, photographing and interviewing five families, including a shaman. I was fortunate to find a guide who spoke English and Achuar. All four villages I visited sat high on elevated banks above rivers, and the scenery was breathtaking.

My guide and I took a canoe up and down the Kawapi River to reach the four villages. Once near a village, we would walk up the bank to where the Achuar huts were located. My guide would go ahead, and obtain permission for me to enter the family's home.

Their huts are tall, impressive structures, approximately 25 feet high, with roofs made from palm fronds. For the most part, the homes are open on three sides so friends can come and go. There are benches around the circumference of the hut for visitors to sit. Some of the huts have a small, enclosed area at one end for sleeping. The cooking is done on an open fire. Chickens and dogs walk freely through the homes.

**First, my guide and the father of the family** exchanged what seemed to be a set dialogue in which both talked at the same time. After a couple of minutes I was told by my guide to introduce myself and explain why I was there. I spoke in English. My guide would interpret what I had said.

I thanked the man of the house for the honor of entering his home and for allowing me to speak with him and take pictures of him and his family. The father would welcome me and thank me for visiting his family. The Achuar were beyond gracious.

After introductions, I was given permission to ask questions, which were all answered by the father. My first questions were, "What is your daily life like? What do you and your family do every day?" This would usually bring the first smile on my host's face and then he would answer.

**The Achuar have a set routine.** They wake up at three in the morning and drink "wayus," a bitter drink that causes them to vomit. They believe the vomiting cleans them out to start the day fresh. The next few hours are spent telling stories with the entire family present. These stories provide guidance to the children and preserve the history of their people. In the United States, we would call it spending quality time.

After the sun comes up, there is fishing, hunting and gardening. The women do the gardening, which includes harvesting the roots of the native manioc plant to make "chichi," a slightly fermented white liquid, later in the day. The men do the hunting and fishing. Fishing may be with a line and hook or a special basket filled with a crushed vine. When the basket is shaken underwater, extracts from the vines diffuse and the fish absorb it through their gills. The extracts weaken the fish, causing them to float to the top; they are then picked off the surface of the water.

Hunting involves walking for hours with an eight-foot long blowgun on their shoulders; the darts are made from palm fronds. Their favorite game to hunt is the peccary, a large hog that inhabits the jungle. The peccary puts out one of the strongest odors of any animal on earth. The Achuar follow the peccary by tracks and smell. The darts they use are thinner than a pencil lead and penetrate only an inch or two. It is the curare at the tip of the dart that brings the 60-to-80 pound animal down.

**One of my visits was to a shaman** at his complex of huts where his entire family lives. I am a physician and was interested in the medicines he used to treat his patients. Some of the drugs found on pharmacy shelves in the United States have come from plant sources. In fact, even curare that is placed at the end of the Achuar's darts to

paralyze animals was used in the U.S. for many years as a muscle relaxant during surgery. As an anesthesiologist, I have used curare in operating rooms.

I asked the shaman how he treats illness. The shaman's facial expression became very serious as he told me how he cures everything from earaches to anxiety. He explained that all maladies of the body are produced by evil spirits that can come into a person without their knowledge.

His primary means of affecting a cure is a mixture known to the Achuar as "ayahuasca," which contains a very potent hallucinogen. He went on to explain that it causes the taker to have "dreams" that purge the body of the evil spirits. The visual and auditory hallucinations last about four hours. He uses a mixture of two vines he grinds to powder and then turns into a liquid. The two plants used are "natem" and "yayi," which are ground with a mortar and pestle and then placed in a pot to be heated over an open fire for approximately three hours. This powerful hallucinogenic mixture has been studied by doctors at UCLA and acts much like LSD.

The active chemical in ayahuasca is DMT, which has been known to western medicine since the 1960s. It is amazing that people with no knowledge of pharmacology discovered this mixture. Research at UCLA indicates ayahuasca stimulates the production of serotonin receptors in the brain, which may be very beneficial for treating depression. The knowledge imparted to us by the Achuar could possibly even lead to a major new pharmaceutical for mental illness.

**I found the families I visited to be uniformly happy,** judging by the way they described their lives and by their expressions when they described their family and community.

I asked them if there were material things they needed. The universal answer was, "No, we have everything we want." I asked what they would like for their children's future. The answer was always, "What we have now."


My next to last question was always, "Do you have any fears?" With this question the expressions turned serious. Again there was a universal answer, "Oil companies." They have been told there is oil under the jungle where they live.

They have also been told the outside world wants it.

The Achuar know what has happened in other parts of Ecuador and Peru, where drilling has occurred. The petroleum industry has been in northern Ecuador and Peru for many years and has intentionally dumped extreme amounts of crude oil directly on the surface of the land occupied by children, plants and animals. The oil companies do not deny the dumping occurred and do not deny it was intentional. Litigation is ongoing to determine if they should clean up the mess.

The Achuar are not a part of this lawsuit and do not care who wins. The Achuar just ask that the same thing does not happen to their land. They love their children and want to protect them. This is why they are afraid.

Is their fear justified? Yes. If the past portends the future, at some point they will be driven off their land by oil pollution or the Ecuadorian government. In the past, when indigenous people of the Amazon have resisted the dictates of South American politicians they have been killed, en masse if necessary. The last question I always asked my Achuar hosts was, "Do you have any questions for me?" The answer was the same from all: "Will you help us tell the world what a wonderful place we live in and will you please help us stop the oil companies?"

I said I would. 

*Stephen Wallace '00 (JD) has degrees in pharmacy, medicine and law.*







# Step one:

Save a 204-year-old *financial icon*

# Step two:

Bow out gracefully

| **by Shawn Tully**

| photography by Jonathan Fickies/Bloomberg

**T**he day Liam McGee took charge at Hartford Financial Services Group — Oct. 1, 2009 — he was facing one of the toughest rescue operations in the annals of the financial crisis. The job was to save a venerable institution that was then just a year from its 200th anniversary. The Hartford had helped finance the Golden Gate Bridge and the Hoover Dam; it had contracted to pay benefits to Babe Ruth if the Sultan of Swat were sidelined by illness. It was a history reflected in the company's baronial lobby — the one that McGee often walked past to reach the CEO suite. There on the wall was a framed homeowner's policy that the company had issued to Abraham Lincoln in 1861. The annual premium? A prodigious \$24.

On McGee's arrival, The Hartford itself was in danger of becoming a fusty heirloom. Just four months earlier, it had been on the brink of demise, surviving only after taking a \$3.4 billion bailout from the Troubled Asset Relief Program. The company was reeling from a loss of \$2.7 billion in 2008. Its stock price had cratered 75 percent from its 2007 peak. And it was stuck with paying its customers far more return on their annuities than its tattered investment portfolio, packed with toxic real estate securities, could earn.

Over the next nearly five years, McGee repaid TARP, rebuilt the gutted balance sheet, and reconfigured its investment portfolio. That allowed the company to concentrate on what it had — for numerous decades at least — done very well: writing steady, highly profitable policies for America's storefront bakeries, dentists' offices, and other businesses. Now, earnings are running at around \$2 billion a year and trending toward the mid-2000s peak. "It was one of the least-heralded but most outstanding turnarounds,

against stiff odds, in financial services," says Marc Feigen, a consultant who has counseled many prominent CEOs and who advised McGee on how to address thorny management issues in his first months at the helm.

On June 9, McGee's remarkable tenure ended unexpectedly when he announced his resignation as CEO and president.

McGee, who will continue on as chairman until the annual shareholder's meeting next spring, says he chose to depart his main management role early, at the age of 59, due to a medical condition. In January 2013, The Hartford announced that McGee had surgery for the removal of a brain tumor found during a routine checkup, and that he was cancer-free. But McGee, who before joining The Hartford was president of global consumer and small business banking at Bank of America, recently underwent a second procedure. He declines to discuss the details, but it's clear that the follow-up treatments are tiring. "Sure, part of it was health," McGee told *Fortune* in a phone interview the day of the announcement. "But it's also because the financial turnaround was largely complete. These years have been an adrenaline rush for me."

The new CEO is McGee's first major hire Christopher Swift, 53, a former accountant and top executive at rival AIG. Swift, unlike ex-banker McGee, has spent his career in this arcane field.

He revels in its complexities, and is an expert on risk and capital management. McGee, for his part, prides himself on the team-building effort that enabled the board to choose an internal candidate. "I focused on succession from day one," he says. "It's the CEO's most important job."









**T**he untold story of McGee's stewardship is the cultural transformation at one of America's oldest and, at one point, stodgiest of enterprises. Son of an Irish immigrant bus driver, McGee rose to stardom at Bank of America. His last job there entailed running the bank's more than 5,000 branches, then the largest network in the nation. An expert on the intricacies of insurance McGee was not, and learning them wasn't his goal. His mission, rather, was to surmount a crisis — and that would require radical change in The Hartford's culture.

The old guard, McGee says, took every opportunity to warn him that insurance was one arena where rapid innovation wouldn't work — and that if he knew enough about the industry, he'd realize that. The top objective for these managers was a laudable one, certainly — managing risk. But they took this aim to such extreme that growth froze as a result. Executives frequently criticized any decision aimed at major change as "too risky," according to McGee and other insiders who witnessed the interactions first-hand. Another obstructionist strategy was to keep calling for more data and endless analysis, until the initiative faded from view.

McGee captured The Hartford ethos with a catchphrase — "It takes the time it takes." Coupled with this inertial sensibility was a process for decision-making that made it all but certain nothing would change. Frequently, it wasn't even clear who had the authority to make a decision. Just about anyone in the chain of command who objected had the veto power to kill a daring idea. "They'd have endless conversations around data," says McGee. "These were smart people, who knew the facts, but couldn't make a decision."

The employees characterized the process as "the polls never close," meaning once a decision seemed to be made, it could be changed by more "voting," or discussion.



Nor was there much incentive in the management ranks to fix what was broken. Managers expected, and enjoyed, extremely long careers at The Hartford, a longevity that, in theory, was supposed to instill sage leadership. "Insurance places more value on tenure than anywhere else in financial services," says McGee. "There's this natural reticence that anyone without 25 years of experience can do anything major. I kept asking, 'Why can't we do it?' and the response was, 'Well, you don't understand.'"

McGee fought the inertia. He'd ask his lieutenants, "Who has the 'D?'" meaning the power to decide. When no one seemed to know, he'd pick out an executive and command, "Now you have the 'D.'"

"If I'd listened to the folks who were part of the past," he says, "I would have found myriad reasons not to make big changes. I could have talked myself out of it one thousand times."

Over the first two years, McGee gradually replaced virtually the entire top management with outside hires, as well as a few high-potential managers from the ranks. The arrival of Swift in early 2010 helped McGee develop, and sell, his strategy. "I'd sized the capital needs, and I thought the perception was more fire than the reality," says Swift. "We had lots of value in businesses that needed love and attention." When McGee would ask, "Why can't we do this?" — and the traditionalists would reel off reasons not to — Swift would summon his mastery of insurance to explain why the boss's plan was both practical, and essential. "Employees were shocked that we took action," says McGee, "they expected Chris and me to change our minds, to follow the old practice of announcing something and not doing it."

**T**he business that almost sank The Hartford, and threatened to render it an unsteady enterprise for years to come, was variable annuities. Starting around

2000, The Hartford strayed from its core, routine-but-reliable property and casualty field into glamorous annuity products that guaranteed investors high rates of return. The Hartford had to pay those returns whether the securities backing these annuities (and hence funding the payments) rose or declined. And for a time, the strategy appeared to work brilliantly. Financial advisors loved the guaranteed annual returns of 7 percent or so, and The Hartford found the high fees intoxicating. During the boom years, its guaranteed products were a sensation, growing to a portfolio of \$65 billion in the U.S. The company also took the concept to Japan, where the book of business mushroomed to \$35 billion.

The crash exposed the cracks in the once best-selling products. The obligation to pay its annuity holders high returns, while its own investments were plummeting, spawned big losses. The losses, in turn, prompted regulators to require that the insurer raise far more capital to ensure that it could meet its obligations to customers. The TARP bailout provided only temporary salvation. Compounding the woes were large holdings of securities backed by commercial real estate as well as bonds in troubled regional banks. "Our dual threats were variable annuities, and structured products like CMBS [commercial mortgage-backed securities]," recalls McGee. "The annuities in the U.S. were well underwritten, but they were far too big for the balance sheet."

An even bigger danger, he says, was the annuity business in Japan. "The foreign exchange risk was the main source of volatility," says McGee. The portfolio was not hedged at all when the products were sold, and most of the annuities were issued when the yen was trading at around 115 to the dollar. The yen later rose to trade between 60 and 70 to the dollar. The strengthening in the Japanese currency meant that the income from investments in dol-

lars shrank when translated into yen, so that it fell far short of the payments guaranteed to Japanese investors.

Here, McGee faced an outside force for change — and not exactly the change he wanted: an activist who had accumulated 8.5 percent of The Hartford's shares. In February of 2012, hedge fund Paulson & Co, headed by billionaire John Paulson, demanded that McGee split the insurer into two parts, and spin off property and casualty as a single, standalone enterprise. McGee and Swift were already pursuing a plan to largely return to Hartford's roots by leaving a number of non-core businesses. But they wanted the restructured company to stand on three legs: P&C, mutual funds, and "group" plans.

McGee engaged in lengthy talks with Paulson. "We looked at the scenario he suggested, and looked at it again," says McGee. "But I told him that the regulators would never approve his basic proposition, that the deal would require transferring too much debt from the P&C company to the life insurance business."

McGee did, however, move in the direction Paulson wanted. In 2012, he sold in rapid succession the brokerage arm to AIG, the individual life insurance unit to Prudential, and the 401(k) retirement franchise to MassMutual, allowing The Hartford to add \$1.5 billion in capital. Though the divestitures didn't fully satisfy Paulson, the pressure abated. The day after McGee announced his retirement, Paulson & Co issued a statement, saying that "Liam McGee has led a generational transformation of Hartford, positioning it to prosper by focusing on operations with industry-leading positions."

McGee also took measures to substantially lower expensive debt. Just before the TARP bailout, The Hartford had sold warrants to Allianz to bolster its capital. Those warrants had a coupon of 10 percent a year and were

issued at such low prices that, if exercised, could cause lots of dilution. In early 2012, he reached an agreement with Allianz SE that allowed The Hartford to buy back the warrants for \$2.4 billion.

Around the same time, McGee announced a pullback in The Hartford's annuities business: allowing the portfolio to "runoff" (meaning that the insurer would service and pay benefits for existing annuity holders), but ending the sale of new products. Managers have actually nicknamed the ongoing annuities program the "Talcott Resolution," after the hill ("Talcott Mountain") that stands between The Hartford's headquarters in Hartford, Conn., and the office managing annuities and investment portfolios. "I'm going over the mountain," is a frequent expression among managers shuttling between the offices.

McGee and Swift also managed to hedge, and eventually eliminate, most of the risk on the ultra-volatile Japanese book of business. And in April of 2014, McGee signed an agreement to sell the Japanese annuities portfolio to ORIX Corp of Japan for \$895 million.

"That portfolio will be permanently off the balance sheet and eliminate most of the risk that investors perceive as overhanging the company," McGee says.

Marc Feigen, the CEO advisor who remembers the dark days, thinks an addition to The Hartford's insurance museum, featuring not just the Lincoln policy but antique fire engines, is appropriate. "They should commission a portrait of Liam McGee as the man who saved this 204-year-old institution," says Feigen. The old Hartford thought it was immortal, a dangerous thing. Liam McGee got the company to see its potential demise with clear eyes — and then gave it a second life. 🌐

*Liam McGee '76 is former chairman of USD's board of trustees. From Fortune Magazine, June 13 © 2014 Time Inc. Used under License.*

USD's sixth annual Wine Classic was officially the event's most successful to date, raising more than \$67,000 for the Alumni Endowed Scholarship Fund.

[cheers]

# RED AND WHITE AND FUN ALL OVER

## USD's annual Wine Classic benefits student scholars

**T**he 2014 USD Wine Classic raised more than \$67,000 for student scholarships.

Established in 2009 by the Alumni Association Board of Directors, the wildly successful event was once again a sell-out.

Held on a gorgeous day in mid-July at the Joan B. Kroc Institute for Peace and Justice's Garden of the Sea, the sixth annual event featured more than 30 USD family wineries — owned or managed by alumni, parents and friends of the university — gourmet food stations, live music and a silent auction featuring wine-related items. All proceeds benefit the Alumni Endowed Scholarship Fund.

"The Wine Classic has truly become a signature event for USD and for the San Diego community. Everyone has a great time, enjoys the wine tasting and knows that their ticket purchase helps raise scholarship funds for our very deserving students at USD," said Charles Bass, senior director of USD Alumni Relations.

Dates for the 2015 USD Wine Classic weekend are now available. The Vintners Dinner at La Gran Terraza will be held on Saturday, July 18. The seventh annual USD Wine Classic is Sunday, July 19. Tickets are expected to go on sale in April.

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



PHOTOS BY LAUREN RADACK





**A festive afternoon in the sun, fine wine and good company were the watchwords of the 2014 Wine Classic. Pictured at the event:** 1) Ariel Orodenker; 2) Sheri Matthews '03 and Jason Kimmel '04; 3) Alumni Association Board President Mark Hoekstra '86, USD President Mary Lyons, Trustee Ann Navarra and Alumni Relations Director Charles Bass; 4) Leo Tubbs, Nina Tubbs, Robert Blodgett '87, Celeste Blodgett '86, JoAnn Cady and Steve Cady; 5) Dominic Pera '15, Rich Yousko '87 and Angelo Pera '87; 6) Victoria McGuire '85, Michael McGuire '84, Julie Power and Trustee Jamey Power '85; 7) John Maguire '85, Francesca Castagnola '91 and Andres Melgar '02; 8) Jessica Force and Dane Gaffney '09; 9) Chloe Lingle '15.



# THE OCEAN, SO BLUE

*by Andrew Faught*

At first, the Gulf of Mexico didn't reveal its mysterious denizens. Then, in the distance, massive brown forms began to take shape.

oceans with the Pew Charitable Trusts, the nonprofit known in part for its environmental initiatives. "As they get closer, it's like they're moving in slow motion. They hang there and look at you. They're just beautiful creatures."

By day's end, scientists count-





JIM ABERNATHY

ed as many as 15 whale sharks that had come to feed on dog snapper spawn. The species is the world's largest fish and can reach 41 feet in length and weigh up to 47,000 pounds. It is considered "vulnerable" on the International Union for the Conservation of Nature's Red List of Threatened Species.

For Hepp (pictured at right), the experience helped solidify her commitment to international wildlife conservation, an interest she began cultivating at USD. As an undergraduate biology major, she did a study abroad stint in Baja California, and earned her BA in 2000.

"Jill was very inquisitive and engaged in what she was doing," recalls Ron Kaufmann, her advisor and an associate professor of marine science and environmental studies. "She really wanted to go out and do something with her degree that would make a positive impact on the world."

She's done just that. In 2009, Hepp joined Pew, where she led the global shark conservation program for four years and helped to create a shark sanctuary in the Maldives in 2010. She also attends international meetings to promote shark conservation and advocate

for new laws dictating how the animals are fished.

Hepp is now senior officer of international oceans, a role in which she not only supports sharks, but the management of all aspects of world oceans.

The statistics tell the story: Of the world's 465 shark species, 141 species are "threatened" or "near-threatened" with extinction, according to Pew. Further, some species have declined by as much as 98 percent in the past 15 years, as increased demand for shark fin soup has depleted those populations. Each year, more than 100 million sharks are killed for their fins, Hepp says.

That can pose big trouble for ocean ecosystems, which rely on apex predators, such as sharks, to keep marine life in balance.

"What sharks and other top predators do in ecosystems is exert what ecologists call top-down regulation of a community," Kaufmann says. "When you start to mess with the controls, you destabilize the ecosystem and get much more variability than would be normal."

Sharks are credited with keeping ocean fish stocks healthy by preying on sick fish, which can prevent the spread of disease and unstable fish populations. Failure to control the food chain can also cause the ocean to become overrun with algae, scientists say. Algae blooms can sicken animals and humans alike.

"With all of the changes that are facing oceans — between pollution, climate change and acidification — protecting sharks is something that can be done now, and it can be done relatively easily," says Hepp, who holds a master's in conservation biology and sustainable development from the University of Maryland.

"We have faced a bit of a PR problem in terms of getting people to care," she adds. "It's often easier to care for something

that is cute and cuddly, but a little bit of education goes a long way. People generally understand the idea of a food chain and that there's a reason things are in an ocean ecosystem."

Hepp has always had an affinity for water environments: growing up in Ohio, she sailed every weekend with her father at Grand Lake St. Marys State Park. Before joining Pew, she researched international fisheries management and wildlife trade for TRAFFIC, an organization that works to ensure that trade in wild plants and animals isn't a threat to the conservation of nature.

Few countries have laws protecting sharks, but there are signs of change. The Chinese government recently banned the consumption of shark fin soup by government officials at official banquets, "which sends a really strong message that shark populations are in trouble," Hepp says.

In May, the British Virgin Islands became the 10th country to make its waters safe for sharks by banning commercial fishing of all shark species. The United States adopted the Shark Conservation Act of 2010, which requires all caught sharks to be brought to shore with their fins "naturally attached." ("Given all of the scientific and research capacity within the U.S., it could do a lot more," Hepp laments).

In perhaps the biggest boost for shark conservation, in 2013 the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora agreed to increase protections for five commercially exploited species of sharks.

"Five to 10 years ago, it was the Wild West," Hepp says. "You could take whatever you could, and there were no laws, generally."

Hepp, though, is no ordinary sheriff. And for that, the sharks owe her their thanks. 🦈

To learn more, go online to [www.pewenvironment.org](http://www.pewenvironment.org).

## 1960s

[1961]

**MARY DUGAN (BA)** celebrated one year as a grant writer at College & Community Fellowship, which supports formerly incarcerated women in attending college, achieving degrees and developing leadership skills. Since 2000, women benefiting from the program have earned 256 degrees, including one PhD, one JD and 69 master's degrees.

**MARY JANE TIERNAN (BA, MA '72)** represents the San Diego Alumnae/i of the Sacred Heart on the USD Alumni Board and teaches part time at the College of English Language in San Diego.

[1963]

**ALMA (LUJAN) LYON (BA)** is president of the Temecula Valley Wine Society.

[1964] 

**DELLE WILLETT (BA)** is co-chair, with Maureen Pecht, of the 50th anniversary celebration for the College for Women's Class of 1964. Other committee members include Patty Murphy, Vivienne Magnus, Cecilia Moreno, Vicki Strassler, Cathy Lindseth and Mary Fipp.

[1965]

**ALCY (BOSS) NEIDLINGER (BA)** writes: "I have been doing a lot of photography since I moved to Texas. You can see some of it on my Facebook page. Looking forward to the 50th in 2015."

[1966]

**MARIA TERESA (CARRASCO) PIETROK (BA)** retired on March 30, 2013, from her career in international marketing, which included 11 years with ESCO Corp. and nearly 30 years with A-dec Inc., one of the largest dental equipment manufacturers in the world. While at A-dec, Teresa opened and developed markets in 16 former Soviet countries after the fall of the USSR. She also introduced new concepts to professionals in the region, including infection control, ergonomics, practice management and clinic organization. In 2008, the Russian Dental Association's Congress in Moscow awarded Teresa a life achievement medal for her contribution to Russian dentistry. At USD, Teresa studied German, English and Spanish literature,

and she is fluent in English, Spanish and French, and has social fluency in German, Russian and Italian. "I believe the strong education that I received at USD was a key foundation in my success in opening 16 markets for A-dec in 16 Central and Eastern European countries. Today, all of those markets are among the top producers for A-dec."

[1969] 

**GARY LANE (JD)** is a registered representative with New York Life, specializing in life insurance for business and personal needs, as well as long-term-care insurance and other financial planning needs.

## 1970s

[1970]

**PEGGY BENGIS (BA)** writes for newspapers and magazines and is researching book concepts related to inspiring episodes in American history.

**MICHAEL MILLER (BA)** retired as a sergeant after 33 years with the San Diego Police Department. At his retirement, Mike was the staff sergeant at the Regional Law Enforcement Academy, where he helped forge the futures of more than 1,500 recruits from area agencies. Mike was the second officer to attend the Department of the Navy Drug and Alcohol Counselor Program. He still volunteers with the SDPD, and he and his wife, former USD staff member Liz Aleman, donate their time to the Retired Fire and Police Association. Mike and Liz have three grown children and two granddaughters.

[1972]

**JOHN HEISNER (JD)** partnered with Olga Álvarez to open Heisner Álvarez, a San Diego law firm focused exclusively on trusts, estates and business law.

[1973]

**DALE ANDERSEN (MA)** writes, "My one-act play, *The Hundred Million Dollar Son*, was a semifinalist at the 2014 O'Neill National Playwrights Conference."

**PAUL ROBINSON (JD)** of Hecht Solberg Robinson Goldberg and Bagley LLP was named San Diego Lawyer of the Year in land use and zoning law by *The Best Lawyers in America* 2014.

[1974] 

**TERENCE JESMORE (BA)** is semi-retired and has been living in Israel since 2001. He lives one hour south of Jerusalem, where he is involved in organic farming and growing plants from the Bible as row crops.

**KATHLEEN STRICKLAND (JD)**, a partner with Ropers Majeski Kohn & Bentley PC, was named to BTI Consulting Group Inc.'s Client Service All-Stars list.

[1975]

**SUSAN REDELINGS (BA)** reports that she is retired and living as a tourist in her own beautiful city of San Diego.

[1976]

**DAWN CONWAY** (Paralegal Certificate) was promoted in July 2013 to chief operating officer for Cision U.S., based in Chicago.

**GORDON L. GERSON (JD)**, managing principal of Gerson Law Firm APC, was honored among The Best Lawyers in America 2014 in the area of real estate law.

[1977]

**STEPHEN LEGOMSKY (JD)** recently completed a two-year term as chief counsel of U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) within the Department of Homeland Security. At USCIS, Stephen worked closely with the White House on comprehensive immigration reform, the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals program, the agency implementation of the Supreme Court decision striking down the Defense of Marriage Act, and the parole in place program for undocumented family members of military personnel. He has returned to his position as the John S. Lehmann University Professor at Washington University's School of Law in St. Louis, Mo., and he is working on the sixth edition of his immigration and refugee law casebook, which has been adopted at 176 law schools.

**MARK LITWAK (JD)** joined the University of Southern California's Gould School of Law as an adjunct professor.

**JOEL S. MILIBAND (JD)** was appointed general counsel and chief legal officer of Brown Rudnick LLP in Irvine, Calif.

**ELIZABETH THOMPSON (JD)**

relocated to Kauai's north shore in the Hawaiian islands and remains available for umpire, arbitrator and mediator appointments in complex commercial and tort matters.

[1978]

**JANICE F. MULLIGAN (BA, JD '81)** was appointed to the State Bar of California's Judicial Nominees Evaluation Commission.

[1979] 

**ADRIENNE LEONARD (JD)** is senior counsel at TW Telecom in Denver. She has been in-house with the company since 2001.

## 1980s

[1980]

**NICK KRALL (BA)** has been "doing financial plans, riding my horses, and acting in TV and movies." Recently, he has appeared in *Revenge*, *True Blood* and *Masters of Sex*. Nick also sings doo-wop with the Safaris and plays country-blues with L.A. River.

**MARK PARKER (JD)** is president-elect of the State Bar of Montana and is scheduled to assume the duties of president of the State Bar in September 2014. He will be the second USD School of Law graduate to serve as president of the Montana State Bar; the first was Max Hansen, a 1976 USD law school graduate who was president in 1988.

[1981]

**TOMMY LOFARELLI (MBA, JD '81)** is looking for work in the real estate industry, a law office, or as an assistant professor of marketing, finance or real estate.

**JAMES POOLE (JD)** was appointed an expert witness by Thomson Reuters in subjects including chemistry and the petroleum industry.

**JEFFREY THOMA (JD)** was appointed visiting professor at the University of Hawaii School of Law.

[1982]

**DAVID BAJO (BA)** expects to publish his third novel, *Mercy 6*, in September 2014. He has authored *Panopticon* and *The 351 Books of Irma Arcuri* and is a professor of



creative writing at the University of South Carolina.

**ROBERT EATINGER (JD)** was named the senior deputy general counsel for the U.S. Central Intelligence Agency in June 2013. He has served as acting general counsel for the CIA between general counsel appointments.

[1983]

**KAREN CAMPBELL** is semiretired from a career in law to a career in legal editing. Her website is [www.intlproofingconsortium.com](http://www.intlproofingconsortium.com).

**JENNIFER TREESE WILSON (BA, JD '86)** was appointed corporate counsel for the Gemological Institute of America in San Diego.

[1984] 🎓

**NANCY CAMPMAN (BA)** joined Irma Shaw Designs as the director of business development. She represents the interior design firm through active involvement in local and building associations, and cultivates new business from architects, home builders and developers.

**BARBARA E. KRISTAL (JD)**, a family law attorney, was named a top lawyer by Palm Springs Life magazine in the Coachella Valley.

**MARIA ELENA RICO (BA, MEd '87)** is principal of Bancroft Middle School & Performing Arts Magnet.

[1985]

**REBEKAH CAREY (MSN)** graduated from the University of Alabama with a Doctor of Nursing Practice degree in December 2013. She presented the results of her doctoral study, "Shoes, Shots and Society: Prepare for Short-Term Service Overseas," at the International Conference of Person-Centered Medicine in Zagreb, Croatia, in November 2013. Rebekah is an assistant professor of nursing and chair of the School of Nursing at Wisconsin Lutheran College in Milwaukee, Wis.

**SUSAN DALY (JD)** of Hecht Solberg Robinson Goldberg and Bagley LLP was honored among The Best Lawyers in America 2014 in real estate law.

**EARL M. FORTE (JD)** published *The Fraudulent Transfer Handbook* in 2013.

**KELLEY HILL (BBA)** is property manager for S.A. Hill Enterprises.

**JOHN KOWNACKI (BA)** reports that he is a Lasik eye surgeon.

**FRANCES FRAGOS TOWNSEND (JD)** was named to the board of directors of Freeport-McMoRan Copper & Gold Inc.

[1987]

**ALLAN E. ANDERSON (JD)** joined Argent Fox LLP as a litigation and intellectual property partner in Los Angeles.

**RUSSELL McCORMACK (BA)** recently started a private practice called Nazarene Ministries. His website is [www.nazareneministries.com](http://www.nazareneministries.com).

**GWEN RUTAR MULLINS (JD)** of Howard & Howard Attorneys PLLC was honored among The Best Lawyers in America 2014.

[1988]

**GEORGE GALDORISI (MA)** is working with co-author Dick Couch to reboot the Tom Clancy Op-Center series. The first Op-Center series was published from 1995 to 2005. In May 2014, Saint Martin's Press published the first book of Galdorisi's and Couch's new series: *Tom Clancy's Op-Center: Out of the Ashes*. The second book, *Into the Fire*, is in production. More information is available at [www.georgegaldorisi.com](http://www.georgegaldorisi.com).

**PAUL KLOCKENBRINK (JD)**, a partner at Gentry Locke Rakes & Moore LLP, was named to the 2014 *Best Lawyers in America* list by *U.S. News & World Report* and *Best Lawyers*.

**JEFF TIPTON (BA)** recently celebrated his 14th year in real estate. He is the broker-owner of Tipton Group Real Estate.

[1989] 🎓

**LANCE L. SHEA (JD)** joined Baker Hostetler in Washington, D.C., as a partner.

## 1990s

[1990]

**TOM DAVIS (BA)** and his wife recently celebrated their 20th anniversary.



COURTESY OF THE CINCINNATI BENGALS CORPORATION

**QUARTERBACKS' COACH KEN ZAMPESE '88** knows exactly what he seeks in a football player: "I'm looking for physical and mental toughness; I want the guy who's not afraid to throw the first punch in the fight and take a few on the chin," he says.

His philosophies on what it takes to succeed in today's NFL are born of his own hard-nosed playing style. As an undersized wide receiver during his days at USD, Zampese had to fight for playing time from day one. "Nobody likes small, slow guys, so I had to bring more to the table," he recalls. "I felt like I was able to pick up the offensive scheme quickly, and that went a long way in getting me on the field when I was at USD."

Now entering his 12th year with the Bengals, Zampese has worked with talented signal-callers like Carson Palmer, John Kitna and current Bengals QB Andy Dalton during his tenure, and he's eager to see just how far Dalton can progress in his fourth year as a starter. "Andy had a tough go in the playoffs last year, and he's really been working hard in the off season," Zampese says. "I think he's going to come out swinging this year."

Which — if you consider considering who he's taking his cues from — should come as no surprise.

sary with a Mediterranean cruise, followed by a trip to Florence and Rome, where they saw the pope.

**ANNE DEMETRIO (BA)** has a recruitment company based in Phoenix, Ariz. "I enjoy spending time with my three children (Jack, Kate and George), who are already talking about attending USD!" she says.

[1991]

**DAVID KLISTOFF (MBA)** is a longtime consulting manager with Accenture.

**MARY LEHMAN (JD)** was appointed to the California State Athletic Commission by California Gov. Jerry Brown.

**ADAM LEVIN (JD)**, a partner in the Los Angeles office of Mitchell Silberberg & Knupp, was named to *The Hollywood Reporter's* 2014 Power Lawyers list.

[1992]

**KARIN BACKSTROM (JD)** writes, "I am busy running the employment law firm of Backstrom & Heinrichs. I also have three daughters, ages 14, 11 and 8." Karin lives in the Bay Park area of San Diego and she has served on the USD Law Alumni Board since 2008.

**EVANGELINE (FERNANDEZ) BITSKO (MFA)** reports that she established and coordinates the JCS San Diego Academy of Performing Arts after working for 20 years as a teacher and administrator, as well as theater actress, director and educator in public and nonprofit theater education. The academy serves students in grades six through 12 and is housed in the San Diego Performing Arts Center. Evangeline and her husband, Bruce, celebrated their 20th wedding anniversary on Sept. 11, 2013. Their daughter, Alexa, is majoring in English literature and minoring in art at Pace University in New York City, and their son, Jared, is a musical theater aficionado. Evangeline plans to complete doctoral studies in drama and theater so she can teach and direct at the university level.

**PETER COLEMAN (BBA)** was appointed chief financial officer of Fuhu Inc., the firm that created the Nabi kid-friendly tablet. At Fuhu, Peter is responsible for the compa-

ny's corporate finance and accounting functions, manages the company's relationships with investors and partners, and conducts internal and industry analysis to support the company's goals for growth.

**PATRICK FOY (BA)** is a lieutenant with the Law Enforcement Division of the California Department of Fish and Wildlife.

**LAURA (GACEK) GRAHAM (BA)** married David Graham on April 27, 2014.

**KELLIE LOGSDON (BA)** recently moved back to Los Angeles with her two daughters, ages 11 and 14, after eight years in Connecticut. "We are so happy to be back to the Southern California sunshine and our family," she says. Kellie is a real estate agent with Coldwell Banker, where she specializes in residential and multifamily sales as well as property development and management. Her niece, Ryann Linthicum, is a student at USD.

**ANDREW B. SERWIN (JD)** joined the law firm Morrison & Foerster as partner.

**ANNE YOAKAM** is raising her daughter, writing *The Daily Tuna* and [anneyoakam.blogspot.com](http://anneyoakam.blogspot.com), painting landscapes on Nantucket, Mass., and "thinking about starting a new breadwinning career pronto; ideas welcome!"

[1993]

**KURT CAMPBELL (JD)** was honored in the 2013 *San Diego Super Lawyers* publication for his work in construction litigation.

**DAWN R. EISENBERG (LLM)** was named director of San Diego State University's Corky McMillin Center for Real Estate.

**BRENT HODGES (BAcc)** returned to San Diego after raising his son and living in Arizona for 18 years. He was head of schools for Rancho Solano Private Schools in Arizona and is now a principal at Horizon Prep, a private school in Rancho Santa Fe, Calif.

**DAVID HOLLANDER (JD)** joined DeWitt & Dunn LLC as a retirement income planning advisor, part of [www.AnnuityWatchUSA.com](http://www.AnnuityWatchUSA.com).

**JULIE HOUSTON (JD)** joined the public finance practice of Andrews Kurth LLP in Austin, Texas, as counsel.

**CHRISTINE (HARBS) MAILLOUX (JD)** is a student in USD's master's program in nonprofit leadership and management and she continues to practice telecommunications regulatory and consumer law with The Utility Reform Network (TURN). She also serves on the boards of two other nonprofit organizations. Christine, her husband, Jim Mailloux '94, and two daughters live in San Diego.

**KURT TOBIN (JD)** joined Ogletree, Deakins, Nash, Smoak & Stewart PC as a shareholder in San Diego.

[1994] 

**JAMES GRIFFIN (JD)** was appointed to the Pima County Superior Court by Arizona Gov. Jan Brewer.

**MELISSA HENSLEY (JD)** was named 2014 chairwoman of the Board of Trustees for the Dallas Children's Advocacy Center. Melissa is senior counsel in Morgan Lewis's Labor and Employment Practice. The mission of the Dallas Children's Advocacy Center is to improve the lives of abused children in Dallas County and to provide national leadership on child abuse issues.

[1995]

**VINCENT MOISO (BA)** reports that after 16 years as an international business executive in the tile and stone industry, he spent most of 2013 working in athletics for the University of Notre Dame. He has returned to his original firm to manage business development.

**KEVIN PAPP (BA)** joined Aegon USA Realty Advisors in Cedar Rapids, Iowa, as a senior attorney. Previously, he was a shareholder with Bradley & Riley PC.

**INGE TAYLOR (BSN)** reports that she is working two careers: nurse midwife and clinical instructor.

[1996]

**MICHAEL BATTIN (JD)** was elected president of the Legal Aid Society of San Diego and voted a 2014 Super Lawyer.

**ELISABETH DeCOURSEY (BAcc)** and her husband, Scott Martens,

welcomed their third child, Lucy, in December 2013. Lucy joins Maxwell, 4, and Bridget, 3. Elisabeth and Scott are busy running their engineering company, which was named one of the Top 25 Businesses in Kansas City with fewer than 25 employees.

**SEAN FLANNERY (BBA)** is global pricing manager for Texas Instruments. Wife Jodie (Dawson) Flannery '96 is a marketing manager for a security technologies company and she teaches fitness classes at Dallas corporate facilities and fitness clubs. Sean and Jodie have a son, Jack, who was born in 2007. "Jack is following in his dad's love of basketball; maybe a future USD Torero hoopster!" Jodie says.

**CAPT. GARY SHARP (JD)**, U.S. Navy JAG Corps, is commanding officer for the Region Legal Service Office Southeast in Jacksonville, Fla.

**MONICA ZENT (JD)** founded Foxwordy.com, a private social network for lawyers.

[1997]

**LARRY BALDWIN (MBA)** and his wife, Melissa, adopted Benjamin Lilu from the Shejiang province of China in January 2014. Benjamin joins siblings Landen, Isaac, Emma and Madeleine. Larry is the director of Medicare membership administration at Kaiser Permanente.

**WARD BOND (MBA)** joined Defense Mobile Corp. in December 2013 as a vice president and the head of value-added services. Defense Mobile Corp. is a new mobile carrier for military service members, veterans and their families.

**LISA BERESFORD BRIDGMAN (BBA, JD '01)** was named partner at her law firm, Grimm Vranjes & Greer.

**CHAD FULLER (JD)** joined Troutman Sanders LLP as a partner in San Diego.

**WADE GOCHNOUR (JD)**, with Howard & Howard Attorneys PLLC, was honored as a 2013 Mountain States Super Lawyer for his work in construction litigation.

**JENNIFER LOTTA (BBA)** and her husband, David Prull, were married on Nov. 1, 2013, at an upstate



# FROM TODDLER TO TORERO

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[ l e t t e r   h o m e ]

# CHANGEMAKING. PERSONIFIED.

## Dispatch to President Mary Lyons from Vilnius, Lithuania

*The art of written correspondence lives on. Last February, USD President Mary E. Lyons, PhD, received a missive that epitomized the spirit of a true Changemaker:*

**Dear Mary** — I received the *USD Magazine* today and thought I'd drop you a line.

The theme here is about circles within circles. My family is originally from Minsk in Belarus.

Though I had never been there, I promised myself I'd visit one day to get sense of my own history.

Since leaving my last presidency of Birmingham-Southern College, I have been content to do other work, but a number of months ago, I received a call from the CEO of the American Council for International Education. Life hasn't been quite the same since.

The European Humanities University (EHU) was founded in Minsk 21 years ago in response to the collapse of the Soviet Union and the need to educate the best young Belarusian minds to assume leadership roles in this

emerging, hopefully democratic, state. Lakashenko assumed power in 1994 and continues to align himself and his country with Putin in Russia. The university — being dedicated to democratic principles and the development of civil societies — became a target.

At Lakashenko's behest, his secret police (Belarus' version of the KGB) began doing their work and efforts were made to suppress the university and redirect its curriculum in line with the state's old "Soviet" political position. The

founding rector, Anatoli Mikhailov, refused and was increasingly threatened, as were many of the faculty. About 11 years ago, they fled Belarus before it was too late and reestablished themselves in Lithuania's capitol, Vilnius.

Vilnius is a beautiful world heritage city that suffered severely under the Nazis and the Soviets. The Nazis, essentially decimating the Jewish population of the nation, murdered 70,000 Jews. Since the collapse of the Soviet Union, after extraordinary displays



of courage, Lithuania has come out as the strongest former Soviet country in the EU. With the assistance of multiple state governments, Lithuania provided facilities for the only university in the world that is currently in political exile.

Its very survival, quite naturally, faces great challenges. EHU has approximately 1,700 hundred students, 70 percent of which are Belarusian. Many must seek their education via distance learning from Belarus, while 700 are in residence in Vilnius.

The rector is a wonderful man of extraordinary courage, but by his own admission, he is not an administrator. It is one thing to intellectually wish to be democratic and free, but an altogether different thing to realize this when some of your faculty and students have grown up as citizens of the Soviet Union. This was the reason I was contacted, initially to consult with them.

Following several trips, the rector and board from the participating nations approached me and asked if I would be willing to assume the role of chief operations officer and provost of the university. This, of course, meant a willingness to locate to Vilnius for as long as I occupied the position.

I permanently relocated in early March, and there is a sense in which I feel as though I am finally going home.

I have always been proud of my education at USD and remember fondly the honor of being the first Arts and Sciences Author Hughes Career Achievement Award recipient. In gratitude, if there is any way in which this story can serve USD in its good work, I would be glad.

I wish the university continued prosperity.

— G. David Pollick '71

winery in Rochester, N.Y. Fellow USD alumni in attendance included Steve and Michelle Stoelker, Lo Cascio and Nicole (Borcherding) Domer. Dave is a deputy for the local sheriff's office and Jennifer is a financial advisor. "We live in Pittsford, N.Y., and enjoy spending time with family and friends, and our German Shepherd, Trigger."

**MATT REBACK (JD)** was promoted to vice president of marketing for Konami Gaming Inc.

**JENNIFER VARSACK (BA)** started a wine concierge service in 2013, called Accasbel Wines. In Celtic legend, Accasbel is the god of wine.

**MICHAEL VIOLA (BAcc)** recently founded Pure Restaurant Solutions, an accounting practice based in Irvine, Calif., that is focused on restaurants. He has clients in the Los Angeles and Orange County markets, but is always looking to help new customers.

**CHRISTIAN WAAGE (JD)** was appointed senior vice president and general counsel of Receptos Inc. in San Diego.

**[1998]**  
**DARLENE BLOUNT (BA)** teaches English and is a private tutor.


**MARY CRUZ (MBA)** writes, "I apply the skills I developed in the USD MBA program every day in my role as program manager at Hewlett-Packard."

**BRIAN MURPHY (BA)** and Kellie Hallinan '00 were married on July 27, 2013, in Cle Elum, Wash. Alumni in the wedding party included Brendan Murphy, Craig Waldrop, Cheli (Mueller) Hanley and Angela (Hauck) Carr. Brian works in sales for a dental implant company in the New York City metro area and Kellie is a school teacher in Brooklyn. Brian and Kellie live in Northport, Long Island, N.Y.

**IRENE MARIE PATTON (BA)** is developing an online app for Chrometics, a unique method of learning and speaking English that she created for teaching pronunciation and fluency at the San Diego Community College District.

**DEBORAH ROMERO (MSN)** is a commander in the U.S. Navy Reserves. In the fall of 2014, she plans to begin the Doctorate of Nursing Practice program at USD's Hahn School of Nursing and Health Science.

**TIMOTHY L. SKELTON (JD)** joined Argent Fox LLP as a litigation and intellectual property partner in Los Angeles.

**[1999]**   
**ANDREA MUNOZ (BA)** is head counselor at Hoover High School in San Diego.

**JUSTINE PHILLIPS (BA, JD '05)** joined Sheppard Mullin Richter & Hampton LLP in San Diego as special counsel.

**WAYNE SLAPPY (BBA)** reports that he is "helping people get more out of life through comprehensive planning."

**JEFF THURRELL (JD)**, partner with Fisher & Phillips LLP in Irvine, Calif., was named to BTI Consulting Group Inc.'s Client Service All-Stars list.

## 2000s

**[2000]**  
**RYAN GERENA (BA)** reports that he is "living the dream with my wife, Gabby, and sons, Anthony, 4, and Robbie, 2. Gabby and I run our U.S. passport expediting company together and are trying to grow the business for our kids to take over one day."

**SARAH GLENN (BA)** and her husband, Tony Glenn '00, are raising three daughters in Sacramento, Calif. "I enjoy being a stay-at-home mom and being very involved in the girls' school, our church and our neighborhood," Sarah says. Tony is a firefighter/engineer for Sacramento Metro Fire and he and Sarah are building a new house. "It is fun and exhausting at the same time!" she says.

**ALLISON GODDARD (JD)** was named a top attorney for intellectual property litigation by *The Daily Transcript* in San Diego and was appointed to the State Bar Committee on Federal Courts.

**REBECCA HAYES (BA)** created, developed and co-owned Mindful Mentoring for seven years. In August 2011, she developed and launched e3 Consulting, a community hub that wholly supports a family's mind, body and soul.

**JASON M. OHTA (JD)**, a former assistant U.S. attorney, joined Duane Morris LLP as special counsel in San Diego.

**TRASIE PHAN (BA)** owns a business management consulting firm that services the healthcare industry.

**KYLE ROWEN (BA, JD '04)** joined Wesierski & Zurek LLP, a law firm in Irvine, Calif.

**FABIANA SALIM (BBA)** is a multimedia executive at the U-T San Diego.

**AMBER SPATARO (JD)** was elevated to shareholder at Littler's Newark, N.J., office.

**[2001]**  
**NEAL BARHAM (BA)** was commissioned in the U.S. Navy upon his graduation from USD. He served nearly 13 years on active duty, including flying tours from fixed-wing cargo/transport missions in the Middle East to helicopter anti-submarine/surface counter-drug and mountainous search and rescue missions spanning the globe. Neal has worked with myriad cultures while gaining flying experience as a Navy aviator. He is now a reservist and is an air interdiction agent with the U.S. Customs and Border Protection, flying daily anti-illegal immigration/counter-narcotics/terrorism missions along the Texas border.

**JENNIFER BROWN (BA)** and her husband, Doug, recently welcomed their second child, Brody Randall, who joins sister, Savannah, 3. Jennifer is a public information officer for the Department of Human Services in El Paso County, Colo.

**ANTOINE DIDIENNE (MBA)** started [www.Vavavida.com](http://www.Vavavida.com), an online fair trade fashion retailer. The company was featured in the Summer 2014 issue of *USD Magazine*.

**CRESCENTIA THOMAS (BA)** joined the Stockton Unified School District after graduation as a teacher of students with special needs.

She continued her education, earning an education specialist credential and master's degree in education from California State University, Sacramento. She went on to work on a doctorate in education administration/leadership at the University of the Pacific and expected to defend her dissertation in May 2014.

**ELLIS WASSON (LLM)** joined the corporate, securities and tax section of Rutan & Tucker LLP in Orange County, Calif.

**[2002]**

**OLGA ÁLVAREZ (JD)** partnered with John Heisner to open Heisner Álvarez, a San Diego law firm focused exclusively on trusts and estates and business law.

**ANTHONY BENJARANO (JD)** was named assistant general counsel for the Los Angeles Unified School District in the labor and employment services division.

**PAUL BETZER (JD)** joined the Denver office of Snell & Wilmer, where he focuses on energy and real estate law, with an emphasis on oil and gas, electrical power, alternative energy and utility infrastructure. Previously, he was director of property tax, real estate, right of way and claims for Phillips 66 in the central and eastern United States and Europe.

**JEANMARIE HARRINGTON BISCEGLIA (JD)** and her husband, Paul, welcomed a son, James Patrick. "He has been an adorable new addition to our family," Jeanmarie says.

**MARISA BROWN (BA)** was named the junior director at the Oceanside, Calif., Yacht Club.

**TONI HOMBERG (BA)** is starting a private medical practice in Mexico City, Mexico. Toni is dedicated to medical research in the field of immunology and is a professor at Westhill University Medical School.

**JOSHUA A. JESSEN (JD)** was named partner with Gibson, Dunn & Crutcher, working out of California offices in Irvine and Palo Alto.

**AURORA MADUENO (BA)** is the activities director for Canyon Villas

Retirement and just celebrated her 10th year with the organization.

**ERIK NAGEL (MA)** finished his residency training at Naval Medical Center, San Diego, and is now a staff anesthesiologist at Naval Hospital, Camp Pendleton. Erik and his wife, Lisa, welcomed their first child, Kellan Erik, in 2013.

**ANNIE PETERSEN (BA)** moved to Dallas in August 2013 for a new position as co-producer of two hours of morning news at WFAA-TV. Previously, she produced news at KLAS-TV in Las Vegas.

**BLAIN WATSON (BA)** is a principal at Santa Monica High School in Santa Monica, Calif. Previously, he was a principal at Locke High School, a charter high school in Watts, Calif. "I am planning to continue graduate studies to pursue a doctoral degree in educational leadership," Blain says.

**ARIKA WELLS (BBA)** was a 2014 honoree at the Delta Sigma Theta Sorority Inc. Breakfast for Mi'Lady "Tribute to Mothers." The event honors mothers with substantial community service.

**[2003]**

**PATTY LEDEZMA (BBA)** is working in full-time ministry for the Catholic Church of the Diocese of Orange, Calif. She is also working toward a master's degree in pastoral theology at Loyola Marymount University.

**PATRICK MORRIS (JD)** was promoted to partner with the San Francisco office of Perkins Coie.

**TJ ROSSI (MBA)** works for Green Inc.

**KRISTIN (QUARTUCCIO) SCHOPAC (BA)** and her husband, Jonathan, welcomed their third child, Ashley Nicole, on Oct. 7, 2014. Ashley joins older brothers Dalton, 3, and Brody, 2.

**SAM SHERMAN (JD)** opened Tencer Sherman, a law firm in San Diego.

**TYSON SMITH (BA)** graduated from Golden State University School of Law in May 2013 and married his wife, Kara, in December

2013. USD alumna Regina Bartonicek was a bridesmaid. Tyson and Kara both work at the San Francisco VA Medical Center.

**[2004]**

**COURTNEY L. BAIRD (JD)** was promoted to partner with Duane Morris LLP and is working out of the law firm's Las Vegas, Los Angeles and San Diego offices.

**MATT DAUGHERTY (BA)** and Allison Ruiz Daugherty '04 celebrated their eighth wedding anniversary and their daughter, Cora's, first birthday in July 2014.

**BIBIANNE FELL (JD)** joined Gomez Trial Attorneys as a senior trial attorney in San Diego.

**JILL PASQUALETTO HAMAKER (BA)** reports that she is enjoying life with her daughter, Grace Karen. "She keeps me and husband, Delk, on our toes," Jill says. "Staying busy as a working mom on Capitol Hill as the senior manager of government affairs for Emergent BioSolutions."

**MICHELLE IALEGGIO (JD)** is a San Diego County deputy district attorney.

**SUE LESSANI (MSN)** reports that she is launching a new business.

**DIANE LETARTE (LLM)** writes, "Releasing lifers from prison. One at a time. Much better with Gov. Brown in office."

**MICHAEL STUART (JD)** worked as a public defender in 2005, then joined a San Diego criminal defense law firm. In 2009, he opened his own law firm in San Diego, where he handles criminal defense and family law matters. Michael writes, "I remember my days on the USD campus as a time and place where I evolved from a student to a lawyer."

**VICTORIA VAN DER BRIEL** (Paralegal Certificate) is building a strategic management consulting business.

**[2005]**

**TYLER ANDREWS (JD)**, litigator with Greenberg Traurig LLP, was elevated to partner in the Las Vegas office.

**DOUGLAS FENNER (EdD)** was named a chief information officer for the Naval Facilities Engineering Command in September 2012.

**JAMES C. FESSENDEN (JD)** was promoted to partner with Fisher & Phillips LLP in San Diego.

**MICHAEL HELLBUSCH (BA, JD '08)** joined Tredway Lumsdaine & Doyle LLP as an associate in the firm's Irvine, Calif., office.

**AMANDA SCHILT (BA)** is the director of corporate communications at Ralph Lauren in New York City.

**MALLORY PREST TODD (BA)** and her husband, Matt, were married on Jan. 11, 2014, in Palm Desert, Calif. They both work at Xavier College Prep, a Jesuit high school, where Matt is the operations manager and Mallory is a history teacher and the girls golf coach.

**EDWARD P. YOUNG (JD)** joined Mike Lewis Attorneys as an associate attorney in Winston, N.C.

**[2006]**

**JAMES BLACK (BAcc)** is the owner/operator of the No. 1 ranked international hostel in San Diego.

**BAYARDO DE MURGUIA (BA)** reports that he has put his theatre arts degree to use in Hollywood. Since moving to Los Angeles, he has worked commercially and in voice-over in national ads for Comcast, Jack in the Box, JC Penney and Honda. Theatrically, he has co-starred on *Marvel's Agents of S.H.I.E.L.D.* and has guest starred as Agent Javier Silva on *CSI: Crime Scene Investigation*.

**DUSTIN S. DODGIN (JD)** was elected partner of Klein, DeNatale, Goldner, Cooper, Rosenlieb & Kimball LLP, in Bakersfield, Calif.

**SCOTT MARTINEZ (JD)** was sworn in as Denver's city attorney Jan. 8, 2014.

**MARY MCKENZIE (JD)** teaches graduate and undergraduate courses in international relations at USD's College of Arts and Sciences.

**COURTNEY (BLOKLAND) ROBERTS (BA, MBA '10)** and her husband, Blake Roberts '10,





[hail and farewell]

# A LIFE WELL LIVED

The many successes of Walt Heinecke

by Ryan T. Blystone

A positive outlook, both in good times and bad, is a gift. For nearly 75 years, Walter Richard Heinecke employed this personality trait — this gift — to its fullest capacity.

Perhaps that's why, when family and friends gathered for his June 7 funeral at Heinecke's beloved place of worship, Coronado (Calif.) Christ Episcopal Church, it was filled to capacity.

The outpouring of love and support from the hundreds in attendance even prompted

Heinecke's oldest son, John, to employ one of his dad's tried-and-true catch phrases.

"I know that dad's looking down at all of these people gathered here today, and he's saying, 'This is so great!'"

Heinecke, a popular USD adjunct professor from 2001-2013, had an eternally optimistic persona that drew people from all walks of life. His youngest son, Matt, met his future wife, Andrea, after Walt played matchmaker and politely asked for her phone number. Not

exactly enthralled by the idea of being set up on a blind date by his dad, Matt finally relented ... and a year later they were married. The couple's infant son is named Luke Walter Heinecke.

Walt Heinecke lived life to the fullest — "don't trim the sails," was a favorite expression — and his passion for people, relationships, leadership, education, service to his country, community and family was always present.

"My father is my hero," said Laura Green, Heinecke's daughter.

Heinecke's life accomplishments were many. He had a distinguished 30-year career in the United States Navy, retiring with the rank of captain. He was a member of the Coronado Rotary Club for 26 years and served as


its president in 2012. He was director of marketing for Camp Adventure Child and Youth Service, a service-learning program supported by the Department of Defense and State Department to provide youth activities for children of U.S. military and state department families stationed overseas.

As well as teaching leadership and organizational behavior courses at USD, he also earned a Leadership Studies PhD in 2008 from the School of Leadership and Education Sciences.

One of his greatest feats, however, was his approach to failure. Early in his service career, Heinecke failed Navy Officers' Candidate School (OCS). Though initially devastated at the news, the ever-resilient Heinecke didn't take the setback lying down, and eventually passed OCS in 1962. Over the next three decades, he proudly served his country in locations from Long Beach, Calif., to Ankara, Turkey ... and just about everywhere in between.

"He taught us to be open and share our failures," said Brittany Catton '05, who took Heinecke's class and remained close over the years. "Not only did we learn more by examining our mistakes, but by opening up, we developed deeper bonds and connections inside and outside the classroom with our classmates."

Heinecke formed lasting relationships. Cynthia Villis, director of USD's Institute of College Initiatives and a fellow Rotarian, says Heinecke co-founded the USD Rotaract student club.

"Walt was widely respected as a colleague by the community on and off campus," she says. "Students loved him — and he loved being with them. He introduced them to community service and leadership opportunities. Walt was a gentle companion and a fierce advocate, full of empathy yet demanding of integrity. His leadership and friendship will be missed, and always remembered." 



COURTESY OF MICHELLE IBARRA

[first-hand]

## MS. DE LARA GOES TO WASHINGTON

### What USD's first D.C. intern learned

Krystn Shrieve

**W**hen Michelle (De Lara) Ibarra arrived in the nation's capital, the sweltering heat registered in the 90s. The air was heavy — not just with a humidity that promised rain — but also with an incessant buzz about a certain former White House intern. If nothing else, things would be interesting in Washington, D.C.

Ibarra '99 was then a junior at USD, majoring in political science and minoring in international relations and sociology. She was the first student from the university to participate in a student program at the Washington Center, a non-profit organization that serves hundreds of schools across the nation and around the world, pro-

viding internships and academic seminars in virtually every field.

"I was proud to represent my university, to work for a well-known agency and to make a difference in the world," says Ibarra, thinking back on her experience in the fall of 1998. "I loved my time in D.C."

College of Arts and Sciences Dean Noelle Norton was then an assistant faculty member in the political science department and served as USD's first faculty advisor for the Washington Center Program. She says it's been an invaluable component to the student experience.

"The USD educational model really emphasizes experiential learning — and for political science majors, that very often

includes work in Washington, D.C., where both domestic and international policy is made," Norton says.

Since Ibarra's inaugural trip, USD has sent thousands of students to the Washington Center. Aside from the 14-week semester program, the university has expanded the offerings to include a nine-week program in the summer and a two-week program during the January intersession.

Mike Williams, chair of the political science department, says students who went through the program have gone on to work at the White House, as Congressional aides, as lawyers in the executive branch, as political consultants or political campaign managers, and in the intelligence community for

the CIA, the Defense Intelligence Agency and the National Security Agency. Back then, Ibarra had dreams of joining those ranks by becoming an FBI agent.

Her semester-long duties were with the National Training and Technical Assistance Partnership program, which helps train newly hired officers with law enforcement and other crime prevention agencies. "Assisting communities with crime prevention was a perfect fit," says Ibarra, who now works as a senior paralegal at an immigration law firm.

Ibarra lived in an apartment in Rosslyn, Va., north of Arlington National Cemetery and directly across the Potomac River from Georgetown. Every day, she rode the Metro two stops from Rosslyn, under the Potomac to the Farragut West station in downtown D.C. From her office at 17th and K, she researched and helped produce brochures about public safety, attended manager-training conferences and participated in conference calls, brainstorming sessions and roundtable discussions.

When she wasn't working, Ibarra immersed herself in everything D.C. had to offer, but of course, the news of the day was everywhere. "Thinking back during my time in D.C., the hot topic was the Kenneth Star report and President Clinton's impeachment," she recalls. "There was a lot of buzz going on about that."

Ibarra saw every branch of the government in action. She witnessed the realities of politics — the negotiations, the quid pro quo. But what stuck with her the most was a grand sense of pride.

"You can't help but feel patriotic when you're there," she says. "There's so much history. I loved walking down the streets and seeing Capitol Hill or the White House. I loved knowing that everyone there was doing what they could to bring about a change for the people of this country. It was inspiring. It's something I'll never forget." 🇺🇸



welcomed their first child, Charlotte Rose, in June 2013.

**JOSEPH SAMMARTINO (JD)** founded Sammartino Law Group, a San Diego law firm specializing in the representation of individuals and businesses in civil litigation.

**LEIZEL VERGARA (BA)** has traveled to Cuba, China, Egypt and around Europe, interned at the United Nations, worked for the American Australian Association and New York University, and volunteered in Haiti and around New York City, through New York Cares.

**[2007]**  
**JON CASTRO (BA)** moved to New York for a global banking and markets position at HSBC.

**GRACE GIL (BBA)** was promoted to learning program manager at Petco Animal Supplies Inc. in San Diego. She is in charge of all product training across 1,300 retail stores.

**RACHAEL GOLDFARB (BBA)** is assistant director of brands at E.J. Gallo Winery.

**BRITTANY HALL (BA, BBA '07)** is with Marriott Hotels and was promoted to destination sales executive for the Courtyard Chicago Downtown River North.

**SPENCER HOLLISON (BA)** works for TKF, a nonprofit organization in San Diego, and is finishing a master's degree in theology at Fuller Theological Seminary.

**JENNIFER MILLER (BBA)** graduated from Loyola Law School and currently works as a personal injury attorney for Progressive Insurance.

**KATE E. PAYERLE (JD)** of Robinson Bradshaw & Hinson PA was named vice chair of Charlotte Chamber Young Professionals and a North Carolina Rising Star in business litigation by *North Carolina Super Lawyers*.

**ALEXANDRA WILLIAMS (BA)** married Justin Williams on Sept. 21, 2013, in an Episcopal ceremony in Santa Barbara, Calif. Following a second reception in Connecticut, the couple spent a two-week honeymoon in South America. They are now back in Santa Barbara and

glad to have the wedding planning behind them, Alexandra says.

**[2008]**  
**SAMUEL ATRI (BBA)** is working toward a master's degree in sports business at New York University.

**JOSEPH A. BROPHY (JD)** was elected partner in the Phoenix office of the law firm Jennings, Haug & Cunningham LLP.

**ADA CARPENTER (BA)** ran the Angeles marathon on March 9, 2014, and plans to start graduate school at the University of Southern California in the fall.

**ANGELA GONZALES (JD)** joined the Rimon law firm as an associate working out of the new San Diego office.

**WHITNEY GRAVES (BA)** writes, "I work at a top advertising agency in New York City in media planning."


**JEN LAGEDROST (BA)** earned an MFA degree in poetry in May 2013 and moved to Los Angeles.

**EVAN PAPADAKIS (BA)** works at Stillwater Family Therapy in Manhattan Beach, Calif.

**ASHLEY PISANI (BA)** joined Pisani Dentistry in Reno, Nev., as a dental hygienist. After graduating from USD, Ashley earned an AAS degree in dental hygiene from New York University's College of Dentistry.

**FRANK SERIO (MSN)** reports, "Retirement is great."

**PATRICIA HARTMAN SHERRILLO (Med)** is a fifth-grade teacher and coordinator of the GATE (Gifted and Talented Education) program.

**[2009]**   
**JOYCE CHUA (BBA)** is assistant director of Torero Clubs at USD and appeared on *Wheel of Fortune* with her sister in March 2014.

**CHRISTIAAN COETZEE (BAcc)** lives in Newport Beach, Calif., and works on the acquisition team at CT Realty Investors.

**NICOLE CUSACK (JD)** was promoted to associate attorney with Casey Gerry in San Diego.

**KENT DAVIS (BBA)** earned a paralegal certificate and real estate license.

**BROOKE DIXON (BBA)** launched her first business, Emblazon Events Inc. "We are forecasted to generate \$1 million in gross sales this year on behalf of our 20-plus clients!" Brooke says.

**AMY FORSYTHE (MSGL)** is assigned as a U.S. Navy public affairs officer serving at the U.S. Africa Command in Stuttgart, Germany.

**ERIC GONZALEZ (BBA)** writes, "Living in beautiful San Diego and loving work at Qualcomm with their RE group."

**CARLOS JAUREGUI (LLM)** worked in San Francisco for six months, then moved back to Mexico and practiced energy law. Currently, he works in trust and agency services at Deutsche Bank Mexico.

**KAILA MANGRUM (BA, MA '12)** has been working with the USD women's basketball program for the past four years. "I served two years as the graduate assistant and earned my master's in leadership studies," she says. "After graduation, I became the director of operations and am currently in my second year of the position."

**CHAD PAGE (BBA)** started his own financial service business in October 2009.

**EMILY QUILTER (BA)** joined a USD sunset harbor cruise mixer during Orientation Week in 1998, where she was handed an ace of playing card and told to find her match. She found her fellow ace of diamonds, Kevin McCarthy, and they began a relationship that lasted for two years. Though they parted, 12 years later Kevin called Emily on Valentine's Day and seven months after that, she moved 2,600 miles to begin planning a life together. "All thanks to USD and a playing card," she says.

**[2010]**  
**KATELIN BUTCHER (BA)** lived in Lyon, France, for a year and returned to Northern California, where she teaches French to high school students.

**ASHLEY COBB (BA)**, a third-year medical student at Mayo Medical

School, received the American Medical Association Foundation's 2014 Leadership Award, a national award that recognizes achievements in community service, medical education and public health. After graduating from USD, Ashley worked with AmeriCorps in an after-school program for at-risk youth and coordinated a community health fair for migrant farm workers. As a medical student, she volunteers extensively in her community and serves as a mentor for local youth. She also conducted a qualitative study in Uganda. Ashley plans to attend University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill, next year to work on a master's of public health degree in maternal and child health.

**ASHLEY REAGAN HALBERDA (JD)** joined Carothers DiSante & Freudenberger LLP as an associate in the Orange County, Calif., office.

**CHRISTOPHER HAYES (JD)** joined the Small Business Investor Alliance as legislative and regulatory counsel in Washington, D.C.

**CAITLIN HEYDE (BAcc, BBA '10)** has been working for High Street Partners, an international payroll and accounting company, for nearly four years. Caitlin and her husband have been married for two years and welcomed a son, Jake, in November 2013.

**RITA MAGLIOCCO (BAcc)** is a producer for the Back9Network, a startup television channel in Hartford, Conn., that promotes growing the game of golf through the inclusion of all people. The network just released a short film, *Inspire 2 Aspire*, produced in partnership with Catapult Entertainment. Through shadow dance, the film tells the life story of Sandy Cloud Jr., who worked as a caddy at a local country club and became a lawyer, civic leader and two-term state senator. The film can be seen at [www.back9network.com/article/video-back9network-presents-catapult-entertainment-performance](http://www.back9network.com/article/video-back9network-presents-catapult-entertainment-performance).

**NICHOLAS PROLA (JD)** was named director of compliance and in-house counsel with Professional Finance Company in Denver.

**RUTH SOBERANES (BA)** completed a master's degree in diplomacy and international relations from



ILLUSTRATION BY GREG SHED

[ r e n o w n e d ]

**RAYMOND S. BRANDES, PHD**, longtime USD professor and former dean of the graduate school, died on April 16, 2014, at his home in San Diego. He was 90. Born in Coronado, Calif., as a direct descendant of the founders of Old Town, he became a pre-eminent historian in the region. Ray entered the Army during WWII and served for six years, then went on to earn a bachelor's degree and a PhD in historic site archaeology and Western American history. He joined USD in the 1960s as a professor of history and archaeology and retired 31 years later as dean of the graduate school. Ray led archaeological and historical research for Old Town State Historic Park, the Royal Presidio of San Diego and Mission San Diego de Alcalá. He published more than 300 reports on historic San Diego buildings and 21 books, founded the San Diego Congress of History, and helped establish the San Diego Baseball Historical Society. In 1996, he was awarded USD's Medal of San Diego de Alcalá for distinguished service. Ray is survived by his wife of 51 years, Irma Dolores Montijo, six daughters, a son, two sisters, a brother, 10 grandchildren and three great-grandchildren.

the Diplomatic School in Madrid in 2012 and recently joined the North American Research Partnership as a research analyst and communications manager.

**ADAM TYDINGCO (BBA)** has worked in residential real estate for the past two years and enjoys working at Coldwell Banker Residential Brokerage.

**LAILA VAN DER MEULEN (BA)** is a tour operations manager for La Jolla-based Classic Journeys, which operates small-group, luxury, boutique cultural walking adventures in 75 regions within 35 countries on five continents.

[ 2 0 1 1 ]

**DANIELA ATRI (BA)** launched Montubox.com in the fall of 2013, a program for kids ages 4 to 9 that delivers creative and education activities to their doorstep each month. The subscription program was created for professional moms who might not have the liberty to go out and find engaging activities for their little ones, Daniela says.

**JOSEPH BOWIE (BBA)** completed a master's degree in sports management at the University of San Francisco in December 2013. After graduating, he accepted a position as a marketing manager with TopGolf in Scottsdale, Ariz.

**MICHELLE HARRISON (BSN, MSN '13)** writes, "Since I graduated last May from the School of Nursing, I have been paying it forward by teaching at the university and other local schools."

**XIXI LI (MAcc)** has been working for Ernst & Young in San Diego since graduating from USD. "I couldn't have done it without my education," Xixi says. "I am in Chicago for business and found out about the Cubs game (an alumni relations event). What a great way to connect with alumni in the area!"

**MONICA LIM (BA)** is in graduate school at DePaul University.

**ANNA MORENO (BBA)** recently moved to New York City.

**VIENNA MUNRO (JD)** finished her detail to the Pentagon and was recommended to serve on the

president's National Security Council staff. Upon completing her assignment at the White House, Vienna returned to her diplomatic career at the U.S. Department of State and accepted a new position as the Department's hostage advisor.

**MEGHAN RYAN (BA)** expected to graduate in May 2014 with a master's degree in special education at San Diego State University.

**NICK SALMEN (BBA)** recently returned home from serving abroad as a U.S. Peace Corps volunteer in Burkina Faso, West Africa.

**DOMINICK SCIOLA (BBA)** joined Avanade as a growth and strategy senior analyst. "Looking forward to the new opportunity," Dominick says.

**ELIZABETH SKURDAHL (BA)** is a volunteer teacher through WorldTeach in the rural village of Omatjete, Namibia. She teaches English, art and library science to grades five, six and seven. Elizabeth plans to return to the United States in 2014.

**KAMEKA SMITH (MA)** is working on postgraduate hours to become a licensed professional clinical counselor at a large nonprofit mental health clinic.

[ 2 0 1 2 ]

**GUNJAN AGARWAL (JD)** joined the Pittsburgh, Pa., office of Fox Rothschild LLP.

**DIANA RODRIGUEZ AGISS (BAcc, BBA '12, BA '12)** reports that she is in law school.

**JULIETA BARRIOS (BA)** is an eighth-grade science teacher in Temple Hills, Md., as part of Teach for America Corps.

**ALEX BELLINI (BBA)** is a financial planning consultant with Aurora Capital Alliance in San Diego and has been integral in the expansion of the firm's premium finance consulting platform with offices in downtown San Diego, Los Angeles and Scottsdale, Ariz. His experience includes international project management, new venture finance and consulting advisors on the structuring of complex premium finance life insurance strategies. In addition, he founded



and continues to be active in two software companies.

**JOSE ROSALES CHAVEZ (BA)** is currently working toward a PhD in global health and in the fall expects to begin a master's program in public health.

**AUSTIN ENGLISH (BA)** is working toward a master's degree in history at USD.

**ERIC A. GERRARD (JD)** joined the Bartle & Geier law firm as an associate in Lincoln, Neb.

**KATIE GORDON (BA)** is working toward a master's degree in fashion studies at Parsons the New School for Design.

**CARA MILLER (PhD)** is a teaching fellow at Harvard University Extension School.

**BRENTON MONTGOMERY (BBA)** has been working at a small CPA firm in Kearney Mesa, Calif., and reports that he hopes to become a certified public accountant within a year.

**PHUONG "EMILY" PHAN (BA)** is a scheduling coordinator at WIS International and works part time at The Rush Indoor Cycling Studio, founded by fellow USD alumnus Tim Suski.

**ANTHONY REYES (MA)** is a marriage and family therapist in Sacramento, Calif. "USD has allowed me to flourish professionally due to its strong alumni base and support," Anthony says.

**JAMIE RITTERBECK (JD)** joined Klinedinst PC as an associate in San Diego.

**TONY TERAVAINEN (MSEL)** received a county proclamation on the deck of the U.S.S. Midway in January 2014 in support of the nonprofit he chairs, Support the Enlisted Project (STEP). STEP is a local resource that supports lower-ranking military enlisted and recently honorably discharged veteran families who are experiencing financial hardship. "It feels good to know that an organization that I have committed so many hours to through the years is prospering from practical application of the methodology I learned in

the MSEL program and, ultimately, making a personal difference in military and veteran families' lives," Tony says. His work was featured in the Summer 2014 issue of *USD Magazine*.

**AJ TOOPS (BS/BA)** is a mechanical engineer for the M+W Group. He recently married Katie Dethlefsen at the Brophy Chapel in Phoenix. AJ and Katie also bought a home in Phoenix.

**CASSANDRA WELLS (BA)** assists in-house counsel at a property management company.

**[2013]**  
**ADEBAYO ADELEKE (MS)** writes, "I am wrapping up my military duties and getting ready to hit the job market."

**HANNAH BERTRANDO (BA)** is taking a year off before attending law school in the fall of 2014.

**AARON BROWN (BBA)** is a business partner with Lawrence Kourie '10. They own and operate SoCal Gas and Car Wash in Escondido, Calif.

**JESSICA BUCKLEY (BS/BA)** is a master's student at Colorado School of Mines.

**SOPHIA CARRILLO (BA)** was selected as one of 10 Americans to study in The Hague, Netherlands, with international criminal court prosecutors, scholars and peacemakers as part of the International Peace and Security Institute's Hague Symposium in Post-Conflict Transitions and International Justice.

**LAUREN COMBS (BA)** is a recruiting manager in the finance and accounting division at Robert Half in San Francisco. "I am loving my job, but missing all the wonderful things about USD and San Diego!" she says.

**DENNIS DIENST (MS)** completed USD's master's program in supply chain management in October 2013 and walked during the May 2014 commencement. He also reports that he was promoted in March 2014.

**RACHEL EHSAN (JD)** joined business litigation law firm Webb & Bordson APC in San Diego.

**KARIN M. GERSTIN (JD)** was promoted to associate at Sughrue Mion in San Diego.

**JEANETTE GONZALEZ (MAPJ)** is the director of recruitment in the Office of Admissions at the Franciscan School of Theology.

**WILLIAM HOLDEN (BA)** returned recently from eight months of travel through France, Spain, Morocco, Colombia, Ecuador and Peru. "I lived with local families I met along the way in each country," he says. "Their economic status ranged from the top 1 percent to the bottom 1 percent. In Ecuador and Peru, I climbed volcanoes, worked as an Amazon guide's assistant and as a bartender in the largest hostel in South America, and completed solo multi-day treks through the Andes."

**ALVIN JAVIER (BS/BA)** is an electrical designer for Randall Lamb, an engineering consulting firm.

**KATHERINE MALEWSKI (BA)** is a technical recruiter for CTC Inc.

**BRYN NELSON (BA)** is a business analyst in the greater Seattle area.

**ROCIO GARZA TISDELL (MSGL)** joined the Virginia Tech Carilion School of Medicine in Roanoke, Va., as the diversity and inclusion program manager. Rocio and her husband continue to work on their start-up company, Domesticat, a line of modern products for pets and their owners.

**JORDAN WALKER (BBA)** moved to Chicago after graduating from USD.

**[2014]**  
**JENNIFER GEE (BBA)** writes, "Actively seeking career opportunities!"

**GINA SOTELO (MSGL)** is currently seeking funding to start a business endeavor.

## In Memoriam

**CLAUDINE RUIZ '00 (JD)**, passed away on Feb. 7, 2014, after a battle with cancer. A prosecutor for the County of San Diego's Family Protection Division

for 14 years, Claudine was featured in the summer 2012 issue of *USD Magazine* for her work handling cases of child abuse, felony domestic violence and elder abuse. "Those are our special victims," Claudine explained in the story. "Our office feels that those particular victims — children, the elderly and people in domestic violence situations — need additional attention and resources." Claudine earned a bachelor's degree in international relations, as well as JD and LLM degrees. She loved spending time with family and friends, and is survived by her husband, William J. Beckwith, two young sons, mother and stepfather, sisters, and father-in-law and mother-in-law.

**HERBERT E. WHYTE**, who served as USD's director of financial aid from 1976 until his retirement in 1989, passed away on Jan. 23, 2014. Herb was a decorated veteran who graduated from the U.S. Naval Academy in 1946 and he served as an aviator in both Korea and Vietnam. At USD, Herb was dedicated to serving students who needed financial aid and he was respected by his financial aid colleagues. He is survived by his wife, Geraldine "Gerry" Whyte, four children, 10 grandchildren and 17 great-grandchildren. A USD scholarship fund has been established in his honor.

**Torero Notes** may be edited for length and clarity. Photos must be high resolution, so adjust camera settings accordingly. Engagements, pregnancies, personal email addresses and telephone numbers cannot be published.

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# CHANGEMAKER



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**A THIRD OF INCOMING FRESHMAN** specifically state that making the world a better place is one of the factors that brought them to campus, says incoming Changemaker Hub Director Mike Williams '92. "They're coming here not only for our academics, but for the opportunity to be hands-on when it comes to making a difference in the world." Williams, an associate professor of political science, walks the walk: He's been bringing groups of students to the tiny South African village of Makuleke for the past several years. The idea is to nurture and grow a personal, meaningful relationship with the people there, and to collaborate with local high school students who are eager to advocate for better educational resources. "For the first time in my career, I feel my passion for improving the lives of others and for intellectual understanding overlapping," says Williams. Read more at [universityofsandiegoinsta.tumblr.com](http://universityofsandiegoinsta.tumblr.com).



# MARK YOUR CALENDAR



October 10-12  
**Homecoming and Family Weekend**  
USD campus  
[www.sandiego.edu/hfw](http://www.sandiego.edu/hfw)



Saturday, October 11  
**Homecoming and Family Weekend Football Game**  
USD v. Stetson  
[USDToreros.com](http://USDToreros.com)



Friday, October 17  
**Women's Volleyball**  
USD v. BYU  
Jenny Craig Pavilion  
[USDToreros.com](http://USDToreros.com)



Wednesday, November 19  
**Alumni Piano Concert**  
Founders Hall  
French Parlor  
[www.sandiego.edu/cas/music](http://www.sandiego.edu/cas/music)



Friday, December 5 and  
Sunday, December 7  
**Lessons and Carols**  
[www.sandiego.edu/cctc](http://www.sandiego.edu/cctc)



Saturday, December 13  
**Alumni Christmas Mass**  
Founders Chapel  
[alumni.sandiego.edu](http://alumni.sandiego.edu)



Thursday, January 29  
**All Faith Service**  
Shiley Theatre  
[www.sandiego.edu/um](http://www.sandiego.edu/um)



**Coming Soon!**  
There are many Torero alumni events happening around the globe!  
  
Check them out at [alumni.sandiego.edu](http://alumni.sandiego.edu)

Check out more USD events at [www.sandiego.edu/about/news\\_center/events](http://www.sandiego.edu/about/news_center/events).





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