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## [SAVE THE DATE]





September 12 Mass of the Holy Spirit



**October 3 - 6** Homecoming and Family Weekend



October 5 Homecoming and Family Weekend Football Game USD v. Marist

USDToreros.com

USDToreros.com

USD vs. UC Davis

Football Home Opener

September 7

sandiego.edu/mission

sandiego.edu/hfw

December 15

Candlelight M

sandiego.edu/r



December 7 and 8

Lessons and Carols

sandiego.edu/cctc

**December 14** Alumni Christmas Mass

alumni.sandiego.edu





lass	<b>Coming Soon!</b> There are many Torero alumni events happening around the globe!
ninistry	Check them out at alumni.sandiego.edu



### THE POWER OF STORIES Momo Bertrand '19 is changing the narrative

## USD MAGAZINE DEAR TOREROS



t is my privilege to begin our 2019-2020 fiscal year as the 📕 president of the USD Alumni Association Board, which serves more than 70,000 USD alumni.

We are fortunate to have an active group of board members and are grateful for the leadership of our immediate past president, Gerry Rodrigues '97 (BBA). No question about it, Gerry will be a hard act to follow. One only has to look at the current state of the Alumni Association to see the success under his direction.

Our mission — "to engage and enrich the Torero community for life" — will guide us as we embark upon the process of revising our strategic plan. Following in the footsteps of Envisioning 2024, the alumni board will focus on setting and achieving its own goals, keeping in alignment with the path set forward by the University of San Diego.

Working alongside more than 1,000 alumni volunteers, the USD Alumni Relations staff, parents and friends, it is our vision to continue to build an actively connected and supportive global network of USD alumni.

Thirty-two years have passed since my graduation from USD. I have raised two children with my husband, Marco '84 (BBA), had a career in the hospitality industry

and have volunteered more hours than I can count.

I find myself returning home to the USD campus to celebrate the baptism of a child, the wedding of a friend, a reunion celebration and, most recently, as a parent of a current USD student

The memories created on this campus and the friendships that have shaped my life are the reasons I continue to seriously commit my time to this university, which has always had a special place in my heart. I often hear alumni talk about how different USD is today, but rest assured: the values and the core of what drew us to this campus

have never changed.

This is why I challenge our alumni to join me on an exciting journey as we approach our 70th anniversary. The opportunities to get involved are endless: Homecoming and Family Weekend; our online mentoring platform, TEAM; nationwide Torero Club activities and international reunions abroad are just a few options available to our alumni and friends.

Your involvement is critical as we continually strive to create an even stronger Alumni Association. I look forward to seeing you on campus!

— Kim Alessio '87 (BA), president



# IT'S A NEW DAY. # TORERO TUESDAY

Be a part of USD's annual tradition to come together as Toreros and make history. During the course of only 24 hours, hundreds of alumni, parents and friends of the university will pitch in to raise funds that will enhance student scholarships, academic programs and athletics on Torero Tuesday. Be a part of history and make 2019 the biggest year yet. We're counting on you!

Learn more at sandiego.edu/ToreroTuesday.



#### Fall 2019



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#### lusd magazine

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#### [torero notes]

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

Please note that content for USD Magazine has a long lead time. Our current publishing schedule is as follows: Torero Notes received between Feb. 1-May 30 appear in the Fall edition; those received June 1-Sept. 30 appear in the Spring edition; those received between Oct. 1-Jan. 31 appear in the Summe digital-only edition.

Email Torero Notes to classnotes@sandiego.edu or mail them to the address below.

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#### [be blue go green]

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# USD MAGAZINE CONTENTS











18 61 8



GO

OREROS

#### FEATURES **READY TO FLY**

14

16

18

20

4

6

Assisted by an indefatigable spirit and an infectious smile, Shane Davis '19 is poised to take the world by storm. First stop for the freshly minted biochemistry graduate? Rutger University's Robert Wood Johnson Medical School, where he began his first year as a medical student this summer. It's been a truly remarkable journey thus far, one that's far from over.

#### LIFELONG LESSONS

Kayla Watson '19 (JD) credits her upbringing for giving her the urge to use the law to make positive change in the world. She says that USD's School of Law — and her work with the Center for Public Interest Law — helped to bring her passions into focus and hone in on how best to find creative ways to bring legal solutions to pressing problems.

#### THE POWER OF STORIES

Momo Bertrand '19 (MA) says his decision to attend the Kroc School's Master of Arts in Social Innovation program wouldn't have been possible without the full scholarship he received. Now that he's graduated, he's determined to do work worth telling stories about. His ultimate goal? Training the next generation of changemakers.

#### MORE THAN ENOUGH

It's been a long and winding road for Karen Stefano '04 (MBA). Her new memoir, What a Body Remembers, chronicles a horrifying event that reverberated and rippled throughout her life for decades. The aftermath is detailed in her compelling and well-written book, which is filled with hard truths, unflinching honesty and an ultimately triumphant message.

#### **TORERO NEWS**

**Eminently Reasonable** 

Political Science Professors Casey Dominguez, Cory Gooding and Tim McCarty model civil discourse with their podcast, A Few Reasonable Words.

#### To Inspire and Delight

USD's new 15,000-square-foot University Ministry Center will provide a consolidated center for serving the spiritual development of students.

#### USD MAGAZINE 2

#### Fall 2019

# **USD** MAGAZINE

8

10

12

13

Fun Evening for a Great Cause The second annual Fabulous Torero Casino Night

will take place on Oct. 4 during Homecoming and Family Weekend.

#### A True Sense of Family

University Ministry scholars dive deeper into their faith by taking on liturgical roles, participating in social justice-oriented programs and building lasting connections with one another.

#### TORERO ATHLETICS

#### **Boosting School Spirit**

A concerted effort is underway to spark excitement around Torero athletics teams and their many successes. Step one: boosting attendance at home games.

#### Getting to Know ... Ryan Keckley

USD's men's head tennis coach talks about his aspirations for the year to come and the somewhat surprising band that has a special place in his heart.

#### CLASS NOTES

#### **These Precious Things**

Melanie Dellas '13 (MA) has found a career that fits her interests perfectly: taking care of artifacts and objects from all time periods, cultures and materials.

#### Citizen of the World

Maria Teresa (Carrasco) Pietrok '66 (BA) has had a long and storied career, much of it chronicled in her new book, Piercing the Iron Curtain.

#### ON THE COVER

Photograph of Momo Bertrand '19 (MA) by Chris Park.

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24

30

## USD MAGAZINE TORERO NEWS



## [amicable] EMINENTLY REASONABLE Political science podcast a breath of fresh air

#### by Julene Snyder

ivil discourse in the current hyperpolarized 🥒 political American landscape seems like a distant dream. But three USD political science professors are doing their part to make America informed again. *A Few Reasonable Words* — the

podcast that Casey Dominguez (left), Cory Gooding (center) and Tim McCarty (right) started recording in mid-2016 — is funny, insightful and chock-full of nonpartisan insight into topics that range from government shutdowns to free speech to

federalism, sprinkled with wit and thoughtful conversation.

Each episode starts with McCarty's cheery intro: "Hello America! Put on your slippers and pour yourself a drink. It's time for A Few Reasonable *Words*, a podcast from three

professors trying desperately to soothe the frayed nerves of the American public with the comforting balm of political science."

The idea started in a shared hallway. Most mornings, the trio would find themselves leaning against walls and talking about the news of the day. "This is a way to turn what was otherwise goofing off into productive labor," McCarty quips.

On a more serious note, Dominguez explains that there was a definite gap that needed

filling: "We generally feel like the political media does not do what it needs to do," she explains. "It doesn't give context or history. We don't really give credit to the extent to which the media is shaping the news more and more over the past 20 to 30 years. There's a lot of hysteria, fingerpointing and very superficial opinion that goes on in the news. What we can offer as political scientists is more of that context and history."

Gooding thinks it's important for people to pay attention to the way that the media has become more purposeful in shaping the news. "We provide context and information to allow folks to make their own informed decisions about their engagement with the political system," he says.

McCarty jumps in: "While Casey says the media doesn't get enough credit for being an active participant, I would say they don't get enough blame."

While all three are in the same field, their areas of expertise diverge. Gooding focuses on the politics of race, ethnicity and immigration. Dominguez describes her field as "American institutions and behavior." And McCarty is focused on political theory, or, as he puts it: "old weird books."

On air, there's a real sense that these are people who like and respect one another, with plenty of good-natured ribbing thrown in. For example, one episode about whether or not voting day should be a national holiday featured an exchange about whether Tuesday elections were random or merely tradition, which ended with this back-and-forth:

McCarty: "So it's not random. It's not even arbitrary." Gooding: "It's not random. No." McCarty: "It's just anachronistic." Dominguez: "There you go. Thank you for picking that nit for us."

Their own favorite episodes include a four-part series titled "Should I Vote?" that aired before Their conclusion was unsur-Gooding cites says an episode More than 75 episodes in,

the 2016 general election. "I thought it was of value," Dominguez says. "At minimum, we thoroughly examined the question." prising: "You should vote." titled "Guns, NRA and the Politics of Interest Groups" as "really insightful." McCarty has a fondness for "Our Political Science Christmas Wishes," which Dominguez hastens to dryly note: "That was not anybody else's favorite." A Few Reasonable Words is in no danger of running out of topics to discuss. To date, the podcast has had "tens of thousands" of downloads, which doesn't factor those

who stream the episodes. Their audience goes far beyond USD; many political science professors across the country task their students with listening in.

McCarty has even gotten a bit of a taste of celebrityhood from - because I'm always being loud He laughs, still excited to have

the joint effort. "I was at a big luncheon at a political theory conference," he recalls. "I was talking — because I'm always talking — and I was being loud — and from across the room a guy said, 'I knew I recognized your voice! You're Tim McCarty from A Few Reasonable Words!"" been recognized. "He actually uses our podcast in his classroom and makes his students engage substantively with it."

"It's exciting because it started off as conversation between just the three of us," says Gooding. "To know that it's gone way beyond these four walls is a great thing, especially because it's not really about us, as much as it's being able to communicate complex ideas. And it allows us to do what we love, which ultimately is to teach."

sandiego.edu/reasonable

## [AROUND THE PARK]

#### **Dean Steps Down**

After four years of outstanding contributions, Dr. Jaime Gómez announced his resignation as School of Business dean. Following a sabbatical, he will return to the faculty as a professor of management. Associate Dean for Graduate Programs Barbara Lougee will serve as interim dean for the 2019-20 academic year; she is an associate professor of accounting who has received numerous awards for research and teaching excellence.



#### **More Inclusive**

This fall, the names of multiple buildings and spaces on campus will be changed. Serra Hall will be known as Saints Tekakwitha and Serra Hall. Mission Crossroads will become Mata'yuum Crossroads; the Student Life Pavilion's Plaza Mayor will be named Mother Teresa Plaza, while its Plaza Menor will be named Cardinal Van Thuân Plaza to honor social justice advocate Francis Xavier Nguyễn Văn Thuân.



#### **Rest in Peace**

The University of San Diego's Vice President for Finance and Chief Financial Officer, Terry Kalfayan '88 (BBA), '05 (MS), pictured, passed away in May after a courageous battle with cancer. She was employed at USD for nearly 20 years. President James Harris remembers her as a "a shining example of dedication and grace and a wonderful role model for her family and friends." Katy Roig, CPA, will serve as interim CFO.



#### Men's Basketball

San Diego men's basketball capped an impressive season with its first appearance in program history in the National Invitation Tournament. The Toreros produced its second consecutive 20-win season — the first time USD has had back-to-back 20-win seasons in program history. First-year head coach Sam Scholl '01 (BA) led USD to 21 wins, the most in a single season since 2007-2008. The full schedule for the 2019-2020 will be announced this fall.





#### [awe inspiring]

## TO INSPIRE AND DELIGHT University Ministry Center celebrates faith

#### by Liz Harman

he University of San Diego's new 15,000square-foot University Ministry Center opens this fall, with a mission to provide a consolidated center for serving the spiritual development of students.

Made possible by generous contributions by a number of donors, the center will house University Ministry (UM) staff and create space for program development, complementary co-curricular activities and related UM initiatives all in one central place.

"The new center will be a wonderful addition to our campus," says Vice President of Mission and Ministry Daniel Dillabough '70. "It's located centrally and conveniently between The Immaculata and Founders Chapel." "We've been working with Monsignor Dillabough since he first shared his vision, and it's exciting to see it all come together," says Facilities Management Senior Project Manager Tim Doudna.

"The location is great and it brings USD's University Ministry programs together all under one roof." The project scope included a partial renovation of Founders Hall, as well as an interior courtyard and an exterior patio at the east side of Founders Hall. Beyond the practicalities of centralizing University Ministry services, the center reinforces the importance of beauty, echoing Mother Rosalie Clifton Hill's famous 1949 quote: "Beauty will attract them; goodness will lead them; but the truth will hold them," she said.

When students and other visitors enter the new center this fall, they'll be greeted by stunning tapestries depicting figures including Pope Francis, Saint Teresa of Calcutta, Martin Luther King and Mahatma Gandhi. The 32 images also include Catholic saints, USD's founders Bishop Charles Francis Buddy and Mother Hill, along with many other inspirational figures.

"The tapestries express the university's Catholic identity and, as an important aspect of that identity, our deep appreciation for holiness found in other places, people, and traditions," says USD Assistant Vice President and Director of University Ministry Michael Lovette-Colver.

"The center will be a fantastic place for groups of students to meet, reflect and pray, and to hold university gatherings and celebrations," adds Lovette-Colyer. A celebration of the new center will be held on Sept. 6.

Adding to the ambiance of the center are the dramatic tapestries designed by internationally known artist John Nava, who also created stunning tapestries of 135 saints in the Cathedral of Our Lady of the Angels in Los Angeles. For a year, he worked with Msgr. Dillabough on the design of the five 12-foot-high tapestries. In the summer of 2020, another three panels will be installed on a second wall.

Nava says he was excited to work on what he calls an "inclusive" project, but admits he had another reason creating the artwork spoke to him as an artist. A San Diego native, he recalls seeing a photo of himself as a toddler next to the cross marking USD's groundbreaking in 1949. His family hoped he might attend USD, but when the time came for him to go off to college, he chose the University of California, Santa Barbara instead.

"I've done projects all over the world," he says. "But this is the first one in my hometown."

Norton notes that the success of the center wouldn't have been possible without donor support. "The center is already a vital part of campus life, and this gift ensures that it will continue to operate in perpetuity." She says that the positive impact of its programming on the student experience is ongoing. "I had dinner with a parent who recounted that her son called and was overjoyed about two Humanities Center lectures he had attended during his first semester," she recalls. "It's delightful to know that even the newest members of our community find sparkling ideas in the center." The Humanities Center —

The Humanities Center which is located in the heart of the USD campus in what is

directorship."

[blossoming]

## A CLASSICAL APPROACH Humanities Center gift funds endowed directorship

#### by Lissette Martinez

r or the second time in only three short years, Carol Vassiliadis (pictured), who is parent to a USD alumna, has given the College of Arts and Sciences a generous contribution to continue the work of its Humanities Center. Her \$1.5 million gift established and endowed the A. Vassiliadis Director of the Humanities Center; its inaugural director is philosophy professor Brian Clack, who was chosen by Dean Noelle Norton, PhD.

"As its founding director, Dr. Clack has done a remarkable job developing a thriving center for faculty, students and staff," says Norton. "His work was appropriately recognized by offering him the first distinguished now known as Saints Tekakwitha and Serra Hall — has hosted hundreds of events since opening its doors. In addition to the gift, which was made in late 2018, Vassiliadis generously donated the founding \$500,000 gift to open the center in 2016, demonstrating a true dedication for the humanities, according to Clack.

"It's a total delight for all sorts of reasons," he says. "It's such an affirmation, a vote of confidence in what we've done. To have the work recognized by Carol with another donation is a way of saying, 'Yeah, you got this right.' Looking forward, those funds coming from the endowment can be used to extend our programming. It gives us an extraordinary permanence on campus."

"I'm a great believer in a classical approach," Vassiliadis says. "The humanities are the core of every fine university and round out the student experience, putting everything they've learned into perspective."

Norton echoed that sentiment when the center first opened in 2016.

"An understanding of history, art, philosophy, literature and language is relevant for all citizens," she said. "In order to make reasonable, ethical and informed life choices as individuals and members of local and global communities, we need to think broadly and inclusively about our place in the universe."



[glitzy]

## FUN EVENING FOR A GREAT CAUSE Fabulous Torero Casino Night a surefire winner



by Julene Snyder

7 egas glitz comes to Alcalá Park this fall during the second annual Fabulous Torero Casino Night, which takes place on Oct. 4 during Homecoming and Family Weekend. Proceeds directly support student scholarships through the Parent Partnership Fund, which provides aid to students who are experiencing financial hardship and are at risk of not completing their education at USD.

"The evening is lots of fun, but it's definitely fun for a cause," says Director of Parent and Family Relations Renda Quinn '86 (BBA). "The Parent Partnership Fund is dedicated to benefiting students in need. We are determined to help them be successful in earning a degree from USD."

One student who benefitted from the fund is Chloe Zakhour '20, whose father suddenly passed away in 2018.

"He was pretty much the sole

provider for our family," she says. "I called USD financial aid a few days after he passed to see if there was anything they could do for me. They told me about the Parent Partnership Scholarship. It was the only way I could stay at USD and I'm so thankful for their heartwarming generosity."

Last year's inaugural event, created and supported by the USD Parent Board, raised more than \$47,000 to benefit student scholarships and is the main

fundraiser for the Parent Partnership Fund.

The evening itself is engaging and interactive, featuring a full evening of entertainment, food and camaraderie. The event will take place on Eagan Plaza, outside the Jenny Craig Pavilion. Traditional casino-style games will include blackjack, craps and roulette, along with a photo booth, mystery boxes, a silent auction, music and a plethora of enticing opportunities to win

fabulous prizes, including a Golden Experience raffle featuring top-notch San Francisco sports and entertainment.

"It's a spirited and memorable evening," says Quinn. "And what makes it better is we know it's benefitting such a good cause, our students in need."

As part of their entry fee, everyone receives a number of gaming chips, which can ultimately be redeemed for drawing tickets for fabulous prizes. In addition to the raffle and a silent auction — which includes opportunities to bid on dinner with a dean, lunch with the president and a reserved campus parking space — attendees can purchase a Mystery Box (valued at \$50 or more) or an item from the Kendra Scott jewelry station (valued from \$50 to \$400), both of which guarantee that everyone who partakes will emerge a winner. All-you-can-eat food stations are also included.

But in the end. it's about benefitting students through the Parent Partnership Fund, especially the university's at-risk students, which include those who were once in the fostercare system and are homeless or at risk of being homeless.

"The Parent Board is a group of parents making a difference in the lives of students," says Quinn. "Like our students, these parents are Changemakers, and with this fund we help students experiencing hardship to succeed and graduate from USD. Addressing unexpected circumstances — such as housing and food insecurity, as well as meeting basic educational needs — is what the Parent Partnership Fund is all about."

Tickets can be purchased in advance or at the door. The event is open to the campus community, including parents, alumni and students. 🖘

sandiego.edu/torerocasinonight19

sandiego.edu/luke

## MEET LUKE GARRETT '20



🥆 o paraphrase Walt Whitman, this modern-day Renaissance man contains multitudes. Luke has just two more classes this fall before he earns his undergraduate degree with a somewhat surprising double major: physics and philosophy. From day one, the selfdescribed "super extrovert" dived into campus life with gusto.

"I was everywhere during my first year," he recalls. "Outdoor Adventures, events, University Ministry — all of it was great fun and I met a lot of people."

As a senior, Luke was looking for something to immerse himself in on campus. His girlfriend, a copyeditor for The USD Vista student newspaper, mentioned a news editor opening. "Then the editor-in-chief position opened up, so I went for it, even though I was a bit of a wildcard." He got the job. "I knew the newspaper could be more than it was, and I wanted to do what I could to get it up there," he says.

As a kid, Luke was exposed to all sorts of interesting experiences. His parents were both reporters; his father is CBS News Chief Washington Correspondent Major Garrett. When asked whether growing up in Washington, D.C. with folks in the news business led to any interesting encounters, he recalls the time that he and his siblings accompanied their dad to the Oval Office.

"President Obama said to me, directly, 'Hey, Luke, you're pretty tall!" he recalls with a laugh. "So I put those words as a quote next to my photo in my eighth grade yearbook." - Julene Snyder



## [faith in action] A TRUE SENSE OF FAMILY

#### University Ministry scholarship builds lasting community

by Luke Garrett '20

ather Greg Boyle speaks highly of "mutuality" in his 2017 book, Barking to the Choir. In brief, Boyle praises this virtue for its ability to create respect and love within a community and, in particular, between its members. Through mutuality, each member acknowledges both how they are loved and how they love others. He calls on all who participate within a community of service to engage by keeping this sense of mutuality in mind.

Over the past academic year, University Ministry (UM) began a new scholarship program for incoming Catholic students that embraces this concept at its core. Twenty admitted firstyears were selected from a pool of applicants with financial need; each was awarded a \$5,000 annual scholarship. The scholarship is based on applicants' prior involvement in their local communities as well as their expressed commitment to continuing servant leadership

at the University of San Diego. As University Ministry scholars, students take on liturgical roles, participate in various social-justice-oriented UM programs and attend at least one UM retreat. For many in the program, the scholarship played both a key role in the students' decisions to attend USD as well as the success of their first year.

"It's the reason I chose USD over San Diego State," says sophomore Marlene Putros. "Mostly because it helped pay

for my tuition, but I also saw it as an opportunity to get back into my faith." Putros isn't alone; many of the 20 scholars shared a similar decisionmaking path.

Assistant Vice President and Director of University Ministry Michael Lovette-Colyer echoes this reality. "We heard a lot of students say that while it's not an overly large sum of money, it made a significant impact on their decision to come to USD," he says. Over time, the scholars came to realize that the program not only gave them a financial boost, but also provided an overwhelming amount of community support.

The fruits of this scholarship program have already begun to bloom within the program.

Putros says it's opened the door for her to explore other leadership positions across campus.

"I've gained confidence to apply to something like Scholastic Assistants," Putros says. She was delighted to be selected and will be working to foster a positive educational and developmental experience for firstyear students during the next academic year.

Sophomore Vivian Mateos Zuniga concurs that the University Ministry scholarship program has helped broaden her horizons on campus. "I don't think I would have been as willing to just go for things if I didn't know that this scholarship was something I could count on to be there for me," she says. This sort of self-assurance is an essential ingredient for student success, as it lays the groundwork for students to put themselves out there — whether in their academics, leadership opportunities, career or social life.

"The people that I met through the program ended up being some of my closest friends throughout the year," Zuniga says. She fondly speaks of random laser tag outings and the group's familial sense, and attributes this strong sense of community to the group's collective openness.

Putros concurs, adding, "I don't think my first year would have gone as well without the UM scholars."

As one of the creators of the program, Lovette-Colver watched with delight as the group's sense of camaraderie came to life during their first year. The scholars surprised him when they requested to bump up the frequency of their monthly meetings — a rarity for busy college students. "There was a richness of the engagement and people were a thousand percent tuned in," he notes.

Looking forward, the program And for her part, Zuniga Beyond the USD campus, Zuniga couldn't be more The financial freedom the

will grow with each new class of scholars accepted. For Lovette-Colyer, the hope is that the older scholars will become leaders and mentors to the younger ones, thereby creating a strong universitywide community. "It helps the students who would be, in a sense, the best fit for this university to afford to come here," he says. "It was one of the best parts of this past year." beams with excitement at imminent prospect of the next cohort of scholars. "When we were told that a new batch was coming in next year, all of us were superpumped. We all feel the need to encourage these first years to take advantage of all these opportunities that UM scholars will give them." And the recent completion of the new Ministry Center will provide ample space for the group, which will ultimately grow to 80 members. the program hopes to enrich Catholic communities wherever the scholars go, Lovette-Colyer says. "Ultimately, when the first cohort graduates, they will have excellent leadership formation that will prepare them very well to become leaders in their parishes, schools and other contexts." psyched about what's to come. "I'm excited to see where the next three years take us, and I'm excited to graduate with these people by my side." scholarship provides allows scholars the time to attend Mass regularly, go on weekend retreats, and serve those in need. While this mutual benefit may sound transactional, the experiences of the first batch of recipients prove that this is one USD community striving for the best the world can offer: love. 🐕

## 2019-2020 ALUMNI **ASSOCIATION BOARD**

he USD Alumni Association is led by a volunteer board of directors that oversees the strategic direction of the association. The board meets quarterly and conducts the majority of its work through its three strategic committees: leadership, outreach and philanthropy. 💁

#### Officers

Kim Alessio '87 (BA), President Janine Mason '86 (BA), '11 (MA), Vice President Stephen Nasman '71 (BA), Chair of Leadership Kristin Boettger '87 (BBA), Chair of Philanthropy Vince Moiso '95 (BA), Chair of Outreach

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# USD MAGAZINE TORERO ATHLETICS



## **BOOSTING SCHOOL SPIRIT** Leading the charge of getting students to games

by Anderson Haigler '19 he University of San Diego has it all. Breathtaking views, a pristine campus, rigorous academics and even a handful of consistently competitive Division I sports teams.

But historically, there's been something missing: school spirit. It's a lack that USD students

and administrators are working to address. "It's front burner for me, every day," says Associate Vice President and Executive Director of Athletics Bill McGillis. The task has not been easy, but progress has been slow but steady and the Bull Pit — USD's student section — has

undergone a transformation.

Leading the charge is Robbie Hill '14, assistant director for marketing. He knows all too well the challenges around trying to build energy around USD's 17 Division I sports.

"Obviously it's tough," Hill admits. In a city like San Diego -

where beaches, nightlife and countless other attractions beckon to students — it's hard to make a USD game the can't-miss destination on a weekend night. "We never want to blame the Pacific Ocean, but that, of course, is always a factor with the beach so close, and so many things going on in San Diego."

Hill and McGillis view their mission to get more students to games as a work in progress. In its current form, the Bull Pit has only been around since 2014 By comparison, Gonzaga University's Kennel Club is in its 34th season, and San Diego State's The Show dates back to 2001.

The challenge lies in creating a buzz that goes beyond the packed houses that come when top-ranked teams come to town. "It can't just be about the Gonzaga basketball game," McGillis says. "We can do the same thing against Saint Mary's and BYU and LMU and Pepperdine — if we choose to as a campus community. But we've got to change the mindset."

McGillis hopes to transform the way the Torero community thinks about attending games in general. "It has to be about USD, it's got to be about the Toreros. We've got to work to change that, and we are."

One strategy is to expand the scope and organization of the Bull Pit, through incentives and giveaways, and to be strategic about attracting students to games. "Next year, we're forming an Associated Students Athletics Committee," Hill says. It will include athletes, administrators and the Torero Program Board.

And the Bull Pit has found a new place to cheer on Torero basketball: courtside, on the baseline, under the basket — a significant upgrade from their upperlevel seating of previous years. It's a change that displaced some season ticket holders. but McGillis believes the move was worth it.

Of course, the burden of finding a way to get Toreros to attend games doesn't fall solely on the Bull Pit.

"School spirit starts with winning, and we have to do that at a higher level," McGillis says. "More and more students want to contribute to increasing school spirit. We're going to continue working at it every day." 🐕

A version of this story originally appeared in *The USD Vista*.

GETTING TO KNOW RYAN KECKLEY **CREDENTIALS:** In his fourth season as men's head tennis coach this spring, Keckley's team won its sixth consecutive West Coast Conference Tournament Championship, beat Minnesota in the first round of the NCAA tournament before losing to perennial powerhouse USC, and was ranked 25th in the country. "I think this team can make a run for the Sweet 16 in the coming year. It's never been done before at USD and it's always been one of our goals." MATCH POINT: Keckley married Maine native Cortney Marsh in June, after dating for seven years as the two pursued their career goals. "East Coast humor, very down to earth" is how he describes his wife, who completed her nurse practitioner's degree this summer before the two honeymooned in Greece. **STYLE OF PLAY:** Keckley was the 2002 Indiana state high schools singles champion before attending Notre Dame, where he enjoyed a successful undergraduate career, earning three All-Big East Tournament Team doubles honors. "I served and volleved. I chipped and charged. I was an attacking player." GIVING UP HIS DAY JOB: After earning Big East Academic All-Star status three times and a degree in marketing in 2007, he worked in sales for News America Marketing in Chicago but "it just wasn't for me." Keckley missed the constant excitement of athletics and has found his passion in coaching. "There's never a day I dread going to the office." **DOUBLE TAKE:** Perhaps surprisingly, the fresh-faced Midwesterner says he's "a big Grateful Dead guy," who attended a Dead and Company show in Los Angeles a week before his wedding. — Liz Harman



"As my way of giving back, I'm in the Alcalá Club. We get a chance to fundraise and help out with events that go toward student scholarships, which gives a chance to students like me, who don't have the full tuition available out-of-pocket."

# THE REMARKABLE

## JOURNEY OF SHANE DAVIS '19

#### by Tim McKernan

he first job I ever had ... " Shane Davis' eyes narrow and his face grows solemn as he considers the question, trying to remember. Then the bright smile that his family and friends know from a mile away wreathes his face.

"Free Library of Philadelphia," he says with a laugh. "I was 11 years old and got a job returning books to the stacks. I got to read. A lot. And, oh boy, did I learn the Dewey Decimal System forward and backward."

Davis' work ethic has been a force of nature all his life. In the years before he came to the University of San Diego, he'd worked as a camp counselor and a crossing guard, made cotton candy for a party rental company and was an exhibit demonstrator at the Franklin Institute Science Museum. He had a stint cleaning a fraternity house, a job he fit in around school and another commitment: playing guard on his high school football team.

Davis brought that indefatigable spirit — and infectious smile across the country to USD, where he earned his degree in biochemistry last May. Two weeks after collecting his diploma, he walked onto the campus of Rutgers University's Robert Wood Johnson Medical School as a first-year med student.

It was a long and improbable journey to get there. As a high-school senior, Davis applied to more than 50 universities and only two in California. He admits he wasn't all that sure where San Diego actually was. But after a visit, he "slowly started to fall in love with USD." Soon after arriving on campus, Davis met biochemistry professor Joe Provost, who immediately saw the first-year's academic potential.

He also saw a young man who needed direction. Provost became Davis' academic advisor and mentor.

At the time, biochemistry wasn't at the top of the first-year's list of possible majors. "I love to write and I thought I might do something with that," he says. "But I don't say no to good things. After meeting with Joe Provost and learning about doing scientific research, I was hooked."

Nonetheless, Provost says it was a bit of a process to reel him in. "Shane struggled early on," Provost recalls. "We sat down together



#### photography by Chris Park

and talked about some strategies to help him understand what it means to be a student at a place like USD."

Davis devoted a year and a half to his first research project involving molecular cloning. "It didn't pan out," Provost says. "He was disappointed, I was disappointed. But that's when he started to adapt. His next project on gene splicing was huge, but he made every one of the sequences work. It was great to see him so confident, so excited."

Davis was also hooked on another passion: football. It didn't pass the notice of USD's football staff that the biochem major from Philly was also a powerful offensive lineman. But it wasn't long before Davis knew he had to choose one team to focus on.

"I love being part of a team," he says. "I wanted to be part of a research community like I was part of a football community. So I went to the coaches and thanked them and told them I wanted to devote more time to research and my education."

Davis left the football field for the lab. He became part of a research team that would spend 10 to 20 hours a week — in addition to class time — working in his mentor's lab in the Shiley Center for Science and Technology. Provost and other chemistry faculty members always knew when Davis was in the house. "We'd be having a meeting on the floor above the lab, and we could always hear Shane's laugh coming from down below. Shane is very positive and he helps draw the best from other people."

Sitting in the sun just weeks before graduation, Davis takes a moment to reflect. His large, expressive eyes seem to focus on something far, far away.

"I wasn't supposed to make it this far," he says as if it were just one more scientific fact. "When I came here, I had a greater fear of falling than of flying. But I had faith in myself and found a lot of other people who had faith in Shane Davis, too."

His solemn face is in an instant transformed by the wide smile and dancing eyes.

"My full name is Shane Maxwell Davis," he laughs. "Shane M.D. And in a few years, I'll be Shane M.D., MD. How cool is that?"

sandiego.edu/shane

## +550 LAW SCHOOL CLINIC SERVES UP VITAL EXPERIENCE by Kelly Knufken photography by Chris Park

here are the lessons you learn in school and the lessons you learn in the real world. Kayla Watson '19 (JD) was able to learn a real-world certainty before leaving the University of San Diego with her law degree in hand. While she credits the Center for Public Interest Law for helping her achieve a leg up on the complexities of making positive change in the real world, she credits her upbringing for her urge to use the law to do just that.

"I grew up in a really small town in Northern California, and I saw the way different systems affected people's livelihoods and the way they had to work within these systems," she explains.

Watson took a few years off school after she earned her undergraduate degree from UC Santa Cruz. While her language studies degree might seem an ill-fitting first act, she found that the logic problems she studied to help diagnose speech issues were good practice for the LSAT.

"It was actually really helpful for law school in kind of a strange way," she recalls. "It got me thinking in that analytical way."

Watson's background funneled her toward public policy work in ways she couldn't have predicted. For example, seeing how generational poverty and drug use played out in her community and reading about for-profit colleges — and the real people impacted by their proliferation - in the news.

"I like thinking about things from a legal perspective, but I also realize that there's a lot of things that intersect with it. That's what the law classes at USD really helped me with."

Watson was the first recipient of the Julianne D. Fellmeth Public Interest Law Scholarship, which enabled her to work on a multiyear project in USD's Center for Public Interest Law (CPIL). While she recalls hearing about the active alumni networking and scholarship opportunities at USD when she was assessing her options, those weren't driving factors in her choice of law schools. Now, though, she understands why they're important.

"I'm really thankful for those opportunities to learn from different people," she says. "A lot of the people I meet are people who went to the USD School of Law, and they're working hard to give back to the school and the students. It's a really nice community to be a part of."

Law school brought Watson's passions into focus, helping her see

what she could do about the law to bring about meaningful change for real people.

Her public interest work at USD "really showed me that for any policy change, you have to think, 'OK, is there media support?' because that gets people interested in what you're doing. That and questions like, 'What's your legal approach and your political approach?' It's about very multipronged solutions." For her work at CPIL, Watson chose to work toward getting a California database of professional licensees more front and center with the public.

And why not? She had attended meetings of the California Medical Board during her second year in law school, hearing from people whose loved ones had been hurt or even died after receiving care from doctors whose disciplinary records weren't easily accessible. Watson aimed to link up the existing database information to services like Yelp or Google. where people are actually visiting to seek information on doctors.

"So we're just trying to get consumers access to the information and it proved to be a lot," she says with a rueful laugh. "It sounds really simple, link it up, no big deal." But when doctors' associations pushed back, she learned it wasn't that easy.

"It was definitely a learning curve because you realize, 'Oh wow, I'm very naive about how it works.' In my head, I thought, 'They'll want to do the right thing and this is obviously the right thing to do.' So it's an interesting learning curve."

She credits CPIL Director Bridget Gramme with aiding her throughout the project, from tips about reaching out to the media to talking with lawmakers. "To have someone support you and guide you through all that — it's definitely unique to USD and to the USD School of Law. It's pretty cool."

When it comes to public interest law, Watson is clear-eyed. "A lot of people who want to do this get burnt out by the reality of it," she says. Her edge is that she's already experienced that jolt of reality stemming from competing interests. She's up for the challenge of finding creative ways to move forward despite those sticky situations.

And that's a real-world lesson, well learned. 🐕

sandiego.edu/kwatson

"Kayla was the first recipient of a scholarship that was created by Virginia Nelson '79 (JD), the Julianne D. Fellmeth Public Interest Law Scholarship, which is awarded to students interested in public interest law." — Julianne Fellmeth Former director, Center for Public Interest Law



# MOMO BERTRAND '19 **IS CHANGING** THE NARRATIVE

#### by Karen Gross

round the dinner table, my mom would tell me all these " stories," Momo Bertrand says, eyes twinkling at the childhood memory. "I know some of them were not true." Like the one about her great-grandfather, and how she saw him actually transform himself into a black panther.

"She had all these myths. It sort of shaped my belief system. I feel like there's nothing as powerful as a story."

At just 24, Bertrand's own story is a vivid example. He was raised in Cameroon, in Central Africa, by a single mother who became widowed when he was small. She was the first in her family to finish high school and went on to support 11 siblings and five children. The family ran a home-based printing shop. "Every holiday, we would go down to the basement and work. When I look back, I think that was really instrumental," Momo says. "My mom didn't have any idle time. She told us, 'If you really want to make it in life, work every moment you can.""

He took that advice so seriously that he's been working nonstop ever since. After graduating from the Catholic University Institute of Buea in Cameroon with a bachelor's degree in management, Bertrand — who's fluent in his native French as well as English saw an opportunity and jumped on it.

"I looked at emerging trends around the world and noticed Cameroon was lagging behind in terms of digital communications," he says. "Even the biggest companies didn't have a Facebook page." Momo opened his laptop and launched a digital marketing agency from his house. He collected a number of clients, including two Fortune 500 companies, and quickly added four employees. He also wrote a novel about a child displaced by a terror attack and sold it to raise money for the thousands of refugees who were crowding the northern part of his country. He traveled to the city of Mora to work with them.

"One of the things I'm most proud of is that we raised awareness about the issue, and let people know that we are not free until each person is free." That's when Bertrand's personal story evolved into a grander one, one about helping other people share the hidden stories about Africans that we all too rarely hear.



#### photography by Chris Park

"Every time I traveled out of Africa, people would talk about safaris or Ebola or poachers chasing elephants," he says. "But what I saw were entrepreneurs chasing their dreams. I felt a need to transform the way people look at the continent."

In 2016, he attended the Hansen Summer Institute at USD and decided the Kroc School's master's in social innovation would give him the skills he needed. A full scholarship helped it happen.

From the first day, Bertrand's teachers and classmates were impressed with him. "He's really smart. He works really hard. He's a perfectionist," says Kumba McGill, '19 (MA). "And he has a way of communicating with people and connecting his message."

"He's an incredibly passionate and amazing storyteller," adds Gordon Hoople, an assistant professor of integrated engineering who taught Bertrand in his Drones for Good class and also served as his graduate research advisor. "He understands how to draw people in with an important and powerful message."

But Bertrand isn't just telling stories, he's doing work worth telling stories about. There's the innovative program he developed to help build life skills among local refugees through basketball. There's the time he entered an essay contest on campus and took first place for a piece he wrote about tackling poverty in the U.S. And, along with Casey Myers '19 (MA), he was part of a team that won second place in the first phase of the Fowler Global Social Innovation Challenge for their project, One Digital World, which aims to teach English and digital literacy to refugees in Greece.

But perhaps closest to his heart is his capstone project, Tori Labs, which he hopes to launch in Cameroon within the next few years. It's an after-school program that trains high school and college students in digital marketing, while familiarizing them with their local markets so they can get hired and share African success stories far and wide.

"Some aspects of it might change, but ultimately, I think this is my life's ambition," Bertrand says. "It's my life's goal to train the next generation of changemakers and storytellers, and ultimately, change the narrative of Africa." 🐕

sandiego.edu/momo

"During my criminal defense days, the trauma inexplicably seemed to disappear. Since then, I've struggled to understand what it has meant to me as a being, how it has impacted me as a person, how it has shaped who I am today. For years I questioned whether I was a 'real' victim, whether I deserved to speak about this event."





f you could bottle the very essence of San Diego, it would look, feel and sound a lot like this particular Friday evening. Beams of sunlight pierce through fluffy clouds and hit the calm sparkling water of Mission Bay. Seagulls circle above sailboats that are angling for the perfect spot to witness sunset's nightly drama. It's a lot like paradise.

Just a block away, the front door of a house stands open in welcome. Inside a large living room, French doors open to a lushly landscaped patio with a jaw-dropping view of the bay, Karen Stefano '04 (MBA) is chatting with guests who've gathered to celebrate the release of her memoir, What A Body Remembers (Rare Bird Books). She's wearing faded jeans, a multicolored velvet top and a pair of Clark Kent-style eyeglasses. People are happily immersed in conversation while sipping wine and nibbling on stuffed grape leaves, falafel and spanakopita.

"Hopefully this book raises awareness for male readers about what it's like to inhabit a female body. Women's life experiences are so burdened by considerations that men don't have to think about. such as. how do you physically get yourself safely from point A to point B?"

"My husband and I have been fighting over her book," confides Donna Gross, Stefano's former next-door neighbor. "It's fantastic; a real page turner."

The host, Janice Deaton '10, (MA) chimes in. "I thought it was brilliant, and the surprise near the end, well, even though I knew the story, I didn't see it coming."

A short while later, Deaton's husband. Blake Harper '18 (MA), makes a short speech before Stefano reads from her book

"I knew she was a good writer," he says to the crowd. "But I didn't know she could tell a story. As it turns out, she can. This book is fabulous; if you haven't read it, you must. This is a beautifully well-written story of surviving trauma. And to put yourself out there, like Karen has, is nothing less than courageous."

He pauses, and beckons to Stefano to take her place front and center.

"This woman is a total badass."

She steps forward and begins to read. "This is the story of the night I died."

**r** t's been a long road to get to this evening. Thirty-five years ago, as a second-year student at UC Berkeley in 1984, Stefano struggled mightily to find a community to belong to. She thought she'd found her niche when she signed on as an aide to the UC Police Department.

"By joining the police department, in putting on that police uniform, I was seeking to reinvent myself: lonely young woman lost in sea of 30,000 students converted into member of a powerful tribe," she writes. "Weakness morphed into strength. Powerless transformed into powerful."

One of her campus duties was to escort female students safely to their destination Putting on her uniform made her feel as if she'd been granted a superpower: "Wearing it allows me to do what other women cannot: walk alone down a city street," she writes. Of course, there's a wry admission that this particular superpower had limited use, since as an escort, "I am savior only to women — no man has ever called for an escort home."

A few dozen pages in, it's clear that Stefano has a flair for painting a picture with her words. In many ways, What A Body Remembers reads like a thriller or a police procedural.

What will happen to our protagonist next? Should we be worried for her?

The answer, as it turns out, is: Yes. We should.

On the night of July 19, 1984, at roughly 11:40 p.m., an event occurs that will reverberate and ripple throughout Stefano's life for the next several decades.

This particular night felt much like others. She changed out of her uniform at the station, put on her street clothes and walked home — alone — through the dark streets of Berkeley: "I don't know it yet, but this will be my last moment of calm,

the last moments of before, the final moments of the first part of my life."

In a flash, everything is changed forever. The sound of footsteps behind her. Two pairs of eyes lock. A knife glimmers. A struggle that lasts for what seems like forever. Finally: "the screams of a woman fighting to stay alive. Terror, I realize, has a sound."

And while, obviously, Stefano does stay alive — she is, after all, here to tell the tale - her story is very far from over.

aren Stefano is one of those people who it's easy to feel an immediate who it's easy to feel an immediate connection with. Articulate, thoughtful and quick to laughter, it's difficult to reconcile this 2019 version of Karen with the shattered 1984 young woman that she so vividly brings to life in her memoir.

Her journey to self-acceptance and transcending shame, anxiety attacks and PTSD was a decades-long quest to find a healthy way to live with her attack and its aftermath. What A Body Remembers is filled with surprising twists and unexpected turns.

"Everything in this book is 100 percent true as I remember it," she says. "And I think I remember these events pretty freaking well because they were deeply important to me. They're ingrained in my body."

"I want to view myself as a strong, powerful woman. But how can I view myself that way when I sometimes have panic attacks walking down the street in broad daylight going to the grocery store?"

In the moments after that bloodcurdling scream, Stefano's attacker fled. In quick succession, she called 911, was questioned by matter-of-fact Berkeley police ("I was just another victim to them," she writes), and was asked to identify a suspect who fit the description. He was arrested on charges of false imprisonment and assault with a deadly weapon.

While the attack itself lasted no more than five minutes, Stefano's life was

immediately and irrevocably altered. "I sway back and forth," she writes, recalling the immediate aftermath. "Playing my role as tough law enforcement woman unphased by this trifle of an attack, then lapsing into the silent lonely girl who is coming unhinged. I wake up every morning unsure which of these two people I might be."

The wheels of justice turn slowly: More than a year later, Stefano was subpoenaed and summoned to an Oakland courthouse. She testified, and in mid-September, 1985, the jury rendered its verdict.

ast-forward a decade. Stefano has earned her undergraduate degree in psychology from UC Berkeley, followed up by a juris doctorate from UC Davis.

In an improbable plot twist, she subsequently spent eight years as a criminal defense attorney in her hometown of San Diego. It seems a startling career path, given her own personal story, but Stefano doesn't find it at all incongruous.

"Some people are going to take offense at the fact that I, a woman who was an assault victim, went on to become a criminal defense lawyer," she says. "And my take on that is that they can be as offended as they want. I'll never feel apologetic for helping the most indigent, downtrodden, damaged people."

Much like other deeply personal aspects of her life, it's a chapter that she addresses head-on in her memoir. She writes, "I represent men who hurt women. What does this say about me? How can a woman who herself was assaulted, then revictimized inside a courtroom, become a defender of people accused of crimes?"

It's a good question, one that Stefano has a good answer for. It started when she spent a good deal of time dealing with prosecutors and didn't emerge with a very high opinion of them.

"None of them seemed to appreciate that this task of being alive is difficult," she writes. "To these prosecutors, there was right and there was wrong. They know nothing of the messy places in between. I began to wonder, how do we distinguish between good people and bad? How can we judge anyone with such certainty?"

And in fact, doing this work — defending

"The MBA was invaluable," she says. "Lawyers always think they're the smartest

"His friend testified at the preliminary hearing," she recalls. "And he showed no signs of animus whatsoever. It was remarkable to me that people could be so civil to each other under such circumstances." Nonetheless, the client was distraught. "I feared he was suicidal," Stefano says with a catch in her voice. "We got him a deal, because he had no prior record, and he served his probation successfully. In the years since, he seems to have had a pretty happy and productive life. It's just such a stark reminder that we're all human. You know? There but for the grace of God go I."

what some may see as the very dregs of society — helped to give Stefano some sense of control, along with a blessed, albeit temporary, reprieve from nightmares, anxiety attacks and lingering trauma. "I learned something unexpected in my criminal defense days," she writes. "That I wanted to fight for these people, that fighting for them empowered me too ... In my days at Berkeley and in my days in court I learned: Justice is not something clearly defined."

From her perspective today, Stefano emphasizes her fervent belief in the principles that our country was founded upon. "Because I was a criminal defense lawyer and I believe in the Constitution, I believe in due process," she says, leaning forward. "I believe that the prosecution has to play by the rules and it's very important that we have defense lawyers — like I was — to hold them to that." Although it's been years since her days as a defense attorney, Stefano still feels great empathy for her long-ago clients. She speaks fondly of a young man who crashed his car while under the influence; while the driver was uninjured, his passenger, who was a friend, suffered a broken back and traumatic brain injury.

fter eight years in the role, Stefano moved on to a national class action **H** firm that specialized in securities and consumer fraud cases. She decided to pursue an MBA at USD so that she could really understand the financial aspects of the cases she was involved with.

people in the room, but numbers people really have a different skill set."

In some ways, being on campus at USD was a poignant experience for Stefano.

"I remember being really struck by how beautiful the campus was when I came here in the early 2000s," she recalls. "Particularly, how safe it was. I remember thinking how my undergraduate years would have been so different had I gone to USD or a small private university where you're more tended to.'

"It wasn't until I was working on this book's final edits that I thought. 'Oh God. This is going out into the world. This is really happening. I've put my innards out there for everybody in the world to see."

Through the years, the residual effects of her long-ago trauma remained. Panic attacks and depression. Triggers and therapy. Answers sought to unanswerable questions. In 2014, Stefano decided it was time to face it all head-on. She pored through old journals, started digging into public records, and bit by bit, excavated the past. What she ultimately found about her attacker was truly startling, and in a very real way, her sleuthing led to finally finding a way to heal and move on.

There won't be a spoiler here regarding the bone-chilling details of exactly what Stefano uncovered. Suffice to say it was revelatory and life-changing.

So much so, that she shares a key takeaway with others: "If you're ever faced with the fleeting decision: Fight or submit? Fight."

Fast-forward to a room filled with applause and accolades. Stefano has finished her brief reading and smiles, incandescent. Her fiancé, John Bentivoglio, calls out to her.

"Do the stance!"

Stefano squares her shoulders, locks her arms and emits a steely, no-nonsense gaze. Clearly, this is a woman fully in charge of her life. Then, a moment later, just a hint of a smile.

No victim here. So much more than a survivor, Karen Stefano is triumphant. 🐕

#### USD MAGAZINE

# CLASS NOTES



#### [safeguarding]

## THESE PRECIOUS THINGS Alumna takes good care of historical artifacts

#### by Karen Gross

Then Melanie Dellas '13 (MA) decided to go back to school, she was parenting two young sons on her own after a divorce. A writer and a business owner, Dellas had spent a decade publishing two successful magazines: Native

American Casino and San Diego Performer. But her lifelong passion was history, and she dreamed of becoming an archaeologist.

"I've always loved history. I always loved to read about it," she says. "But I thought, 'What am I actually going to do with

a history degree?"

At a crossroads in her life, Dellas opted for the unknown. She figured she'd get a PhD and teach, and found USD in her search for a university that was willing to work with the day-to-day reality of being a single mother.

"They said they'd make it work with whatever my schedule was, and they did," she says. "My adviser, Professor Michael Gonzalez, was amazing and helped me every step of the way." But Dellas' long-term plan never materialized.

That's actually a good thing. During the first semester of her master's program, an internship at the San Diego Museum of Man (SDMoM) put her on an unexpected course that changed the trajectory of her life. There, she worked with mummies, cleaning

them and gently tending to their ancient remains. She inventoried and cared for thousands of artifacts and immersed herself in the historical weight of the objects around her.

"That's when I first realized that I didn't have to teach, and I didn't need to be an archaeologist in the field," Dellas says, her face lighting up. "I could take care of the artifacts once they got to the museum."

So Dellas continued working at SDMoM, staying on for several years after she earned her master's degree in history from USD. At work, she spent most of her time two levels below ground, surrounded by some 300,000 objects. On the side, she took conservation classes and worked with local conservators to learn their techniques. And she co-curated the museum's Monsters! exhibit.

"The museum allowed me to do a lot of different things with a lot of materials from a lot of different time periods," she says. It was a natural fit, since SDMoM has many pieces from the cultures she focused on in her grad school studies — ancient Greece, Rome and Egypt — in their collections. "And it gave me the experience to start my own business," she adds.

Which is exactly what Dellas did two years ago, along with her former boss at SDMoM, Karen Lacy. They called the new venture Muse Curatorial Consulting Group.

"We decided we wanted to take care of objects from all time periods, all cultures and every material," she says. "We wanted to do it for museums, for private collectors and we wanted to do it across the country."

Dellas and Lacy are doing just that, with the help of a team of experts they call on when they need a hand. Their private clients cover a wide range, including the owner of a 900-year-old pottery collection who wanted everything

packed up in custom-built storage boxes, and the owner of a spacesuit that needed textile work. And they contract with local museums.

"San Diego is very small. The museums don't have a lot of monev to take care of their things," Dellas explains. "But that's also a plus for us, because we're able to go in and work with their budgets and get things done for them." Last summer, when the Mingei International Museum in San Diego's Balboa Park was closing for renovation, Dellas and Lacy were hired to pack up the museum's 26,000-object collection and move it to off-site storage locations. The painstaking work involved making sure everything was properly secured and able to withstand the vibrations of the moving trucks.

"And I got to see everything in their collections, which was wonderful," Dellas says, clearly delighted. "Just being able to touch the objects that we get to touch — that sometimes are 5,000 years old, and I get to make sure they hopefully last another 1,000 years — is incredible."

She and Lacy are so passionate about their work that they've launched a biweekly podcast called Muse Stories: The Unusual History of Every Thing. On it, the two have discussed everything from calendars to pizza to museum ghosts. Additionally, Dellas has combined her love of history with her love of writing, and has written three books which "give readers an inside look into mythological creatures from cultures around the world." In whatever spare time she has left, she's working on a historical novel

with her mother. "I love what I do and I get excited about it every day, which is important," she says. "And really, it's all thanks to USD. That master's program directed me to a path that I didn't know existed." 🐕

### 1950s

#### [1956]

MARILYNN (MAYER) NEVILLE (BA) writes, "Hello out there to the great Class of '56. We were the first to matriculate at USD for all four years. Our names are somewhere in a cornerstone -or was it a time capsule? Do you remember the good times we had?" Marilynn encourages her fellow Class of '56 alumnae to share updates to USD Magazine for all to see.

#### [1958]

NADINE THOMAS (BA) is the author of Grandma's Magic Box, a children's book that she wrote for her grandchildren, available on Amazon.com and BarnesandNoble. com. "I loved every minute I was privileged to attend the San Diego College for Women," Nadine says. She is now working on her next book, an autobiography.

### 1960s

#### [1966]

PHILIP IDEMA (JD) retired on Jan. 1, 2019, after practicing law in Grand Rapids, Michigan, for 52 years. "I know I'll miss many aspects of practice, but am eagerly looking forward to the years ahead," he says.

**VERN SCHOOLEY** (JD) has been honored with the naming of the Long Beach Inn of Court as the Ball/Hunt/ Schooley American Inn of Court. Vern was the founding president of the inn nearly three decades ago and acted as president for the first 10 years. He continues today as counselor of both that inn and the Judge Paul R. Michel IP Inn of Court.

## 1970s

#### [1970]

**RUBEN ESCOBOSA (BS)** is excited to be coming back to campus this fall to celebrate the reunion of those he played football with 50 years ago, when the sport came back to campus after a brief absence. Ruben and his fellow alumni will celebrate with a reception for players and their families on Sept. 20, followed by a

#### pre-

game tailgate before the Toreros v. Harvard game on Sept. 21.

#### GARY KURUTZ (BA), '72 (MA)

retired after 47 years working in rare book libraries, including the Huntington Library, California Historical Library and California State Library.

#### GUS MAGEE (BA), '72 (MA) received the Kappa Alpha Psi Western Province Community Service Award, which was presented at the

72nd Western Province Council meeting in April 2019.

#### [1971]

DAVE NEWARK (BA) writes, "I am retired now and only accept tee times and doctor appointments. Just got through an annual golf outing with my Phi Kappa Theta bros Steve Nasman '71 (BA), George Davey '71 (BS) and Rod Ozust '71 (BA). Yes, we are still alive thanks to our great times at USD."

#### [1972]

PIERRE PORTAS (BS) is organizing a slow fashion event in Europe that he hopes to bring to fruition in 2020. He writes, "There is not a single place on Earth where biodiversity is not at work. Every square meter of the planet is important." Convinced that art is the medium of change, he is working on a project called ArtForLife that will link art and fashion to create a powerful message by "exploring the visual and sensual dimension of the merging of human beings into the aquatic world."

#### [1973]

DEBBIE HALL (MEd), '75 (MS) earned an MFA in writing in 2017 from Pacific University. Her first poetry collection, What Light I Have, was published in 2018 by Main Street Rag Books.

#### [1974] 🎓

TIMOTHY EARL (JD) was listed in San Diego Magazine as a 2019 Top Lawyer in San Diego. Chair of the construction and insurance practice group for Sullivan Hill, Tim practices in the areas of construction litigation, insurance coverage and business litigation.

#### [1976]

ALICE RODRIGUEZ-GONZA-LEZ (BAcc) is a kindergarten teacher at St. Martin of Tours Academy

in La Mesa, California. "Getting ready for summer and another trip to England!" she says.

#### [1977]

CHRISTINE BOLOGNA (ID) and John LaRocco '77 announce that their son, Jeffrey LaRocco, graduated with honors from the Shiley-Marcos School of Engineering (BS/BA) and was commissioned as a naval flight officer in the San Diego NROTC in May 2018. "There are now three USD graduates in the LaRocco family," Christine says.

#### [1978]

SUE EBNER (BA), '86 (MBA) continues to expand Ebner Consults' sales training programs for corporations and sales executives with leadership development training.

TERESA JENNA (BA) returned to the United States after 38 years abroad during which she lived in 15 countries. "I have worked across the world on every continent and traveled to more than 100 places on the globe, thanks in part to learning the basics of training and disabilities education at USD," she says.

#### [1979] 🎓

FRANCISCO ANTONIO (BBA) works for Southwest Airlines.

#### 198**0**s

#### [1980]

MICHELLE JOHN (BA) leads a nonprofit organization that seeks to prevent homelessness in San Diego County by getting jobs for people and keeping them in their current housing. Assistance includes job connection, interview preparation, rental assistance, bus passes, car repairs and removing other obstacles to employment. "We are always seeking employers to partner with to achieve our mission," Michelle says. Learn more at www.newgateway.org.

MARK NORYCH (ID) is building a nationwide arbitration and mediation company that never requires physical appearances, as mediation and arbitration hearings are held either by telephone or by video conference.

**DEBORAH WOLFE** (JD) writes, "In addition to trying legal malpractice cases, I have started coaching young lawyers in matters of business and professional competence, and testifying as an expert in the fields of legal ethics and civil trial advocacy."

#### [1981]

JANE EBERLEIN (MSN) is retired from the U.S. Navy Nurse Corps. She is a nurse practitioner and business owner of Complexions Rx, and is married with three children — including two daughters in the U.S. Navy — and three grandchildren.

MARIANNE ROSSI (BA) expected to retire in July 2019 after 35 years in financial aid with the University of California San Diego School of Medicine.

MARYANN THOMSON (BA), '82

(MEd) says that after 40 years of teaching in public elementary schools in San Diego, she is enjoying her newly retired status by traveling, walking with her friends on the beach and at the bay, spending time with her son, and sleeping in later than 6:00 a.m.

#### [1982]

**ROBERT EATINGER** (JD) reports that he joined the law firm Dunlap Bennett and Ludwig as a partner to head up its national security law practice.

EASTY LAW (BSN), '86 (MSN) is a retired Navy nurse.

SISTER MARY CATHERINE **POTTER** (**BA**) has retired and moved to Ireland after 41 years of ministry with the Catholic Church in San Diego.

#### [1983]

MIKE BROWN (BBA) operates the Tin Fish, a restaurant in San Diego. "Loving being a grandfather to Charlotte and Ford, working with the Knights of Columbus at St. James and enjoying our great community," he says.

#### LOURDES ESQUER (BBA)

retired from the Social Security Administration on Dec. 31, 2018, after nearly 33 years with the agency. She served as manager for Social Security's call center in San Diego for the past 13 years.

HALLIE GARDNER (BA) writes, "After a long and varied career, I am semiretired in private counseling practice. I am loving the freedom along with the privilege of helping others."

#### JEFF HILDEBRANDT (BA)

retired from the education field and established 95959 Publishing, releasing a collection of aphorisms titled On Being MetaFishical by Jeff Goldfish (Bookpatch.com). His second release will be *Life* is Therapy by Jeff Gladman and the third in the series is Lyrical Meditations by Jeff Goodrock. Jeff also works as a bronze bell artisan at Cosanti Originals in Paradise Valley, Arizona.

#### [1984] 🞓

BOB GAGLIONE '84 (JD) is retiring from private practice after 33 years as a civil trial lawyer in San Diego.

VICTOR TORRES (BA), 88 (JD) was appointed commissioner of Superior Court and assigned to the Vista courthouse in California.

#### [1985]

THE REV. WALTER BROWN-**RIDGE** (MA) is an associate rector with Christ Church, an Episcopal church.

#### [1986]

GARRISON "BUD" KLUECK (**JD**) and fellow USD alum Traci Hoppes '92 (JD) are partners at Klueck and Hoppes, a 14-lawyer family law firm in San Diego.

#### [1987]

**DAVID BAKER** (**JD**) opened his own law practice in Irvine, California, in 2018. The practice focuses on intellectual property matters "with an emphasis on popular media. computer software and even comic books."

#### KEVIN BOILEAU (LLM) has

worked with colleagues to develop an innovative mediation practice that uses game theory math, psychoanalysis and extensive financial review to provide the highest level of service to clients with complex cases.

#### [1988]

MARK JUDD (BBA), '94 (MIB) has been a clinical professor of accounting in USD's School of Business since 1997. His wife, Raffaella, operates their gift shop in Seaport Village.

**ROBIN PHELAN** (**BBA**) started a daily money management business for the elderly and for families that need someone to ensure that bills get paid on time.

JENNIFER TRAN (BA) is a kindergarten reading specialist at an independent school in Atlanta and has been married for three years.

#### PETER STAMATOPOULOS '88

(BBA) was recently promoted to the two-star rank of Rear Admiral and assigned to the U.S. European Command (EUCOM) as the I4 Director of Logistics. As the logistics directorate, the J4 coordinates logistics, health readiness, engineering and humanitarian support throughout EUCOM's theater.

VINCE VACCHER (BBA) is with Mar Vac Electronics. He writes, "We are a family business of three brothers, who all attended USD. Our company's most recent endeavor has been in the world of sports communication: providing headset solutions to coaches from high school to Division I teams nationwide. Our online business is growing as well, shipping small components all over the world. It's been a great time. We'll see what the next 30 years bring."

#### [1989] 🎓

WILLIAM MORRISON (LLM) is commander of VFW Post 7907 in Poway, where he says there are many opportunities for community service. "Looking for members to join - vets helping vets," he says. "We are an All-State Post and hope to be All-American."

#### 1990s

#### [1990]

**CHARLES PORTER (LLM)** writes, "I've recommended USD to friends who've then sent their children as undergraduates. I've just finished 50 years of law practice as a judge and subsequently proprietor of a part-time law school in San Luis Obispo, California."

ANNE SANDAN (BBA) is the vice president of finance and corporate controller at ViaCyte Inc. She says that her greatest milestones were being able to care for her beloved parents and raise four talented



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children, two of whom are now attending Jesuit universities. "All this while balancing a full-time career and home life," she says. She and her husband, Norman, were married 24 years ago at Founders Chapel.

#### [1991]

**ROBERT JACKSON (BA)** published his eighth novel, *Hester* and the Battle of Bannockburn. He has a movie project in the works based on his memoir, *Running Scared*. The screenwriter is Gustavo Freitas.

**GINAIA KELLY** (JD) is the director of the Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary Foundation.

BARRY WALLACE (JD) reports that he lives in San Carlos in the San Francisco Bay Area with his wife, Casey '91, and their 11-year-old son, Jacob. Barry is the director of business development for Bliss Lawyers.

#### [1992]

KRISTINE ASHTON-MAGNU-SON (BA) handles publicity for various music festivals and events around the country, including the band Dropkick Murphys.

BOB KAMANGAR (JD) writes, "Haven't been practicing law for decades now. I am a realtor and developer on the (San Francisco) mid-Peninsula."

#### [1993]

MIKE DALY (BA) is senior vice president of sales for Freebird, a mobile flight rebooking company. In his new position, Mike works with corporations, credit card companies and travel partners. With more than 25 years of experience in business development and sales, Mike has worked at Key2Travel, Travelocity Business, Sabre GetThere, United Airlines and Deem, where he was vice president of travel and car services.

#### DAVID NEMETH (BA), '96 (ID)

celebrated 25 years of marriage with Kristi (Harris) '93 in June 2019 and the five-year anniversary of starting his own law firm in March 2019. David and Kristi live in San Clemente, California, and have three children — ages 21, 18 and 15 — with two in college, including son Jacob, who is a freshman at USD. "Life is good," David says.

GEORGE SANCHEZ (BA) completed his second year as a real estate broker/sole practitioner. "Daughter and wife are doing awesome," he says. "Miss my alma mater!"

#### [1994] 🞓

ERIKA HARRINGTON (BA), '03 (JD) opened Needles Studio in January 2019 in Palo Alto, California. "We offer sewing classes, workshops and open studio time for customers to come and use our equipment and amenities," she says.

MICHAEL SHEPARD (JD) was named one of the 2018 Massachusetts Lawyers of the Year. In October 2018, he obtained a \$43.1 million verdict on behalf of his client in a lawsuit against tobacco and asbestos companies.

#### [1995]

KIMBERLY ATHANS '95 (BA), '00 (MEd) returned to San Diego in August 2017 to teach literacy and secondary methods classes in Point Loma Nazarene University's School of Education.

WILLIAM CARNESE (BA) writes, "In addition to my 15-plus years as a freelance web designer/developer, I'm also an active professional musician currently performing in three bands."

DEANNA (GONZALES) DUN-CAN (BA) reports that she and Joseph Duncan were married on June 30, 2018. "Together, we have three children: Will, Ainsley and Anna," she says.

NESSIE (POLENDEY) MARTIN (BAcc) writes, "Completely retired from the Navy and as a Department of Defense government employee in April 2017."

#### [1996]

DONALD MCELFRESH (JD) was elected to the bench as Superior Court judge in Del Norte County. He thanks all of the faculty at USD School of Law for the "excellent education and skills imparted by such a fine institution of learning."

#### [1997]

**CARLOS MARTINEZ** (**BA**) has a pending MLB agent certification.

**ROBERT MICHAEL WAY (BA)** and his wife, Toni Basco '01, are part of a nonprofit working to establish the Byzantine Catholic shrine of Mary Undoer of Knots on Mount Lemmon near Tucson, Arizona.

#### [1998]

MARIA BOWDEN-WEISS (BA) is an airbrush makeup artist for weddings and special events. "I have worked with hundreds of brides in San Diego," she says. "I love making women feel more beautiful for their special events."

STEVE KUL (BBA) started Konnect Resources in 2015, a staffing and human resources consulting company. He and Lukicia Kul '01 live in La Mirada, California, and are the proud parents of Mila, 6.

**SCOTT MAAS (BBA)** recently established a new design/build venture headquartered in Cardiffby-the-Sea. Fieldxstudio (Field and Studio) is a full service architecture, construction and real estate development firm.

#### **KRISTEN (AMES) MAHRER '98**

(**BA**) says, "I am happy to report I am a sales representative for Lang Nissan here in San Diego. Please stop by or call for a USD discount."

ZAC MISSLER (BA) reports that he and his wife, Michelle, celebrated their 20th wedding anniversary. "Looking forward to continuing development on the central coast of California in San Luis Obispo near Cal Poly," he says.

MICHAEL SACKMASTER (BBA) is an experienced banking manager looking for new opportunities.

JESSICA (CARRANZA) TACHE (BA) writes, "I've been married for almost nine years and am a full-time mommy to my son, Oliver."

#### [1999] 🎓

SCOTT SMERUD (JD) started TrustKeeping, a remote outsourced accounting firm, offering monthly fixed-fee bookkeeping and business back-office services.

JOHN KENT THURSTON (BBA) writes, "Traveling, fishing, restauranting ... being a father to Harper and husband to Trish. Enjoying life with my family in my hometown in South Florida."

#### 2000s

#### [2000]

KELLY (WOOD) GEMELLI (JD) has been promoted to a principal in Jackson Lewis' San Diego office. Kelly provides advice and counsel to management on a wide range of employment issues. She is a certified leave of absence specialist and is an active member of the California Advice and Counsel Resource Group.

ALFONSO HERNANDEZ (BBA) reports that he has been creating new products and businesses for experience travelers.

**KATE MOSLEY (BBA)** owns two Orangetheory Fitness locations in Northern California.

**DOUG WORKS** (MBA) writes, "Enjoying life with my lovely wife and baby daughter. Looking for business opportunities in sports."

#### [2001]

MARK JONES is pursuing a Master of Science in executive leadership at USD with an expected graduation of 2020.

KIRA RUBEL (BA), '07 (JD)

writes, "I have been working long hours to complete my firm's transition from litigation to estate planning and business transactional work. My husband and I have also been busy raising two little girls. We don't sleep much around here!"

#### COLLEEN (DeCOOK) SNYDER

(BA) earned an MEd degree and taught for 10 years in Massachusetts. "We moved to New York, where I now use my degree in anthropology and ethnic studies while serving the public in real estate needs. I love it!" she says.

#### [2002]

CHRISTINE ANTOINE (BA) was selected as an honoree in the government category for Assemblymember Shirley Weber's annual Salute to Women Leaders of the 79th District.

#### AMANDINE AZENCOTT '02

(**MBA**) says, "I still remember my years in USD, truly, the best of my life. As a French student discovering universities in the USA — and especially this one it was a dream that came true. Best memories ever. Since then, I have been working for different companies in California and back to Paris. In 2010, I launched my own skincare brand, which is 100 percent made in France: CODAGE Paris. This has been a great journey. The brand is now in 35 countries, through a network of five-star hotel spas, selective perfumeries, department stores and professional settings, such as those in clinics and doctor's offices. In 2019, we are launching in the USA, so stay tuned! Hope you'll try our products soon!"

ANNIE PETERSEN (BA) was in

a television news career until 2016. "The job no longer fulfilled me, instead it just filled me," she says. Seeking a life of purpose and possibility, she enrolled in the coaches training program at Accomplishment Coaching. "I am a practicing coach and work with sports anchors, math tutors, tech specialists, police officers, C-suite executives and more, on creating what they want in life. I am also a blogger and public speaker."

SCOTT RAHN (JD) is managing partner of RMO LLP and opened the firm's fourth office in San Diego. RMO focuses on trust and probate estate litigation and has offices in Los Angeles, Orange County, San Diego and Kansas City, Missouri.

#### **ROSARIO BURGOS SANTOYO**

(BA), '08 (JD) was promoted to litigation manager at Cordell & Cordell, a domestic litigation firm that focuses on representing men in family law cases. Rosario is a member of the San Diego County Bar Association, the Lawyers Club of San Diego, Latinas in the Law and the San Diego La Raza Lawyers Association.

#### KURT VARRICCHIO (JD) pub-

lished his first book, Behind the Count: My Journey from Juvenile Delinquent to Baseball Agent, in June 2018. This autobiography chronicles his life in the Florida juvenile justice system through his current position as president of KVA Sports, an athlete representation firm based in Orange County, California. The book is available on Amazon.

#### [2003] KRISTIN EDELHAUSER CHESSMAN '03 (BA) resides in

Contact Erin Jones, CFRE, CSPG at (619) 260-4523.



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[saga]

# CITIZEN OF THE WORLD

#### Practicing shuttle diplomacy behind the Iron Curtain

by Andrew Faught

s the United States and the Soviet Union gritted **1** their teeth through the Cold War, Maria Teresa (Carrasco) Pietrok '66 (BA) was creating smiles behind the Iron Curtain, the onetime figurative barrier between communism and capitalist democracies in the West.

As an export manager for Oregon-based dental equipment

manufacturer A-dec, Pietrok introduced state-of-the-art dental equipment to 16 Eastern bloc nations unaccustomed to Western enterprise and technology. Business, she says, "was considered a dirty word."

But Pietrok practiced her own brand of shuttle diplomacy skills formed in part by her time at USD — to open new markets.

"I gained the people's respect as they recognized that I was there, not just for selling, but to help them," she says. "When you have a liberal arts education, you have a better understanding of humankind and how to relate to people."

While the Cold War was characterized by suspicion, Pietrok avoided intrigue. She subse-

quently received commendations from the Russian and Czech dental associations - and from other countries — for her work to improve dental care. She was held in such high esteem that she even collaborated with the Far East Russian minister of health to help bring a sick child to the U.S. for treatment. She'd go on to assist three more Russians seeking American care.

In May 2019, in honor of her achievements, Pietrok was knighted in Rome by Prince Lorenzo de' Medici, descendent of the famous Italian banking family and political dynasty.

Pietrok recounts her experi-

ences in her book, Piercing the Iron Curtain: The True Story of an American Business Woman's Challenge to Travel and Open Markets Behind the Iron Curtain, which came out in March 2019.

That she found herself a player in history might seem surprising, given that Pietrok was unsure of her life's direction when she enrolled at USD as a French literature major. But she was. at that point, a veritable citizen of the world.

She was born in Mexico City, where she spent her childhood. During her teenage years, she lived in Tijuana and crossed the border each day to attend San Diego's Academy of Our Lady of Peace. Pietrok's parents - her father was a physician, her mother a San Diego community leader — believed that the best inheritance they could leave her was a quality education.

She enrolled at USD on the advice of her mother's friends, who called the institution "a wonderful school." She opted to study languages at the suggestion of nuns from her high school. (Pietrok is proficient and fluent in seven languages: Spanish, English, French, German, Italian, Portuguese and Russian.)

She met her husband, Luke, a Navy pilot who served in Vietnam, through a friend from USD. While her husband was flying sorties, Pietrok taught second grade in San Ysidro. The couple, who've been married 51 years, initially lived in Mexico, where they ran a Honda motorcycle dealership. But Mexican customs officials ultimately banned motorcycle imports to protect its own manufacturing industry.

Pietrok and her husband moved to Portland, where she spent the next 11 years working in international sales and marketing for a steel foundry. Then a headhunter approached Pietrok, asking if she would consider a

But she got the job, and her "They were working standing

job with the dental product manhusband, Ryan, and her three chilufacturer. The possibility tantadren under the age of 8. She is a freelized her, although she assumed lance writer and editor, and recently the position would go to a man. fulfilled her dream of becoming a member of the Disney Parks Moms Panel. The Panel accepts about 12 influences are still felt in Eastern new panelists each year, and she was and Central Europe. Pietrok chosen to represent Disneyland helped promote modern dental Resort. She's says she is "excited techniques — where even local to share her passion for Disney with anesthesia was formerly seldom future guests as they plan their dream vacations!" used in general dentistry, except for dental surgery — to the de-ADRIAN DOWNING-ESPINAL sign of dental offices. In fact, she (BA) earned credentials as a Certiimpacted the very way in which fied Alcohol Drug Counselor - II. dentists see their patients. Adrian has more than 9,000 hours in the field and stays active volunteering on various board and commitup, but I taught them to work tees in San Diego. ergonomically, how to work sitting down, because that's a ED HINER '03 (MS) is a retired healthier way to do dentistry," Navy SEAL, bestselling author and speaker. He is passionate about she says. "I also told them how helping children and veterans. important it was for the patient to be seated in a comfortable ANNE KINNE (MA) is pursuing a chair, because they would relax PhD in transformative studies at the and the dentist would be able to California Institute of Integral Studies and is using her master's degree do better dentistry. in theology as she does so. "While

"They said, 'Oh, thank you. That's very interesting. We never thought the patient should be comfortable.' These were Soviet times, and they were not so concerned about the patient, because they had to treat so many patients a day." Thereafter, Pietrok was routinely invited to give lectures at Russian Dental Association

conferences.

She retired in 2013, after more than 28 years with A-dec, one of the largest dental equipment manufacturers in the world. These days the mother of two and grandmother of four – does volunteer work for the Portland Art Museum, and she previously served on the board of the European American Arts Council.

consider. "I hope I was able to make a difference in people's lives," Pietrok says. "Even in very trying circumstances, if one is creative or innovative, one can find a way to succeed, and, if needed, also help others." 🐕

Today, there is her legacy to

Orange County, California, with her

not working on my dissertation, I am the editing services manager for the Center for Writing and Scholarship at CIIS," she says. Anne is also a technical editor for CIIS, on the editorial board for the Society for Consciousness Studies and developing a website for her editing business, Redwood Coast Editing.

KATHERINE MICKS (JD) was sworn in as the first female elected district attorney in Del Norte County, the northernmost coast county of California.

MARK RAGO (MBA) started his own athletic training business, San Diego Training Systems.

#### [2004] 🞓

KADIE COTTER (BA) savs she and her husband welcomed their second son, Michael Thomas, on Feb. 18, 2019. Michael has a big brother, Maxwell Brent, 18 months.

#### ZACHARIAH CUSKELLY (BBA)

has been running TechLX, a K-12 technology education company, for three years. "We develop and teach elective, after-school and summer programs focused on robotics, coding, game development and makerspaces," he says.

KARLA ESCALANTE-FREITAG (BBA) started working in real estate last year. "It is such an interesting, challenging, rewarding career," she says. "I came to USD's library to study for my real estate test. It brought wonderful memories of my time at USD,

#### DONALD MORRISON (BBA)

which I will cherish forever."

writes, "Two of our triplet children started USD this year: Jacob and Nicole. Kevin chose Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute in Troy, New York."

DIANA TREVINO (MA) transitioned into private practice in 2014, after several years of working with at-risk youth and human trafficking victims. She provides counseling for those suffering from anxiety and trauma using EMDR and other mind-body techniques.

ETHAN WATTS (MBA), '04 (JD) has a solo law practice and has been helping clients comply with the European data protection and privacy law (GDPR) and preparing clients to comply with the California data protection and privacy law (CCPA).

#### [2005]

ALEX CALERO (JD) was elected chair of the Public Law Section of the California Lawyers Association. His term begins at the October 2019 CLA Annual Meeting.

ALEJANDRO CASTRO (BA) and his family started Ruben Castro Charities, with food distribution at Moorpark College on Tuesdays and at the Ventura County Office of Education, Career Education Center. in Moorpark on Saturdays. "We are seeing an increase in the need for food services at both distribution locations; any assistance would be appreciated," he says.

LINDSAY (HANSEN) La POINTE (BA) welcomed her second child. Betty, in 2018.

#### PATRICIA LaVOIRE (MEd)

worked in El Cajon in San Diego County for several years, then retired. "I like to travel, spend time with family and friends, and relax at the beach," she says.

#### **MORGAN SCHAENING (BBA)**

moved to Australia after graduating, where she began her career in global education and leadership develop-

ment. She moved back to California in 2015 to start her company, Unearthed Travel, and is enjoying the challenges of the work and its outcomes.

#### [2006]

JAMES BLACK (BAcc) is the co-founder of a top-rated hostel business in Southern California.

#### **OLIVIA GIL-GUEVARA (MA)**

moved back to San Diego after living in Chicago for 10 years. She managed a hip-hop recording artist whose song went viral, then signed him to Capitol and Atlantic Records. She was accepted into Accion's Entrepreneurship Academy in 2019, where she created ThirdSectorProject, a nonprofit consulting company specializing in social media campaigns.

**STEVEN SMITH** (EdD) is with Northern Arizona University, where he serves as assistant director of veteran and military services; director of the Oral History Project, Cline Library Special Collections and Archives; serves on the Martin-Springer Institute Advisory Board and as a faculty member for First-Year Seminar. He is retired from the U.S. Navy.

#### [2007]

**ISIDRO BARRAGAN (BA)** obtained a teaching credential and now teaches eighth-grade science in Southeast San Diego. "I am enjoying the challenge and the outcomes," Isidro says.

MONICA DOHRMAN (BA) is a pediatric nurse practitioner with Phoenix Children's Hospital and is a "proud momma to an 18-month-old boy (Hudson) and a 4-year-old little girl (Olivia)."

**DUSTIN GUERRERO (BBA)** says he spent his days at USD as a scholar-athlete on the men's soccer team. "I cherish the friendships I made as a Torero and still play soccer weekly with many of the men I played alongside for USD more than a decade ago," he says.

FATIMA PIMENTEL (BA) earned her dental degree at the University of Nevada, Las Vegas, School of Dental Medicine in 2011. She finished her pediatric dental residency in Cincinnati, Ohio, in 2013, practiced in Chicago for four years and then in Detroit for two years. In the summer of 2018, she decided

USD MAGAZINE

32

to establish roots in Phoenix.

**REIS ROSENBLEDT** (**BBA**) has been building a successful financial services practice for 11 years with Foresters Financial Services in San Diego.

#### 2008

MARGE BHOLA (BA) writes, "After starting my digital franchise (Juice Plus+), I was able to retire myself from my government position. For the last three years, I have been traveling the world, running my business from my computer/phone and impacting the health and wellness of others in four different countries!"

**RYAN BOLLIER** (**BA**) is a process improvement specialist at the Health Plan of San Mateo, where he's worked since 2012. He earned a BS in computer information science from Notre Dame de Namur University and is in the Executive MBA program at San Francisco State University.

**BRANDON DEILGAT (BA)** moved to Nashville in 2014 to set up a second production plant for a family manufacturing business to promote growth east of the Rockies.

AMANDA FITZSIMMONS (JD) was promoted to partner at DLA Piper. In the firm's litigation practice, Amanda focuses on complex business and commercial litigation with an emphasis on data privacy and security, antitrust and competition, and class action litigation.

**REBECCA FRAZEE** (EdD) teaches at San Diego State University and runs a nonprofit open education resource called FLEXspace.org that helps higher education and K-12 campuses connect with a global network of practitioners and experts to help plan, design, support, evaluate and improve learning spaces. Rebecca is also a singer and percussionist in a local R&B band.

MARISSA ARREOLA MARTI-NEZ (MSGL) joined BAE Systems Inc. in San Diego as proposal director, where she manages the proposal development center operations and personnel.

PAMELA SALGADO (MBA) works for Teachstone in Charlottesville, Virginia, supporting state/ county departments of education in their early childhood education

initiatives. She says that she is happy to have found the ideal job that combines her graduate business and education degrees.

MELISSA (MIRANDA) SAN-

CHEZ (BA) earned a JD and worked for three years in the public sector in New York. She moved back to her home state of Texas, was married in 2016, and she and her husband welcomed a baby girl in 2017. Currently, Melissa works for the Alzheimer's Association as director for public policy for the Texas region.

[2009] 🞓 SHAWNA FEHRMAN-LEE (BA),

'09 (BA), '14 (MBA) reports that she was promoted to director of operations at HelloFresh. "Ben and I just had our first baby!" she adds. Evangeline Fehrman-Lee was born on Jan. 6, 2019.

**KEEGAN FONG (BBA)** opened Woon, a restaurant in Los Angeles.

RYAN KURTH '09 (MS) manages regional business for private commercial real estate lender iBorrow in the Pacific Northwest. Previously, he worked six years in Wells Fargo's commercial real estate group and three years with Fannie Mae's chief economist, Doug Duncan.

NICCOLO LEKAI (BBA) lives in Paso Robles, California, and makes "beautiful and, of course, tasty gelato (Leo Leo Gelato) that is distributed across the country."

JAMES NELSON (BAcc), '09 (BA) developed a leading treasury consulting practice within PwC in the German-language region of Switzerland, and has repatriated to Southern California to serve the needs of local businesses.

**ROSALIE RAMIREZ '09 (MA)** has worked at Riverside County DPSS Adult Protective Services and In Home Supportive Services for more than nine years ensuring elderly and disabled population obtain essential caregiver services and are safeguarded from abuse.

#### 2010s

[2010]ELVIS BABILA (BS/BA) worked for Solar Turbines and then for

Caterpillar as an engineering manager. After earning a master's degree in material science and engineering and an MBA from Columbia University, he worked in General Electric's Venture Capital Group — GE Ventures — the Corporate Strategy Group at IBM and started Empatia Home Care. He also reports that he got married.

MO CISSE (BA) writes, "After I graduated from USD, I worked jobs that gave me good experience but unfortunately they failed to excite me or give me the fulfillment I desired. So three years ago, I decided to go all in by following my passion in fashion! Our company (Meraki Allure) provides highend clothing for men and women and offers a variety of image consulting services."

MATT LEIGH (BS/BA) continues to work as a music producer, mix engineer and session musician at The Tracking Room in Nashville. He recently engineered sessions for country music legends Ronnie Milsap and Willie Nelson. Matt is currently composing and developing new music for the Nashville Predators' (NHL) pregame festivities.

MARISSA MARTINEZ (MSGL) joined BAE Systems as proposal operations director to lead the company's Proposal Development Center for the Electronics Systems sector in San Diego.

**IACOUELINE McCORMACK** 

(**JD**) left the Appeals Council with the Social Security Administration, moved back to San Diego and changed career paths. She now works at a law firm specializing in veterans law. "It is a growing and constantly changing area of law," she says.

ELIZABETH SMUTZ (BA) accepted a staff attorney position at the Central California Appellate Program after serving as a panel attorney for four years.

ANALISE ZOCHER (BA) is a copywriter for Microsoft's Brand Content Studio, Cloud + Enterprise. She lives near Seattle with her husband, Mark '14, and 25-year-old cat, Lilly.

#### [2011]

IRENE CARR '11 (PhD) recently semiretired after 45 years of

nursing. She is active with The Immaculata parish.

JANET CHEN (JD) writes, "I get to practice constitutional law every day as a deputy attorney general in the California Attorney General's Office in Sacramento."

NICOLE (DeFELICE) DRZAL

(**BA**) reports that she married Brandon Drzal in Las Vegas on April 28, 2018. Members of the wedding party included Michelle Dominguez Chavez '10 (BA), Alexandra Tapper '11 (BA ) and Jeffrey DeFelice '17 (BS/BA). Nicole has been working in the hospitality digital marketing field for more than eight years and recently started working with Hvatt as a digital marketing manager. Staying true to her Founders Chapel Choir roots, she continues to sing weekly at her local parish, Holy Spirit Catholic Church.

**DERRON JUAREZ** (BA) reports that after playing football at USD, he worked in the staffing and recruiting industry for six years. Most recently, he has been working on developing his own company.

CHADWICK MANNING (BAcc), '11 (MS) was named one of Forbes 30 Under 30 for energy and a Grist 50 honoree, both in 2018.

**MEREDITH SCHNEIDER (BA)** launched a podcast and merchandise with *Imperfect Fifth*, and is running the publication entirely on her own. "I continue to do freelance writing and marketing work, and live happily in a 1920s third-floor walkup in the heart of Kansas City, Missouri, with my cat, Schmidt!" she days.

KELSI (MYERS) WILKINS (BBA) reports that she and her husband, Casey, welcomed a son, Cooper, in May 2018.

#### [2012]

FEDERICO DURAN (MBA) writes, "Helping our customers to create sustainable solutions that have a better impact on people, planet, profit and progress for many industries in Mexico such as automotive, leather, paint, plastic, construction, shoes and furniture."

BOYD FELLOWS (BBA) is working in commercial real estate in San Francisco.



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passing down to the next generation of Toreros.

SAMUEL GREEN (BS/BA) is working to increase public flood risk awareness with MyFloodMap.com.

SHARI JONES (PhD) has returned to Naval Medical Center San Diego. She was previously stationed at Naval Hospital Twentynine Palms.

**ROBERT PECK** (JD) has joined Noonan Lance Boyer & Banach as an associate attorney. In his new position, he handles general civil litigation, complex business disputes, professional liability litigation and employment cases. Previously, he worked at a Newport Beach, California, litigation firm, where he represented clients in the apparel, printing, software and retail automotive industries.

#### [2013]

MELANIE DELLAS (MA) worked at a local museum after graduation and has started her own business, Muse Curatorial Consulting Group. (See story on page 24.)

ALEX DeVITO (BA) is an account executive at IX Sports & Entertainment. He has worked with the Breeders' Cup Ltd. and the San Diego Sports Medicine Foundation.

LISA HAWTHORNE (PhD) is the director/dean of nursing education at Louisiana State University and manages the Associate of Science in Nursing program at the Eunice and Lafayette campuses.

#### **CYNTHIA VILLACIS HICKS**

(BA) moved to Nashville, where she earned a master's degree in political science and qualitative methods from Vanderbilt University, then began a career in polling and market research. "I love my new home, but I'm a California girl at heart," she says. "I visit home often and swing by USD to take a few quiet moments at the IPJ or to get a sandwich from Tu Mercado. I'm so grateful to USD for elevating my work ethic and faith life at a crucial time in my life."

LIZETH JUVERA (BBA) works in USD's Department of Biology. "I love being at USD!" she says.

LEA PARK-KIM (BA) works for California State Senator Brian Jones as his communications director.

MARISSA PLEDGER (BA) worked for the Dr. Denis Mukwege Foundation in Switzerland for two years, then moved to the Democratic Republic of the Congo to work directly for Dr. Mukwege's hospital and foundation. "Dr. Mukwege won the Nobel Peace Prize late last year for his work with victims of sexual violence over the past 20 years," she says. "Here at the foundation, I manage our World Bank funding, which provides for the holistic care of survivors of sexual violence."

#### [2014] 😭

LARRY-JACOB BAEZ (BBA) writes, "I fell in love with the outdoors while attending USD. My first hike in Cali was with fellow classmates." He has started Pangea Excursions, an outdoor company that promotes the positive energy he felt on that first hike. "I was immersed by nature's profound ability to recharge and reform the human spirit, and I want to help people get outdoors so they can feel that connection," he says.

DAVID GRECO (JD) joined RMO LLP in opening its San Diego office. He focuses on litigating trust and probate estate disputes while continuing his business, employment and education litigation practices.

RUTH ("TIKI") INACAY (MA) is pursuing a doctorate in clinical psychology to further research on LGBTQIA+ issues in counseling. Tiki is a Safe Space Ally and former Rainbow Educator at USD, and redesigned and implemented the Safe Space training at Alliant International University in San Diego. Tiki was awarded the Cornell Persico scholarship and is a semifinalist for the Point Foundation scholarship. In addition, Tiki's project, Trans N Sync, was recognized by the Clinton Global Initiative as being an innovative global socioeconomic development solution to gender expansive issues in the workplace.

ABREAIL (TETZLAFF) LEON-CIO (MSN) was a Clinical Nurse Specialist (CNS) at Naval Medical Center San Diego-Balboa and she is currently department head for two outpatient primary care medical home clinics in San Diego County. "My education as a CNS has profoundly helped me keep the three spheres at the front burner of my leadership practices day in and day

out!" she says. "My job as a Navy nurse has also allowed me to deploy on the USNS Mercy Pacific Partnership 2018, where we visited several countries. Our focus was building partnerships, collaborating and fostering teamwork to be able to respond to humanitarian disaster relief events."

MORGAN MARTIN (MS) has been based in Namibia for three years to pursue her PhD research on an unstudied small species of dolphin called the Heaviside's dolphin. Her first paper was published in March 2019 in the Proceedings of the Royal Society B. During her research, Morgan collected recordings of the dolphins from a kavak and then confirmed her findings with experts in Denmark: The Heaviside's dolphin is the first species known to be able to produce two types of sonar: one for echolocating and hunting and the other for communicating. Her work was featured in the Spring 2019 issue of USD Magazine.

KATARINA MURZI (BA) started a new job in March 2019 as marketing coordinator at Kaos at Palms Casino Resort in Las Vegas, which held its grand opening in April 2019.

CATHY NGUYEN (BA) completed an MFA in graphic design at San Diego State University in 2018. Since Spring 2018, she has been teaching two-dimensional design and visual communications at USD as well as advanced courses in typography at San Diego State University.

ARABELLA WANG (MEd) has been a kindergarten teacher at Rancho San Diego Elementary in the Caion Valley Union School District for five years. She also is the district lead in the Next Generation science standards, blended learning and presentation literacy. Arabella partners with the San Diego County Office of Education to help train teachers in NG science standards. She is currently working with UCSD's San Diego Science Project to develop a summer science institute for teachers.

#### [2015]

EMILIA ARUTUNIAN (JD) is an associate attorney at Jackson Lewis.

**CLINTON JOHNSON (BBA)** started Johnson Solar, a solar energy company, in 2015 after finishing his MBA. "Things have been going well since," he says.

#### **KIMBERLY WOODBURY '15**

(BS/BA) continues to work with Thermo Fisher Scientific. In October 2018, she transitioned to a new team and made the move from San Diego to San Francisco.

#### [2016]

JENNIFER BUECHEL (PhD) earned her PhD at USD's Hahn School of Nursing and Health Science.

SHELBY DERN (BBA) is part of the community team at WeWork and lives in downtown Chicago.

**CAITLIN DONNELLY** (**BBA**) is a marketing adviser at Compass, a real estate brokerage.

**DIANA FONTAINE** (BA) joined the Smithsonian Environmental Research Center after graduation and spent two years as a plankton analyst in the Marine Invasions Lab studying phytoplankton in ballast water of cargo ships. She is now a PhD student in the Universitv of Rhode Island's Graduate School of Oceanography. Diana is using genetic techniques to examine how environmental stressors associated with climate change affect phytoplankton.

MARINA LAPARTE (BA) founded Tin Marin, a company based on products crafted by artisans around the world. The first collection features handbags that are woven by a community of women in a small town in Mexico. "The company focuses on giving back, while providing a functional and stylish product to live artisanally." Marina says.

MARK MALEBRANCHE (PhD) teaches health policy at USD.

FIORELLA MORALES (BA) is the international engagement coordinator at San Diego State University, where she handles study-abroad advising and study-abroad program development. She also has led many groups of high school students through immersion trips in Europe and South America with World Learning. Fiorella also began work on a PhD in Leadership Studies at USD with a concentration in leadership for international school leaders.

HAYLEY PARK '16 (BA) recently earned her master's degree in music therapy from Arizona State University. She is currently working full time as a music therapist at the Arizona State Hospital. She also performs around the Phoenix area with her husband Chris.

#### [2017]

ALISON ARAGON (MA) is working at Pro Kids, an organization that encourages underserved youth to excel by promoting character development, life skills and values through education and the game of golf. She also graduated from the Sanford Institute of Philanthropy Fundraising Academy. "I'm glad I can help support the San Diego nonprofit sector through philanthropy. I am volunteering with the Latina Giving Circle to reimagine traditional philanthropy, making it more inclusive, community-driven and accessible for all," she says.

GINA ELLEN (BBA) is with Jet Wealth Advisors. "Lots of new things to consider going into 2019 and new avenues to explore for my clients," she says. She is brushing up on Mandarin Chinese so she is available for clients who prefer to speak Chinese. Gina is also a board member for Lean In San Diego, which aims to empower women to rise to C-suite levels, start their own businesses and balance work and home life.

**IRINA GEDAREVICH (BA)** 

moved from director of marketing at the California Implant Institute to marketing strategist at Roya.com, a full-service marketing firm in Mira Mesa. She also is running as an independent candidate for mayor of San Diego in 2020.

SARAH GRAY (BBA) writes, "With two kids under 5, a thriving business (www.jlchildress.com, which makes on-the-go accessories for babies), a new puppy and an adventurous husband, I'm constantly exhausted but absolutely loving life! Every day is a blessing and

also a challenge. We work hard to keep our focus on God so that He guides us through this chaotic yet beautiful season of life."

VICKELL JOHN-BAPTISTE

(**BA**) is a technology support analyst at USD's ITS Help Desk while also pursuing yoga teacher training and planning for her wedding.

CHARLES MADRUGA (BA) has joined with a friend and fellow lifelong San Diegan to start A Timeless Day, in which they curate an entire day for visitors who want to experience the essence of San Diego's coastline.

TOMMY MOORE '17 (BA) works in the fashion industry for Bright Culture. "Lately I have been working to increase visibility and reach so that one day it can be a successful, respectable and thriving simple luxury brand." The company offers brand ambassadorships to students looking to gain experience in the fashion industry while also allowing them to earn competitive commission on sales and obtain free or discounted clothes.

CHRISTOPHER REIMANN (BA) earned a master's degree in secondary education from Loyola Marymount University in Spring 2019. As part of the program, he was a student teacher at his former high school, El Segundo High School. He is also working toward a secondary social sciences teaching credential.

**DAVID SHANNON** (**BBA**) is a law student at Santa Clara University Law School.

BONNIE SMITH (LLM) is practicing immigration law and is in a PhD program for creative development and leadership.

MARISA VOILAND (BA) is an event coordinator for the Arizona Community Foundation.

#### [2018

DANIEL BARRY (MBA) writes, "We've been growing! Our team has doubled in size and we now have four USD alumni or current USD students working at SunCity Advising. We've also expanded our service offerings to include sales and marketing operations."

#### JAYDA GONZALES (BA)

searched for a career that would offer flexibility to be committed to her marriage and future children and that would align with the traditions of her ancestors, including minimalism and essentialism. Jayda's company, Containment Home Organizing, helps transform the spaces of clients throughout the Coachella Valley

in California. "I am beyond thankful for my education at USD," she says.

SOLOMON-DANE ("BABY") HOOD (BA) has been performing in local theater productions and working with X/Nihilo Films for upcoming television shows and movies.

**GEORGE HOTALING (MSGL)** has started his own business as a financial adviser with Edward Jones.

DIPSHIKA KARKI (MASI) writes, "My journey at USD to obtain my master's in social innovation has been one of the best decisions of my life!" Dipshika has started a social enterprise that aims to employ youth in San Diego.

PATRICIO KEEGAN (MBA) moved to Atlanta to work as a business development manager at TECME, a medical device company that manufactures mechanical ventilators for intensive care units. In March 2019, Patricio was promoted to global marketing director and is responsible for the global strategy of the company.

**ROBERT KNECHT (MAIR)** is currently activated in support of the U.S. Marine Corps Reserve at Camp Pendleton. He was appointed coordinator for the 2019 Global Goals World Cup via the United Nations Association San Diego and is developing a business startup in sustainable energy development.

HANNAH KURTIN (BA) is in the MEd dual credential program at USD's School of Leadership and Education Sciences.

CHRISTIANA LAYMAN (BA) started her business as a fine jewelry designer in 2015. She works exclusively with genuine stones along with sustainably sourced, highquality metals such as 14K gold and sterling silver. "The jewelry I create is inspired by my travels and the raw beauty of the natural world," she says.

SARAH MacINNES (BA) finished her first year teaching world history and AP world history at a high school in San Jose, California.

**TANISHA-JEAN MARTIN (MA)** set the record at USD in 2018 for the most USD awards presented to a

graduating student. She has applied to USD's PhD program to further research her newly developed theory around climate-conscious leadership.

ALISON MATTIAS (BNS) spent a gap year after graduating, gaining work experience in the medical field at St. Joseph Hospital, and plans to apply to physician assistant school.

JANAIRA QUIGLEY (MSGL) is the program manager for Meals on Wheels San Diego County and is running pilots for a startup social enterprise.

MICHAEL RASHMIR (JD) took the California bar exam in February 2019 and expected to complete an LLM in taxation in May 2019.

RILEY READ (BA) has been working as an ophthalmic assistant while applying to physician assistant school.

**DYLAN VALDIVIA (BBA)** was hired by Show Imaging, a vendor of USD events.

#### [2019] 🞓

**ROBERT ORNELAZ** (**BA**) has been preparing for his transition to graduate school at the University of Vermont in pursuit of an MEd in higher education and student affairs administration.

**KATIE ROBINSON-FILIPP (MS)** was selected by California Sea Grant as one of 23 recipients for the prestigious state fellowship program. During her fellowship with the State Lands Commission, Katie is working with the science policy team on environmental justice and projects related to sea level rise. For Katie's master's studies in marine science at USD, her thesis examined differences in the diet of the California killifish in a natural and created marsh habitat, using gut content and stable isotope analysis.

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Michelangelo, The Three Crosses, c. 1520, red chalk and wash. ©The Trustees of The British Museum

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