

IS QUITE SIMPLY AT THE TOP OF HIS GAME.

JIM PARSONS

HE'S HILARIOUS: ANY WAY YOU SLICE IT,

USD MAGAZINE

UNIVERSITY OF SAN DIEGO / SUMMER 2009



FROM | THE PRESIDENT

[priorities]

LOOKING FORWARD

An update on the university's financial condition



Remaining optimistic during times of economic constraint and uncertainty can be a challenge, particularly when their impact on people and programs cannot be fully anticipated. USD has persevered and prospered despite serious challenges throughout its history because of the talent, creativity, hard work and cooperation of the truly dedicated faculty, administrators and staff who are among our institution's greatest resources.

To thrive during these times, it is important to keep current challenges in perspective; USD's spring enrollments are normal and undergraduate applications for next fall are up slightly. In addition, we are currently able to maintain our present level of financial aid commitments to our students. Also, unlike many other universities, we are not considering personnel reductions at this time.

The university's 2009-2010 budget has been formally approved by our trustees to include our primary commitments to financial aid, infrastructure renewal, sustaining faculty and staff levels, and academic program support. The trustees also reviewed our budget projections for the remainder of the current fiscal year. They endorsed our call for fiscal restraint and acknowledged that uninterrupted academic programs and student services remain our first institutional priority.

Consistent with our core values, we are foremost concerned about the well-being of the people in our university community. As we manage our way through this economic downturn, our overriding objective is to encourage and support our students and their families as members of our university family, and to reassure our faculty and staff in their roles vital to our institutional mission.

In response to the growing needs of our students and their families who face job losses and other devastating economic circumstances, we have increased the current budget for student financial aid hardship appeals. We also are increasing our financial aid programs for our neediest students in 2009-2010. I want to assure you that USD's leadership is continually monitoring our critical economic indicators and is prepared to help us manage through these tumultuous times. I remain grateful for the encouragement and support that our students' parents, our loyal alumni, our faithful donors and many other friends have shown our university. The University of San Diego is a special place because of all of the people associated with it. I know that together, we can creatively use our collective energies to address the challenges ahead. Working together and relying on our faith and values to guide us, I am confident that USD will navigate the white water of these difficult times and emerge on course as an even stronger, more resilient university.

— Mary E. Lyons, President



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SPECIAL THANKS TO MODELS JENNIFER MORRISSEY AND DAUGHTER FRANCES MCCANNEL

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ON THE COVER:

Photo by Stuart Pettican

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www.sandiego.edu/usdmag

[consolation]

EVERYTHING'S ALL RIGHT NOW

In times like these, how is it possible to not get worried?



In the deepest part of sleep, there is a sound, and I awake with a start. There it is again. It's not a loud noise; in fact, it's almost a whisper. But I know what it means, and I am up and out of bed before I'm even quite awake.

"What's the matter?"

"I had a bad dream," comes the tearful reply.

Probably best not to ask for details. Better to simply enfold my daughter in my arms and tell her it was just a dream and all is well and she is safe and there, there, there, go back to sleep.

More often than not, that is enough. She sinks back into slumber, tears still wet on her cheeks, and I brush sweaty hair from her forehead, adjust the covers just so and listen to her breathing for a moment, just to be sure that the dream isn't lurking, waiting to cruelly startle her awake again.

In the morning, the dream is usually forgotten altogether, though occasionally recounted in near incoherent detail. On rare occasions, it is still vivid enough to require more soothing, more reassurances that it was just a dream, it wasn't true, that all is well.

Sadly, as adults, it's not always that easy to find comfort. Oftentimes, the things that keep us from a dreamless sleep are, in fact, real. There are worries and troubles and anxieties galore, and if we focus on them too much, finding solutions seems a Herculean task. So we fret and we toss and turn in the deepest part of night, and in the morning, there's no respite to be found. In fact, things seem even worse in the cold clear light of day. Because now we're not only stressed-out, we're also sleep-deprived.

These are worrisome times, indeed. Every day brings more anxiety, and finding a silver lining seems a fool's errand. But if we can look beyond the latest plunging financial statement, past the litany of woe on the nightly news, resist the relentless sense of impending doom that seems the default nearly everywhere we turn, there is an alternative to the sense that hope is a distant mirage.

For me, comfort lies in the small things. In my darkest hours, I turn to the beloved books of childhood, losing myself in Mary Lennox's search for *The Secret Garden*, wishing yet again that I could be a member of the Melendy family and live in *The Four Story Mistake*, get caught up in Posey's determination to put on her *Ballet Shoes* and flit across the stage like a graceful little bird.

And once I emerge from that warm bath of familiarity, I shake myself awake and make an effort to look up, to notice that clouds skitter across the sky like puffs of airborne cotton. I remember to breathe, to let the scent of lemon blossoms and honeysuckle and jasmine remind me that spring has arrived. I reach into my pocket and give a buck or two when confronted with an outstretched hand, remembering how lucky I am to have enough to spare. I remind myself that when we pay attention and celebrate the small things, it helps put the big picture into perspective.

Putting this issue together was a balancing act of sorts. In the pages that follow, we've attempted to offer up both an unflinching look at reality and a celebration of those who inspire us to keep the faith. Comfort is where you find it: whether it's rolling your sleeves up and getting to work after disaster strikes, making people laugh out loud week after week, or tinkering with a recipe until the result is gustatory heaven, there is grace in offering up the best of yourself.

I hope you share my confidence that there will come a morning when we wake up, stretch and realize that even though it wasn't just a dream, everything really will be all right. As long as we stick together and look deep within to find the best way that we can give comfort to those who need it, we will make it through to the other side, maybe even stronger, wiser, more compassionate.

Come to think of it, isn't that what we're here for?

— Julene Snyder, Editor

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[back and forth]



It's the Guitar Man

As an adjunct law professor at USD for almost 40 years, I have a great affection for the school. Your Spring 2009 issue was a marvelous tour through so many areas. Congratulations.

However, I must rise to the defense of my friend David Gates, whose album you mentioned in your editorial ("Light My Fire"), followed by the lament ("shudder." As the founder and lead singer of [the band] Bread, David continues to do well living in Fairbanks Ranch with his wife of 50-plus years. They have four children: three doctors and one attorney. Regarding his music, many of his early songs were written for his wife; they went to rival high schools in Tulsa. When he succeeded in getting one ballad — in which he mentioned her name — played on local radio, he won her heart! His mother was a poet; perhaps that's why so many of his beautiful lyrics stand impressively on their own ("If," "Aubrey" et al).

While I'm kidding, of course, he is a great guy. After his "Goodbye Girl" success, he continued to perform in the '90s, mostly abroad; he's now retired. Thanks again for a delightful series of articles. Keep up the good work.

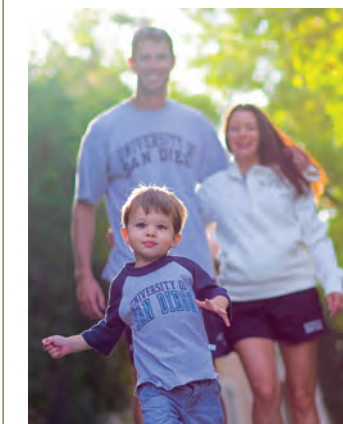
— Michael Dessent

Alumni-in-Waiting

I'm writing to let you know how thrilled our family was to be chosen as the models for the February bookstore advertisement in *USD Magazine* ("Live the Moment, Dream the Future"). We received a copy of the magazine by mail (and had received some messages from friends who saw our pictures even before we did) and thought it came out beautifully. (Bias towards the models aside, of course!) Thank you for the opportunity to be a part of such a fun alumni project; we especially loved [our son being noted as] "William Barrett '29!"

As a side note, we'll be adding to the USD class of '31, as new baby brother Nicolas made his entrance into the world on March 3, 2009.

— Audrey Barrett '08 (Ph.D.)



Baptism by Fire

I thoroughly enjoyed reading the tribute to Bishop Buddy in the latest issue of *USD Magazine* ("Sixty Years and Counting").

I attended San Diego State my first two years in college, and then took a semester off to accompany my parents to Japan, where my father served a two-year tour in the Navy. In January 1957, my parents sent me to the San Diego

College for Women.

When Mother Danz found out I wasn't baptized, she called me into her office and wanted to know why. I explained that even though I always went to Catholic schools I somehow was never baptized. Well, Mother Danz made an appointment for me to see the bishop.

With trepidation I was escorted into his office. He greeted me with such a big smile I felt relaxed. "And why is that you are not baptized, young lady?" Bishop Buddy asked me.

"Er, I, well, I have been waiting to be sure I can be a good Catholic. Obey all the rules and give myself to God," I mumbled. "I go to Mass every morning, Your Excellency, and say the rosary every night."

"Well, I can see you have everything under control and don't need the sacraments to help you. Good for you. I have enjoyed our little visit and if there is ever anything I can do to help you, let me know. Kneel down for my blessing."

I left the bishop and went back to my room. "Did he just tell me I was the most conceited thing he had ever met? Yes, I believe he did — and I deserved it." A few days later I called the bishop and said, "If it is possible, I would like to be baptized. I do need and want the grace the sacraments can give me."

Well, no one has ever had such a baptism. All the students had to wear their cap and gown, the bishop baptized me with priests assisting him. The mothers gave me the most beautiful white lace mantilla. When I went back to my room, my roommate said she really didn't want to be near me: "You just had all your sins erased, I am so jealous." I replied, "Don't

worry, give me a week or two, and I'll stumble."

My year and a half at the San Diego College for Women was wonderful. I got married over Christmas vacation my senior year, and Mother Hill called me into her room and gave me five \$20 bills: "It is difficult for



a young bride to ask her husband for money, so this is for your honeymoon." I was so touched that I cried.

— Nadine G. (Trevors) Thomas '58

Correction

A story about the late physician Michael Bajo ("Family Affair") in the Spring 2009 issue of *USD Magazine* misspelled the name of his alma mater. The Chicago school that Dr. Bajo graduated from is St. Procopius University (now Benedictine University). We sincerely regret the error.

Write us ...

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



TIM MANTOANI

[resilience]

UNCERTAIN TIMES

Top priorities? Retaining students, employees and hope

by Ryan T. Blystone

They say it's always darkest before the dawn. Then again, maybe pie-in-the-sky proclamations like that are at least partly to blame for this global economic mess.

Let's get specific: Despite its best intentions, USD is not immune to the effects of an unsettling economy. "The biggest impact has been the decline in the fair market value of our investments," says Provost Julie Sullivan (pictured), who has been named executive vice president,

effective July 1. Those investments, through March 2009, have fallen sharply: down 29 percent since the beginning of the fiscal year.

But they also say there's strength in numbers. And the tale that some of the numbers tell is far from dire. The university is looking at a record-setting 10,957 applicants clamoring for the 1,100 spots in the Fall 2009 freshman class, almost a 10-1 ratio. Demand for graduate programs remains steady. Student

attrition is minimal. Undergraduate alumni donors have increased over last year. To date, USD has no employee layoffs.

While the university's endowment earnings — less than 5 percent of the \$300 million operating budget — have taken some hits, Sullivan points out that USD's conservative investment strategy has softened the impact. "We'd like our endowment to be bigger, but at this point of our stage of development we're not as dependent on it. We're a rela-

tively young university."

Sullivan has spent a considerable amount of time getting the word out to employees. She held open forums in late March, including one in Spanish, to explain the university's financial challenges and answer questions about possible future scenarios.

"We're not hurting as much as some universities, and that's because we don't fit the profile," she says. "There are three types of universities that may be suffering most."

She's talking about smaller universities with tenuous demand for enrollment, state universities who are at the mercy of dwindling state monetary support and universities whose operating budgets rely too heavily on endowment earnings.

"These don't apply to us," Sullivan points out.

But cost containment is one thing that USD does have in common with other schools. In March, employees learned that annual raises have been frozen for the 2009-2010 fiscal year. They were also urged to be much more vigilant in their spending.

"It's probably the single largest improvement I'm asking for, and I think we're better for it," says Tim O'Malley, vice president of University Relations. "I think we're more accountable. People are being more cautious and thinking twice before expending university resources."

But USD has to keep focused on the big picture, regardless of the vagaries of the marketplace. The Student Life Pavilion remains on track to open this fall; when it does, it's certain to be the hub of student life, a home away from home that's been sorely needed for years. Even in an economically challenging time, O'Malley says that the building's completion is important to the overall health of the university.

"The Student Life Pavilion and the renovation of the University Center will help us be competitive with other institutions under consideration by prospective students," he says. "Our obligation is all about attracting and retaining students."

Provost Sullivan knows that for many students considering USD, their ultimate decision will hinge on financial aid assistance. While more money will be made available for financial hardship appeals, the impact of the economic climate on the institution itself remains uncertain.

"As people learn what kinds of financial aid packages we can provide, the big test is going to be what kind of loans or support they can get for their families," she says. "We'll have to wait and see how that's all going to translate to students actually coming to USD." ☎

[syllabus]

Course: Creative Writing/Poetry
Instructor: Jericho Brown

UP WITH PEOPLE: It's a warm spring afternoon. Once the students have settled into a comfortable circle, the instructor sighs, "I'm so happy. It's such a wonderful life we live." It seems like everyone in the room wants to be here, which isn't always the case in poetry classes.

ARE YOU NOBODY TOO? The discussion ranges from a critique of L.A.-based performance poet Douglas Kearney to whether Emily Dickinson should ever have been born. One presentation is prefaced by a memorized recitation of Wallace Steven's "Anecdote of the Jar." Although the student forgets the ending, he makes a graceful, rhyming save: "It took dominion everywhere / And I think I'll stop there."

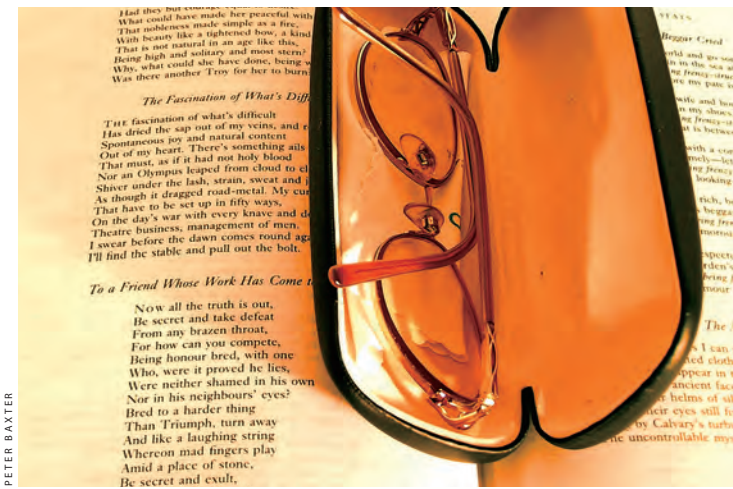
POETS KNOW IT: The professor takes note of two students who've started a side conversation while another holds the baton: "Please forgive them. They don't mean to be disrespectful to you, because they love you. Also, they don't want me to throw them out the window."

EVERY DAY HE WRITES THE BOOK: Asked why one repeats experiences — watching TV reruns or re-reading books — one student confesses he returns to *Catcher in the Rye* because "every time I read it, I'm older." Brown is delighted: "You should say that in a poem! You better hurry up and use that or I will ... and then I'll dedicate the poem to you."

IGNORANCE IS NOT BLISS AFTER ALL: A student makes passing reference to a particular volume that the professor is unfamiliar with. Visibly shaken, Brown confesses, "There's a book I don't know about, and that makes me nervous!"

ALL WORK, NO PLAY: A boy flirtatiously writes in a pretty girl's notebook. Brown tells a student, "I meant to scare you! It makes things better!" Don't let the laughter fool you: These pupils are deadly serious about the material. Critiquing and cultivating each other's poetry is no joke.

— Stefanie Wray



[downturn]

PLAIN TALK

Economics guru Alan Gin saw it coming

Since 1991, associate professor Alan Gin has been releasing the *Index of Leading Economic Indicators for San Diego County*; the monthly report has made him a popular news source. In fact, he's given hundreds of interviews to local and national media.

Gin came to USD in 1988. He has taught courses in subjects ranging from the *Principles of Economics* to *Statistics* to *Public Finance* to the *Economic Development of Asia* and beyond. In 2001, he was awarded the *USD Parents Association Award of Excellence* after being nominated by one of his students and was voted "Professor of the Year" by USD graduate students for the 2002-2003 academic year.

USD Magazine recently asked him questions about his take on the state of the economy.

“WHAT IS THE INDEX OF LEADING ECONOMIC INDICATORS?” It's a monthly report on the local economy that's modeled after the national Index of Leading Economic Indicators. It's called 'leading' because it's supposed to change ahead of the economy. So if you see this thing turning downward, that's going to signal that the economy is going to turn downward in a certain number of months.

DID THE INDEX PREDICT THE DOWNTURN? I think it did. It's been down for 34 out of the last 35 months. It might have signaled early that something bad was happening in terms of the local economy. But in particular, it's accelerated on the downward side in the last five months. And that gave us a slight projection that the job situation has just deteriorated severely.

WHAT DOES THE INDEX SAY ABOUT THE CURRENT ECONOMIC SITUATION? It's saying that there's no upturn in sight right now. The last five months have been the five biggest drops ever that we've had in the index, including the biggest drop ever in February. It's stunning how fast things have deteriorated. That's the surprising thing to me.

HOW MUCH WORSE DO YOU THINK THINGS ARE LIKELY TO GET? I don't think things can get much worse, but they are likely to remain bad for a while.

CAN THE BLAME FOR THE ECONOMIC CRISIS BE LAID AT ANY ONE INDUSTRY OR GROUP? I think there is a lot of blame to go around, but I think most of it has to go on the financial institutions that made the bad mortgage loans to people who should not have gotten the loans. Also, some of the blame belongs to the other financial institutions that purchased these loans and created exotic financial instruments with them.



WHERE ARE WE HEADED? I think this signals that at least locally, we've got difficult times for the rest of the year. We're really going to need the national economy to turn around to help pull us out of this situation.

I'm thinking that the stimulus package that was recently passed will help. I'm thinking that these rescues — bailouts of the financial institutions — will help. I think efforts to shore up the housing market will help as well. We're seeing some signs that at least sales will start to pick up. Housing is what got us into this problem in the first place, so if you can get some stability there, that will help the financial institutions and everybody should benefit from that.

WHAT DO YOU EXPECT THE STIMULUS PACKAGE TO DO TO JUMP-START THE ECONOMY? All aspects of the stimulus package are important: spending on infrastructure to directly create jobs, getting money into people's hands through tax cuts and increased payments to the poor and unemployed so they can spend it, and relief to the states so they won't have to lay off as many people due to budget problems.

WILL THE STIMULUS 'TRICKLE DOWN' TO THE AVERAGE CONSUMER? Most consumers should get something, such as lower taxes. The major benefit will be that the stimulus package may end up saving their jobs.

HOW DOES THE NATIONAL ECONOMY AFFECT THE LOCAL ECONOMIC PICTURE? In San Diego, we're becoming more connected to the national economy than we were, say, in the early 1990s or even before. So if the national economy is doing well, that means that San Diego companies are selling more products because now we deal in more products sold nationwide. Also, our tourism industry benefits as well. San Diego is more of a destination when people are doing well.

WHAT COMPONENTS ARE YOU PAYING PARTICULAR ATTENTION TO? Right now, there are four components that have been particularly troublesome. We'll start off with building permits. Basically, construction activity has just dried up. We've had the two worst months ever in terms of the number of residential units authorized by building permits in San Diego County. We had 87 in January and 80 in February. Just as a contrast, during the peak of the building boom in the 1980s, we at one point in one month had 5,000 units authorized. Even recently, we've been more in the range of 1,200 to 1,500 as an average. Now we've had less than 100 for two months

in a row. And that's important because that signals what's going to happen in terms of construction employment. We've already lost around 27,000 jobs from the peak in construction employment, and this means that people are not going to be building houses.

A second thing I'm looking at is consumer confidence. That has dropped to historic lows. That's important because consumer activity is typically two-thirds of economic activity. It particularly affects big-ticket sales. If people are worried about their jobs and incomes, they're not going to be going out and buying homes and buying cars. And we need them to do it at this point.

The other two components that have been problems are related to the labor market. Initial claims for unemployment insurance have surged, so that's a negative for the index, and there are more people losing their jobs now. And help-wanted advertising, a measure of hiring, is down. More people are losing jobs, and we've got less hiring. So that's caused the unemployment rate to hit 8.8 percent in February in San Diego County, and it could easily hit 10 percent by the time this is over. I don't think it will go much higher than that, but still it's pretty bad.

WHERE ARE WE HEADED THIS SUMMER? Things should pick up because of our tourism. That's going to be an important aspect this year because of the tough economic shape we are in. What's that going to mean for San Diego tourism? Are we going to get less people coming from out of town or is that going to be counterbalanced by people staying in San Diego and going to the zoo instead of taking a big trip elsewhere?

I think you'll see continued activity in housing. Sales have already gone up; that's because there are so many homes that have been foreclosed on. There are a lot of bargains out there. So some people are starting to nibble. Interest rates are at historic lows. It's a good combination to buy a home: prices have come down significantly, and interest rates are at record lows. The combination has pushed the region's affordability index to a record high, meaning a greater proportion of local households can now afford to buy a home than has ever been the case. I see the housing market possibly bottoming out at the end of the year, although I don't expect it to rise until 2010 at the earliest.

WHAT ARE YOUR PREDICTIONS FOR BOTH THE LOCAL AND NATIONAL ECONOMY? I think the national economy will reach a bottom in the latter part of this year. The rebound from the bottom is expected to be weak and may take a while to manifest itself. Job losses and a high unemployment rate are likely to last through the end of this year. Retail sales will likely remain weak, but home sales are expected to continue at a relatively high level. All of this is the expected outlook for San Diego too. I usually don't do long-run projections, but I would expect San Diego to rebound nicely and move back to a position where it is outperforming the national economy.

Find current and archived USD Index of Leading Economic Indicators reports at www.sandiego.edu/~agin/usdlel.



[dear editor]

The recent article on Irving Parker in the spring *USD Magazine* ("One Great Man") brought back memories. My initial period of matriculation was 1959-1962. During that time, Dean Parker was always one to avoid. It wasn't until I returned in 1967 after a brief military tour of Asian soils that I realized what a good friend he was. I finished my degree requirements in 1968 with Dean Parker's guidance through the mire of veterans' benefits.

I personally experienced much of the growth and development that was taking place at USD. Prior to even attending the university, I worked on the grounds crew digging, planting and digging some more. As a student, I worked in the kitchen, and upon my return I worked as one of the first student security patrol guards ... but I digress.

The real purpose of this letter was to tell you about the picture postcard that I recently came across (above). It is of The Immaculata somewhere in the late '50s to early '60s. (The white car alongside the chapel appears to be a 1957 Plymouth.) Obviously, at the time there were no trees or other plantings and Alcalá Park was a wide-open roadway.

My first inclination was to test the eBay waters for a buyer. Then the memories of my ethics classes kicked in, and I felt that the postcard should be part of the 60th anniversary display.

I am going to be in San Diego the last week of May and would greatly want to see the university and all its changes. I look forward to reading about USD; the magazine is always well-done and informative.

— Thomas C. Ragan '68

[silver lining]

FINDING COMFORT

For some, economic crisis prompts spiritual reawakening



by Liz Harman

Plummeting stock prices and shrinking 401(k) accounts. Rising layoffs and home foreclosures. These days, just keeping up with news about the economy can make people feel worried and stressed.

But USD spiritual leaders say faith can be a great comfort during troubled times and that there may even be some hidden gifts in them as well.

"A healthy spirituality and a robust faith life should incul-

cate in us a trust, even in dark moments," says University Ministry Director Michael Lovette-Colyer. In recent months, he's met with students whose families are facing a job loss or other financial difficulties. "It's about trusting — even when we don't know what's on the other side."

But tough times can also challenge one's faith and lead to hard questions like, "Where is God in all of this?"

Sister Barbara Quinn, RSCJ and director of the Center for Christian Spirituality, recently gave a speech at St. Mary's College in Indiana titled, "The Hidden Face of Hope." She says crises are an opportunity to re-examine one's faith and come to a "deeper understanding of what life and God are all about."

Quinn senses "a sobriety and a heaviness" among people these days as they reflect on their economic circumstances.

Children from the orphanage Hogar Infantil were the focus of a recent trip to Tijuana. USD students cleared weeds from a playground and interacted with the children, including taking time out for lunch and an Easter egg hunt.

But while some are worried and anxious, others keep a sense of perspective. While they may have lost money or property, they understand that "it's not a life that was taken from us."

If there is a silver lining, it's that during times of prosperity, people often lose sight of the importance of community and trust in God and one's fellow man, says Lovette-Colyer. He sees a "cultural myth" that has been built up in recent

years: "I can support myself and my family, and I don't need any help from anybody else." The last few months have challenged that notion in a profound way.

As people confront situations such as job loss and the accompanying fear and shame that can be part of their struggle, he advises them not to be afraid to lean on others. "Let them lift us up when we can't do it ourselves."

Another opportunity is a renewed appreciation for simple living: turning away from materialism toward an appreciation of life's other gifts, such as faith, family, friends and the beauty of nature. Quinn says that economic challenges can be "an invitation to a different way of looking at life that is paradoxically a gift."

Cultivating a sense of gratitude for one's blessings and a willingness to help others can also help people get through difficult moments. It's something that Lovette-Colyer says he's continued to see in the USD community even as the recession has worsened.

For example, he says he might not have been surprised to see less interest in University Ministry's "Spring Break Experience" to travel to Tijuana and engage in service for the less fortunate, especially since students get no academic credit for it and have to pay to participate. "But the demand was stronger than ever," with 22 students signing up for the experience, he says. During the trip, students did a lot of thinking and talking about the declining economy and its even more severe impact on developing countries like Mexico.

And given the economic climate, their reflections had even deeper resonance than usual: "They were very much open to thinking about the problems we are facing in a holistic way, not in a self-interested way."

Impossible or not, the Legal Clinics can offer clients a leg up against well-funded landlords or other foes. Just having represen-

[advise]

LEGAL EAGLES

Clinics provide safety net for public

by Kelly Knufken

Navigating the legal system can leave anyone feeling helpless, and the financial crisis is leaving more and more people in need of whatever help they can get.

The USD School of Law's Legal Clinics step in to assist those most in need, helping them deal with everything from landlord disputes to small claims filings.

Tough economic times are prompting more people to go after small amounts of money they're owed through small claims court, says Margaret Dalton, administrative director of the Legal Clinics. And layoffs are prompting many to find their passion and open a business, driving traffic to the Entrepreneurship Clinic.

With housing issues at the core of the current financial calamity, USD's Landlord-Tenant Clinic is also seeing high demand.

"We've definitely seen an influx of tenant issues," Dalton says. That influx prompted creating a new Landlord-Tenant Clinic as an offshoot of the Civil Clinic it used to be part of.

With rising foreclosures came unexpected problems for renters, such as being the last to know their housing situation is changing.

"It changes all the rules. (Renters) don't get notice. They don't know the house is being foreclosed. The landlord is still collecting rent, then they get a 60-day notice," says Jesi Betancourt, the clinics' paralegal. "Trying to take the landlord — who's now gone — to small claims is just impossible."

Impossible or not, the Legal Clinics can offer clients a leg up against well-funded landlords or other foes. Just having represen-

tation helps clients be taken more seriously.

"We provide the same service that somebody charging \$350 an hour provides," Dalton says. "We truly do. We're a law office here."

The office's location in USD's Barcelona building on Linda Vista Avenue provides not only a large suite of offices, but also easy access for clients who use public transportation.

"Our priority is training law students in the ethical practice of law," Dalton says. "The wonderful side effect is that we have our own law office, and we are able to provide free legal services to lower-income San Diegans."

Each semester, some 50 upper-division law students become interns to the clinics, picking one of eight individual clinics: civil, entrepreneurship, immigration, California and federal income tax, landlord-tenant, small claims and special education. They're supervised by attorneys at every step, providing what Dalton calls a safety net they may not have at a big law firm.

And there are other benefits to the system.

"We're training compassionate lawyers. A lot of our students come back and they provide pro bono services, and they bring it into their firm's culture," Betancourt says.

And the legal system is well-served when people who might otherwise represent themselves instead have lawyers who can keep cases moving better than someone who doesn't understand the law or the system.

The financial crisis is keeping the Legal Clinics and its interns busy.

"There is no dearth of low-income clients," Dalton says. "The phones are ringing off the hook, even during what used to be the quiet days."

GIFTS AT WORK

The Hilton Foundation recently delivered a check for \$1 million in fulfillment of a challenge grant made at the beginning of the campaign for the construction of Mother Rosalie Hill Hall. In order to receive the funds, the university was obligated to raise \$15 million for the building from other sources, a goal that was recently reached. The challenge was instrumental in attracting additional funding for the SOLES building, which has quickly become an integral part of the campus. The university is grateful to the many foundations, individuals, corporations, trustees, alumni, friends, faculty and staff who helped make the new building a reality.

David Shirk, director of the Trans-Border Institute, was awarded a \$300,000 grant from the William and Flora Hewlett Foundation. The two-year award will allow the institute to continue its international collaborations with entities south of the border. Additionally, the grant will generate new research to promote the successful implementation of justice reforms in Mexico.

School of Law faculty member Frank Partnoy has been appointed to the newly created George E. Barrett Professorship in Law and Finance. The professorship honors Nashville, Tenn., attorney George E. Barrett, senior partner at Barrett, Johnston & Parsley. Beginning in the late 1950s, Barrett was an advocate for those facing legal difficulties because of their involvement in the civil rights movement. Established through a gift from an anonymous donor, the professorship recognizes an outstanding USD law faculty member with a demonstrated interest in protecting investors, consumers, workers or others from fraud or other abuses of power. Partnoy is a nationally recognized scholar and expert on topics related to financial market regulation.

[alleviate]

AT YOUR SERVICE

USD provides options galore for those who need assistance

by Ryan T. Blystone

The signs are everywhere. Stores that once displayed their name in lights are now dark and deserted. The stock market careens up and down on a daily basis. The unemployment rate in California is at a staggering level. Home foreclosures are increasingly common. It seems like one piece of bad news after another: Times are tough and getting tougher.

But tough times can bring out the best in people. Take Gregory Pogue, USD's director of human resources. While he and his staff work diligently on behalf of the university's 1,670 benefits-based employees, Pogue doesn't hesitate to reach out beyond Alcalá Park's boundaries.

Pogue saw a Sunday newspaper photo that showed a woman wearing a sandwich board in downtown San Diego, telling anyone who'd pay attention that she lost her job and was looking for work. "When I came in to work on Monday, I said 'Let's find her and invite her here.'" The woman appreciated the gesture and made good use of the university's employment resources. "She was so appreciative. Those are the kinds of things we do because of who we are and our sense of community," Pogue says.

The urge to jump in and help isn't new at a values-based institution like USD. In fact, many of our schools have centers and institutes devoted to assisting people on- and off-campus with

business advice, networking opportunities and more.

"We're providing resource manpower in a lot of places and the university, as a whole, is doing that," says Elaine Elliott, director of the Center for Community Service-Learning. A number of on-campus organizations offer spiritual assistance, opportunities to work with area community organizations and a place for the campus community to come together.

Students with more immediate needs can head to the Career Services office, which aims to help them prepare for the unstable job market with job fairs, résumé writing and interviewing tips. The office has also organized events for alumni who need career assistance.

Those pondering a return to the classroom so they're armed and ready when the economic situation improves will find a wealth of options on campus.

"We have great educational programs for people who decide this is the time to seek an additional degree or to retrain themselves," Provost Julie Sullivan says. "If you're thinking about going back to school for whatever it might be, we have the breadth of programs here to satisfy that."

One popular option is USD's Paralegal Program, the oldest American Bar Association-approved program in San Diego. Taught by practicing attorneys, students learn about researching

and managing cases, drafting documents, interviewing clients and preparing trial exhibits.

Wendy Agostinelli, a certified paralegal and legal fees auditor in San Marcos, went through the accelerated day program — which takes just over three months to complete — in 1989. Twenty years later, she says it's one of the

best decisions she's ever made.

"It really helped me with my research and writing abilities," Agostinelli says. "I love the program there. It was nice going to a smaller university that still has all the resources and is very connected."

The Hahn School of Nursing and Health Science offers the Master's Entry Program in Nursing

(MEPN), which is specifically designed for students who already have a college degree in another subject but want to pursue a nursing career.

The university is also trying to keep pace as advances in technology and sustainability awareness spawn new career opportunities. "We're certainly expanding our

programming, and some of this is a result of the economic downturn," Sullivan says. "The economic stimulus package is very focused on clean technology, green industries. We have new programs, centers, institutes and majors dealing with preparing students to be leaders in that clean tech sector of the economy."



ALBERTO RUGGERI

[etc.]

USD's 50,000th graduate

will collect her diploma this May. The Alumni Association held a contest for graduating seniors to compete for the title of the "honorary 50,000th alumnus" to commemorate this milestone. One of the application questions was "What will you treasure most about your USD experience?" Winner Amanda Rausch, a psychology major and English minor, wrote, "I can truly say that USD has given me the best four years of my life. I will never forget the first day I moved into Maher Hall, kissed my parents good-bye, and sat on the balcony with my new roommates watching the sun set over Mission Bay and the ocean." Rausch has made the most of her college years; in addition to maintaining a strong GPA, she served as a tour guide for Undergraduate Admissions, worked as a peer adviser and counselor for the Office of Student Learning and Initiatives, was elected vice president of chapter relations for her sorority, Gamma Phi Beta, and much, much more. In fact, Rausch says, "I am so dedicated to the university that I have decided not to leave, due to my recent acceptance into the Marriage and Family Therapy Graduate Program."

Violence in Mexico related to drug trafficking was the topic on Capitol Hill in late March; that's when USD professor David Shirk testified before the House Appropriations Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice, Science and Related Agencies. While Trans-Border Institute director Shirk disagreed with statements by Rep. John Culberson (R-Texas) that Mexico was more dangerous than Iraq, he did stress the need for the United States to redouble its efforts to address the southbound flow of weapons and cash. For more on

Shirk's work with the Trans-Border Institute, go to www.sandiego.edu/tbi.

Pope Benedict XVI recently named Bishop Salvatore Joseph Cordileone, auxiliary bishop of San Diego, to be the bishop of the Diocese of Oakland. A 1978 alumnus of the University of San Diego, Cordileone will be resigning as representative of the Diocese of San Diego on USD's board of trustees, a post which he has held since 2006.

USD's undergraduate

business programs have been ranked in the top three in California by *BusinessWeek* magazine. The School of Business Administration, which has ranked in the top 50 for three years in a row, rose 18 spots this year to No. 29, the largest jump on the magazine's list. The rise was due in part to its ranking of 11th in corporate recruiter satisfaction with students. And for the second year in a row, USD students gave faculty an A+ for their teaching efforts. The magazine lauded the school's "strong focus on accounting, where jobs are still plentiful" and called it a close-knit program (that) helps students feel at home," adding that improved recruiting efforts are starting to pay off. For more about the School of Business, go to www.sandiego.edu/business.

The first annual USD Wine Classic will be held on July 26 at the Joan B. Kroc Institute for Peace & Justice Garden of the Sea. Featuring wines from USD family vintners, the event benefits the Alumni Endowed Scholarship Fund. Participating wineries include Clos La Chance, Villa Creek Cellars, Husch Vineyards and many others. Along with wine tents, attendees can enjoy a string quartet and gourmet food stations. For more, go to www.usdwineclassic.com or call (619) 260-4819.

[goal-driven]

READY TO PLAY

Toreros pitcher has high hopes of making it to the big leagues



by Tom Shanahan

Junior All-American baseball pitcher A.J. Griffin didn't earn credits through one of USD's many study abroad programs, but his overseas studies last summer were easily as valuable to him as his classmates' varied experiences.

Griffin earned a roster spot on the USA Baseball National Team that played games throughout Europe and won the gold medal in the 2008 FISU World Baseball Championships in the Czech Republic.

"It was interesting to see how

different cultures live, and it was great to see how different parts of the world play baseball," he says. "The Japanese, South Korean and Chinese Taipei teams were all very disciplined."

Griffin, a business major who speaks fluent Spanish, took advantage of the opportunity to interact with the Cuban players.

"We know so little about the Cubans because of the embargo on Cuba. It was interesting to talk to them," he says. "They asked me questions about living in America, but mostly it was small talk."

The 6-foot-5, 225-pound Griffin played the role of closer, just as he has done for the Toreros since 2007. As a sophomore, he was named a third-team All-American by Louisville Slugger. He also was first-team All-West Coast Conference pick on the team chosen by WCC coaches.

Although Griffin's talent earned the roster spot at USA Baseball tryouts in North Carolina, the reputation of USD's baseball program under 11th-year head coach Rich Hill contributed to a number of opportunities.

In fact, USD's success under Hill is what attracted Griffin to Alcalá Park when he was the Player of the Year for the California Interscholastic Federation San Diego Section as a senior at Grossmont High in 2006.

In addition to annual national rankings, USD has been to the

Pitcher A.J. Griffin earned a spot last summer on the USA Baseball National Team, which allowed the junior All-American to represent his country on an international stage.

NCAA tournament three straight years and five of the last seven. The Toreros entered the 2009 season as West Coast Conference champions.

"We're always going to have good teams here," Griffin says. "We have good depth, and we enjoy playing together. We're all buddies here with the same goal."

Griffin's summer experience following his freshman and sophomore years at USD has propelled him into his junior year as a candidate for the Golden Spikes Award, presented to college baseball's top player by USA Baseball.

As a sophomore, his 14 saves set a single-season school record; his combined 25 saves as a freshman and sophomore established a career record that he's adding to as a junior.

Although the team has been slowed by injuries in 2009, Griffin has helped the Toreros remain in the hunt for a third straight WCC title and a fourth consecutive NCAA trip.

Hill has used Griffin as a starter and in longer stints as a reliever, which helps showcase him before scouts; Griffin will be eligible this year for the amateur draft in June. According to Hill, Griffin is projected as a third- to 10th-round draft pick.

"It's been my goal since I was a kid to play in the major leagues," Griffin says. "I don't plan on giving up on that goal. Baseball is the best game in the world to me."

[legendary]

BASKETBALLHERO

Bickerstaff receives WCC Honor

by Ryan T. Blystone

Bernie Bickerstaff has a wife, five children and six grandchildren. But his devotion to basketball is fervent enough to make the sport an honorary member of the family.

The 1968 University of San Diego graduate — a Toreros point guard from 1964 to 1966 and head coach from 1969 to 1973 — maintains his passion for the game by working as an assistant coach with the Chicago Bulls. He helped first-year head coach Vinny Del Negro and the team earn an Eastern Conference playoff spot. Bickerstaff's new position is yet another chapter in his 35-year affiliation with the NBA.

But Bickerstaff hasn't forgotten his college roots. He was recently selected as USD's representative for the inaugural class of the West Coast Conference's Hall of Honor, and was inducted during March's WCC Men's Basketball Tournament in Las Vegas. The Toreros were an NCAA Division II program when Bickerstaff played and were coached by Phil Woolpert, for whom Bicker-

staff served as an assistant and ultimately replaced as head coach. He was a senior captain and most valuable player in 1966, leading the Toreros in rebounding that season. As USD's coach, Bickerstaff posted a 55-49 record, capped by a 19-9 record in 1972-73.

He's been an NBA head coach with Seattle, Denver and Washington, and has 415 victories under his belt. In 2004, Bickerstaff was hired as the first coach and general manager of the expansion Charlotte Bobcats. He was inducted into USD's Chet and Marguerite Pagni Family Athletics Hall of Fame in 1994.

"Bernie Bickerstaff represents the best of our student-athletes, coaches and alumni of the University of San Diego athletics," says Ky Snyder, USD's executive director of athletics. "As a student-athlete he was a leader and top achiever. As a coach, he elevated our program. As an alumnus he has supported his alma mater and has connected other alumni to their careers in the NBA."



[farewell]

REST IN PEACE

Men's tennis coach passes away

When we got the diagnosis, everything stopped," Tom Hagedorn said in an interview a few months ago. "It's like somebody presses a button and your entire life is put on hold. Whatever's happening with your Blackberry suddenly doesn't seem quite so important."

Sadly, after fighting a valiant 18-month battle with leukemia, Hagedorn passed away on March 21, 2009.

Head coach of the USD men's tennis team for 12 years, he had been focused on getting his Toreros back to the NCAA Tournament after a streak of four straight appearances — and 10 straight winning seasons — had ended in 2006. He needed plenty of stamina for the grueling round of treatments he underwent, but said that getting through the hardships also corresponded with a renewed appreciation for life's little pleasures.

"The highs initially were so simple," he said. "Like just driving the car with the windows down, listening to Dave Matthews. It was so simple yet so euphoric. Even those little things felt so unbelievable to me." Over the past year, Hagedorn dedicated himself to the cause of fighting leukemia. In October 2008, he walked with family, friends and more than 150 USD athletes, coaches and staff in a "Light the Night" event to raise money for the Leukemia & Lymphoma Society.

A "Celebration of Life" gathering to honor him was held for all who knew him at Eagan Plaza in front of the Jenny Craig Pavilion on March 25.

The Hagedorn family asks that those who'd like to honor Tom's memory with a gift make a donation to the Leukemia & Lymphoma Society of San Diego or to the USD Athletics Department.

[aesthetics]

BEAUTIFUL BY DESIGN

USD's harmonious campus style didn't happen by accident

by Trisha J. Ratledge

Terry Whitcomb '53 didn't need another title. She was already quite busy teaching four classes and chairing USD's Art Department in the early 1970s. But she just couldn't get past the incongruity of wicker lounge furniture on the Spanish Renaissance campus.

Whitcomb's concern went beyond aesthetics. A member of the first senior class at USD, she knew Mother Rosalie Hill, who carefully chose USD's master design. The 16th century Spanish Renaissance architecture reflected Catholicism as

well as Gothic, Moorish, Iberian and Italian influences, which all merged into a distinctive style that spoke volumes.

"She said that's what a university should be: diverse ideas that come together and result in something that is stronger than any of its original elements," Whitcomb recalls.

Until the 1970s, however, that philosophy ended at the doorsteps of the buildings. Inside, the furnishings represented many design periods and ranged widely in quality. Whitcomb met with Art Hughes, the new president, and explained how a cohesive style for the interior spaces would be economical and practical. Soon, she had an additional title and a file cabinet that served as her new office for institutional design.

"Dr. Hughes is the reason (the campus design) is consistent and beautiful. He made it a part of the master plan."

As public spaces began to require renovation, Whitcomb applied a master color palette — drawn from the university's antique tapestries — to the floors, walls, ceilings and finishes. Furniture and other decorative arts followed the straight lines and style of the Spanish Renaissance era. The master style eased decision-making, reduced costs, and ensured that furniture and other decorative pieces could move anywhere on campus.

Whitcomb used similar ingenuity within the Art Department,

Terry Whitcomb '53 still appreciates the vision and spirit of Mother Hill, who arrived on a dusty San Diego hilltop 60 years ago bearing a Baccarat chandelier.

where she established Founders Gallery in 1975 and started a class in exhibition design. Each year, her students developed and installed five shows with a total annual budget of just \$1,000. They needed to be inventive, mixing leftover paint, recycling materials and straightening and reusing nails.

One year, Whitcomb offered her students' research skills to the San Diego Museum of Art in exchange for the opportunity to exhibit impressionist Childe Hassam's art at Founders Gallery.

"That had a profound effect on me," recalls former student Bob O'Connell '82, an art expert in the insurance industry and owner of Chicago's Architrave art gallery. "I got to do the research, I was published in a catalog and then they had the exhibition at Founders. It deeply influenced what I do today."

Another former student, Mary Whelan '86, understands Whitcomb's work like no other. She is USD's current director for institutional design.

"It's a privilege," says Whelan. "I'm carrying on a tradition that's very needed for this campus."

Back on campus occasionally, Whitcomb still appreciates the vision and able spirit of Mother Hill, who arrived on a dusty hilltop in San Diego 60 years ago bearing a Baccarat chandelier.

"The students get the finest teachers. They have the best books. They should have the best decorative arts around them," Whitcomb says. 🌱



MARSHALL WILLIAMS



ALBERTO RUGGERI

[perspective]

SAVING GRACE

When bad news came, the comfort provided by family and friends gave Dan McNamee the strength he needed

by Tiffany Fox

Somewhere along the treacherous path between crisis and catastrophe, there's a fork in the road that leads to opportunity. Dan McNamee has a knack for finding those hidden junctures, even when all signs point the way to disaster.

"I believe in the human ability to innovate and overcome," says McNamee '89 (J.D. '94). "When my father died of cancer I learned a lot about death."

"My own experience with cancer has taught me a lot about life — how I want to live and what I want to do with the rest of my life."

In the mid 1980s, during finals week of his first semester at USD, McNamee learned that his

father had been diagnosed with lung cancer. He died eight months later, leaving McNamee with little means to afford his tuition. He appealed to the university's financial aid office, which revised his financial aid package so he could finish school and later embark on a successful career.

But in June of 2008, McNamee found out that he, too, had cancer. Although the tumor hadn't spread, it was serious enough to require immediate surgery and three months of chemotherapy — an experience that McNamee says broke him "physically, mentally and emotionally."

"I went into it a little naive, thinking 'a little bit of cancer, a little bit of chemo,'" he recalls.

"But chemo snapped me in half. I was on an I.V. six hours a day, five days a week. It was like someone taking a vacuum and sucking all of the energy out of my body."

McNamee, married 10 years and the father of two, says the comfort of family and friends — including several USD alumni — carried him through the ordeal.

"They brought meals, made phone calls, sent cards, watched our kids, sent e-mails and text messages, gave rides, visited, and said lots of prayers," he says. "It was the kindness of other people that inspired me during treatment to want to do something to give back when I was healthy again."

The opportunity presented

itself last year at a Sigma Pi reunion party, where McNamee met fellow USD alumni Michael O'Connell '87 and Julie (Belfiore) O'Connell '88. The O'Connells had lost their son, Kyle, to brain stem cancer when he was just 9 years old, and had created the Kyle O'Connell Memorial Scholarship at USD in his honor. Inspired by Kyle's story and the opportunity to give back to USD, McNamee, 41, decided to run in the America's Finest City half-marathon in August to raise funds for the scholarship, which benefits students enrolled in the healing arts.

Now a resident of Orange County, McNamee is also trying to maximize the impact he has on society from a career standpoint. As the founder of Efficiency Capital Partners, a private equity investment management company, he oversees investment funds focused on clean technology, primarily water and energy efficiency. This marks a transition from past job experience, which has included forays into everything from sports marketing to high tech.

McNamee says his new career path is a direct result of his battle with cancer (which provided him, he says, with "a lot of time to sit and reflect,") and represents the new perspective he has on life and the value of giving back.

"Being rendered helpless and being on the receiving end of so much generosity is a very humbling experience," he says. "Now I'm really just trying to be present for whatever time is left. This experience has really brought home how fragile and short life is, and that we all really need to give back to all of the communities of which we are a part." 🌱

Follow Dan McNamee's efforts to raise money to support USD scholarships by visiting www.sandiego.edu/alumni/danmcnamee.



[spinning wheels]

SOLVING THE PUZZLE

When Christopher Yanov won big, he didn't just buy a vowel

Just a few weeks before I was to start a master's program at USD, I attempted to get on the TV game show *Wheel of Fortune* at tryouts in San Diego. I failed to make the cut both times. During my subsequent two-hour drive to Los Angeles, I muttered to myself: How could I forgo a day's salary as a substitute teacher to try out again? Why did I expect the results to be any different this time?

Once I got to the L.A. tryout, the now-familiar contestant search team greeted me. By this point, I knew each of them by name, and in retrospect, I think it was my familiarity with the trio — "Good to see you again, Gary!" "Thanks, Shannon!" "Land me on some big money, Jackie!" — that led them to believe that I could be just as comfortable under the menacing eyes of TV cameras as I was on this third go-round.

Ten days later, I was a bona fide contestant. Thirty minutes after I'd taken the stage, I walked away with nearly twice as much money as I'd earned over an entire year's worth of substitute teaching. Thanks largely to the four R's in the puzzle "British Prime Minister Tony Blair" (that I called for \$3,500 apiece), my life was changed. Pat and Vanna's contribution to my USD education fund allowed me to devote all of my non-studying time to volunteering as the director of Reality Changers, a program dedicated to building first-generation college students from among San Diego's toughest neighborhoods.

I'd started Reality Changers with just \$300 and four eighth-graders in May 2001 after fruitlessly working with gang members for five years. The shootings and killings were beginning to multiply; I'd even gotten stabbed myself about

10 minutes away from campus. As a regular substitute at a nearby middle school, it was hard to imagine that the smart seventh- and eighth-graders that I was teaching every day could soon become the next wave of hardened gang members.

The concept was simple enough: Provide a weekly tutoring program for teens that lived in San Diego neighborhoods where attending a friend's funeral was more commonplace than attending a school dance. Offer the students incentives to encourage them to raise their grades. Get them on the road to becoming the first in their families to attend college. Their biggest motivation for earning A's and B's became \$3,500 scholarships that we offered that allowed the program's best students to attend college residential programs over the summer, earning real university-level credit. Suddenly, achieving collegiate success became palpable for these 15-year-olds.


In 2005, Reality Changers' first class of graduates earned over \$1 million in scholarships, including full rides to Harvard, Dartmouth, Virginia, Northwestern and many others. I'd call that a pretty good return on my original *Wheel of Fortune* investment.

Perhaps our program's biggest story arrived a year later, in the form of Eduardo Corona, who epitomized every gang member stereotype: shaved-bald head, crisp white T-shirt, baggy blue jeans and a permanent scowl. At age 14, Eduardo had been charged with three felonies. The judge gave him a choice: up to six years of incarceration (which would cost taxpayers upwards of \$200,000 per year, according to California's Depart-

ment of Finance) or participation in Reality Changers.

It was an easy decision for Eduardo, but facing new academic rigor was not. Nonetheless, he was up for the challenge. Within a month, his GPA had doubled to 3.8. By the following summer, he enrolled in a college-level mechanical engineering course. Three weeks after that, flanked by some of the nation's most intelligent young people, this teenager from the roughest part of town won the top two design prizes in the class for building the strongest bridge and creating a contraption that could drop an egg without breaking it from three stories high.

Today, Eduardo is a year away from finishing high school. The criminal charges against him were dropped; he's maintained his honor-roll GPA and returned to college last summer to take another science course. His pants fit a little tighter these days and he's grown his hair out. Better yet, his once-hidden smile now flashes incessantly.

It took me three studio tryouts to learn how to become a good contestant on *Wheel of Fortune*. By the time Eduardo graduates from high school, he will have had three summer tryouts to learn how to become a successful college student. Just as I became more comfortable with Gary, Shannon and Jackie, I'm pretty sure that Eduardo will become just as assured when communicating with his future college professors. 

Christopher Yanov '03 was the first USD student to graduate with master's degrees in both peace & justice and international relations. To learn more about Reality Changers, go to www.realitychangers.org.

BARBARA FERGUSON





Hi Diddle Dee Dee



THE *Actor's* *life* suits

breakout TV star **Jim Parsons** just fine.

by Julene Snyder



photography by Stuart Pettican

Down the stairs, single-file, through a long, nondescript hallway, he takes us past one metal door after another after another until one finally opens to the inky concrete night. Familiar faces look up briefly, and then resume their private murmur. Goodbyes are said, directions are given, then Jim Parsons turns back to his colleagues and takes his place among them.

It's a lot easier getting off of the Warner Bros. lot than it was to get onto it. What with the lists, the security, the bag searches, the being handed off every 100 feet from one blue blazer-clad page to the next like batons in a relay race, becoming part of a "Live! Studio! Audience!" was more rigorous than seems reasonable.

Still walking. The soundstages look like enormous Quonset huts, except for the ones that are painted with *trompe l'oeil* to resemble monuments or piazzas or bowling alleys.

At last, the car and just one final guard, one more gate to be opened, then out into the real world, where the street wends past one walled complex after another after another, all designed to keep outsiders out and insiders in, so those behind the walls can keep on pumping out the flickering images that clamor for our oh-so-easily-bored attention.

Ahh. Show business.

The Big Bang Theory is funny. Given that it's a situation comedy, that's a good thing. The premise is both familiar and absurd: a pair of socially inept, brilliant physicist roommates live across the hall from a kooky gorgeous aspiring actress. Hijinks ensue.

Leonard: *We need to widen our circle.*

Sheldon: *I have a very wide circle. I have 212 friends on MySpace.*

Leonard: *Yes, and you've never met one of them.*

Sheldon: *That's the beauty of it.*

Jim Parsons, who earned his MFA through USD's partnership with The Old Globe in 2001, plays the role of Sheldon, a character described as a "beautiful mind with a neurotic but endearing personality." He lives with Leonard, portrayed by Johnny Galecki, who became well-known as a teenager when he played Darlene's long-term boyfriend David in *Roseanne*.

Sheldon is the über-geek in his crowd, which is saying something. He's a hilarious mass of often-insufferable neuroses, and Parsons' rapid-fire delivery and gift for physical comedy jump off the screen whenever he's in a scene. The show was conceived by TV veteran Chuck Lorre (*Dharma & Greg*, *Two and a Half Men*), and was recently picked up by CBS through 2011.

In conversation, the baby-faced Parsons is both like and unlike Sheldon. His voice tends to careen into a higher register when he's excited, but he's the first to admit he doesn't share his character's stratospheric IQ. He credits much of his success to the work he did at USD.

The MFA in dramatic arts program nationally recruits just seven students each year for its two-year course of graduate study in classical theater. At the centerpiece of the training is students' performance work at the Globe. By all accounts, for the lucky few who get in, it's an intense couple of years.

Globe/MFA program director Rick Seer says at first, the staff wasn't sure about accepting Parsons as one of that year's lucky few. "We had some considerations about bringing him into the program," he recalls. "Jim is a very specific personality. He's thoroughly original, which is one reason he's been so successful. But we worried, 'Does that adapt itself to classical theater, does that adapt itself to the kind of training that we're doing?' But we decided that he was so talented that we would give him a try and see how it worked out."

Parsons says he uses his grad-school training all the time. When asked to provide an example, he's quick to answer: "With breath control, there's a way of being 'on top of the text,' as they used to say in Shakespeare. It's very similar for me in this show, staying on top of it, because it will eat you alive otherwise. Sheldon doesn't make brush-off comments; I certainly couldn't improvise them. There's no faking my way through it if I get confused or lost."

That's for sure. When Penny, the hot girl across the hall, says to Sheldon, "I'm a Sagittarius, which probably tells you way more than you need to know." He replies, "Yes, it tells us that you participate in the mass cultural delusion that the sun's apparent position relative to arbitrarily defined constellations at the time of your birth somehow affects your personality."

And that's one of his simpler speeches.

Parsons earned his B.A. in theater at the University of Houston, but he caught the acting bug much earlier. "I got my first named role in the first grade. I was the Kolo-Kolo bird in *The Elephant's Child*." The role had a big effect on him: "I don't know what I'd done to make somebody think that I was the right choice out of 50 students to play a solo part. There were no auditions. I think it was some sort of divine intervention, because looking back, it crystallized a lot of desires for me. I've known from roughly that age that that's what I wanted to do."

He continued to do theater in high school; one role that stands out in his memory was the villain Roat, who terrorizes a blind woman, in *Wait Until Dark*. "I had so much fun playing that evil character. It was just a wonderful experience for me because I've never had the most nefarious look." His laugh sounds suspiciously like a giggle. "As you might imagine, I'm not asked to play mean people or conniving people very often."

His training as an undergraduate gave him a good foundation as an actor. "I did set crew, I was exposed to every part of the theater: movement, voice, running crew, everything. I did a ton of plays at that time; it was a very 'Say yes' period of my life. I did *The Infernal Bridegroom*, Beckett, *Marat/Sade*, *Guys and Dolls*, children's theater, Sam Shepard, Shakespeare. All of that helped me to really hone in and concentrate. It prepared me to go, after a few years, to San Diego."

Craft is something that the 36-year-old Parsons thinks about a lot, and his experiences in the master's program still resonate.

"The Shakespeare classes were three or four intensive plays in a row. It's interesting to be that submerged. I learned more about Shakespeare than I ever had in my entire life, but I just felt more prepared in general,





as an actor, from it. To be fair, Shakespeare can do that anyway. I think you could just study Shakespeare and be absolutely prepared for many facets of the acting profession."

His former teacher says that Parsons' most memorable role while he was in the program was a star turn as Young Charlie in a production Seer directed of Hugh Leonard's *Da*. "It was during his second year, and it was a role that I had originated on Broadway 20 years earlier," he recalls. "The play was very successful; it actually won the Tony. Jim played the part that I originated in New York."

Seer laughs. "I'm sure it wasn't easy, playing the part that the director played, because I have a lot of ideas of how it should be done, and Jim and I are very different people. But in truth, I think he was much better than I was in it. He captured it beautifully, and it was not a part I would have thought he was dead-on for."

With so few students in each year's MFA class, the bond that's created is thicker than glue. "It could be a little risky, to be there all day, every day, with seven people, but for us, it seemed to work," says Parsons. "You feel very protective of the other people by the end of it. You want them to do well."

That's at least in part by design. When it came time for the class to hold showcases in Los Angeles and New York — a ritual in which each new graduate presents two scenes in front of agents and other industry insiders — the actors had to rely on one another.

"It was done in a very smart way," Parsons recalls. "You were asked to bring in scenes for other people, which did a couple of things: For one, instead of just looking for things for yourself, you had six other people looking for scenes for you. Secondly, it's so great to have somebody else's eye, going, 'No, no, no, no, no, do *this*. You do *this* really well.'"

But just putting on a show doesn't necessarily mean anyone will care, or even bother to show up. "The showcase we did in L.A. was very sparsely attended. But a week later, when it was time to go to New York, I think all of us completely packed up our stuff to move there after the showcase."

A gutsy move, but as the song says, if you can make it there, you'll make it anywhere. Of course, the risks were huge: "My thinking was that I'd never done any camera work, so why would I go to L.A.? It made more sense to go where there was theater." He shakes his head and laughs. "And I did one play, *ever*, in New York."

The part wasn't huge — he played a secondary role in the Manhattan Ensemble Theater's off-Broadway production of *The Castle*, an adaptation of a Kafka novel — but the opportunity was priceless.

"The good thing about that was that I got the part, literally, within a couple weeks of being there. While it wasn't much money, it gave me a real sense of working there as an actor." And given the level of rejection most actors face, that experience helped him keep the faith.

"It's so hard. It's so discouraging. You have to really listen to the voices that are telling you you're doing a good job. Whether it's teachers or fellow students in an acting program telling you, or actually getting cast, or just having a good audition, you have *got* to listen." He leans back, pensive.

"You can't kick yourself over not working. I have personally felt tremendous about many, many, many auditions — and then I didn't get the part. It had little to nothing to do with what I brought. You bring who you are and what you do and that's it. You can be worth a gold mine to some people, but not to everybody."

Of course, audience members will expect Parsons to serve up at least a few gold nuggets when he speaks at this year's undergraduate commencement at USD on May 23. When asked what he's planning to talk about, he pauses for a long beat, then smiles.

"Hopefully it will be wonderful."

Getting to this point in his career — stints on shows like *Judging Amy* and *Ed*, having a memorable part in the well-received indie movie *Garden State*, a starring role on a hit network sitcom — took stamina. Parsons doesn't see his journey as resembling that of an overnight success. "I spent a couple of years getting little things here and there," he recalls. "Working little jobs, surviving on unemployment."

Three years went by, and then the big break came: Parsons got a pilot for Fox. But then it didn't get picked up.

Not to worry: "It gave me enough money to live on for a little while. Then I got another pilot."

Now the big break, right? "That one didn't get picked up. But it did lead to a little talent-holding deal with CBS."

Ah, finally, success! "That didn't lead to anything specific. But once again, it paid for another part of my life. Then, I was out here shooting a very small part in a movie and I got another pilot, for *The Big Bang Theory*. And we didn't get picked up."

Wait, *this* is the happy ending part, right? "Well, CBS liked it enough that they thought it should be reworked. They thought it could be made better, and I guess they were right. Johnny Galecki and me stayed on board while different people were cast and it was reworked a little bit. Then it *did* get picked up."

Interestingly, from Seer's perspective, Parsons' career has been on the fast track. "I remember quite clearly that he was really the star of that (New York) showcase, because he was so special. He just immediately started working, in rather high-profile projects. His career took off very quickly."

So why does Parsons recall that time of his life as being so much of a holding pattern? Seer laughs. "It probably felt like that, but in truth, seven or eight years is a relatively short amount of time to go from waiting for the phone to ring to being very successful to being 'a name,'" he says.

Parsons moved from New York to Los Angeles for *The Big Bang Theory*, and it turned out to be a good fit. "I'm very comfortable in L.A., because it reminds me of Houston. There's a lot of driving, and it's sprawled out, whereas New York is more condensed. For me, it's just an easier way of life."

He's fully aware of just how lucky he is. After all, there are just as many starving actors on the West Coast as the East. "My vision is rosy, because I've only lived out here while I've been working. In New York I was unemployed a lot, just sitting around and waiting. But I've been a pretty busy bee since I've lived out here, and I feel pretty comfortable anywhere that I'm working."

Even the endless driving isn't really an issue, at least not anymore. "Now that I have GPS — because I'm a fool, direction-wise — I can get around. When I first started coming out here, like five years ago, it wasn't that common to have a GPS, and I was completely reliant on maps. I would literally go seven miles in five hours if it was raining. But now I have a handy satellite thing talking to me. Life is really a lot better."

Speaking of the good life, at a taping of "The Vegas Renormalization" episode, the studio audience is atwitter with excitement. They're seated in rows of straight-backed chairs on tiered risers facing a

series of tall black, wheeled screens that hide the show’s set from view. An enthusiastic audience-warmer urges everyone to hold hands, burst into song, compete for prizes and generally make fools of themselves.

This particular audience is eager for taping to begin, and is, in fact, on the verge of hysteria in anticipation. When the lights go down, there’s a rustle of excitement that doesn’t abate, even though the dimming merely signifies that the monitors hanging from the ceiling are about to show a previous episode of *The Big Bang Theory*. More than one person sings along with the theme song: “Our whole universe was in a hot dense state / Then nearly 14 billion years ago expansion started. Wait.”

Twenty-two minutes later, the big moment has arrived. One by one, the cast members emerge from behind one of the wheeled screens. “Kunal Nayyar as Koothrappali!” “Simon Helberg as Wolowitz!” “Kaley Cuoco as Penny!” “Jim Parsons as Sheldon!” “Johnny Galecki as Leonard!” Sustained, wild applause. All of them seem really tiny, except for Parsons, who, at 6-foot-2, looms over his castmates. When taping begins, the screens are removed from in front of just the particular set featured in the scene, and the audience settles, more than ready to laugh.

One would think that having a live audience could be distracting for the actors, and Parsons says that in a way, that’s true. “It can be. That’s why I don’t look out at the audience; if I start looking at them, it really distracts me.”

Not to mention the dozens of people milling about a few feet from the actors, bustling here and there with pages of new lines, wheeling back and forth with cameras and lights, scurrying in with make-up brushes and props. It’s dizzying to imagine the pressure of all those people with their eyes on you, not to mention the millions out there in TV-land. “I try to run my lines while they’re actually doing costume and make-up,” Parsons says. “I figure if I can get the lines out while they’re doing all of that, then I’ll be OK in the scene.”

But there is an energy that comes from acting in front of an audience that makes all of the hullabaloo worth it. “It makes the show better,” he says. “It’s so similar to doing theater in front of a live audience. When you’re rehearsing, the audience is the missing character. This show has that in common with theater: You work and you work to get it as sturdy as possible and as honest as possible, and you know you’re going to play in front of them, but it never fails that certain things become black and white when the audience is there.”

It’s fascinating to watch, this carefully choreographed ballet. The filming is done linearly, probably more for the actors than the audience. Once each scene is good to go, a woman stands with a clapboard that digitally records a time code. Time and again, her soft voice precedes the definitive clack when she snaps it shut: “Camera A ... B ... C ... and X. Common mark!” Then she steps out of the way and a voice calls out, “Continuing on, and action!”

Parsons’ dressing room is upstairs, just a few dozen steps from where the show is filmed. It’s nice enough: overstuffed neutral furniture, some photos, a few personal mementos. He’s a bit manic after the show, which isn’t surprising, given the schedule that leads up to filming each week’s episode.

“We start out Wednesday morning with a table read, then we stage the whole show. We usually go home pretty early that day and get rewrites that night from what they heard at the table read.” So far, so good. “Then we rehearse all day on Thursday and show the writers a

full run of the show that afternoon, and then they rewrite some more. Friday we do a repeat of that; we rehearse all day and then the writers and Warner Bros. and CBS all come to the Friday run-through. And then we have the weekend.”

His gaze is direct, his manner, utterly charming. Parsons is one of those people with the gift of seeming like they can’t think of anyplace else they’d rather be.

“For me, personally, I’m so grateful to have those weekends. I don’t know how I’d memorize some of the longer passages if I didn’t have that time. I really treasure having time alone to focus without being tested with a run-through. On Mondays, we come in early and stay pretty late because we stage it with the cameras and lighting and pre-tape any scenes that are technically difficult, because when you do it in front of a live audience, they can get pretty tired.”

It’s exhausting just hearing about it. “Tuesday we come in late, 11 or noon, and we go through the entire show again for the cameras. Then we run the show for the producers again. Then we have dinner, do the live show at 7 and tape until around 10:30.”

And the next day? Get up and start the process all over again. “That day we’re always like zombies, no matter how easy the taping was.”

Sheldon: It’s very simple. Scissors cuts paper, paper covers rock, rock crushes lizard, lizard poisons Spock, Spock smashes scissors, scissors decapitates lizard, lizard eats paper, paper disproves Spock, Spock vaporizes rock, and — as it always has — rock crushes scissors.

In spite of the distractions, Parsons can’t seem to stop waxing rhapsodic about performing in front of a live audience. “It’s a wonderful marriage of the theater and the camera work. The advantage is that if you mess up, you get to do it again. The disadvantage is that you still want to get it right, because things don’t get any funnier the second time around.”

And his character Sheldon is not only the funniest on the show, but also the one with the most complicated speeches. Which isn’t all that surprising; after all, he is supposed to be an incredibly gifted physicist.

“The problem is that Sheldon is not only brilliant, but he has no social niceties to him at all, so he finds no reason to condense something for somebody. Why would the whole list of facts bore you? He thinks, ‘You should probably have all of the information at your fingertips like I do,’ so he goes through every excruciating step of an explanation.”

His star is clearly rising, but Parsons says he’s nowhere near the point where his celebrity impedes him from going about his business. “I’ve seen some photos of me when I was out shopping that surprised me, because I didn’t know they had been taken, but that’s a rare occurrence.” He laughs. “Let’s put it this way. I’m not getting mobbed. I sign scarce, few autographs in real life. I guess I’m pretty low on the excitement totem pole of the people you can see in L.A. right now.”

He stifles a yawn. It’s getting late. So he leads the way, down the stairs, single-file, through a long, nondescript hallway, past one metal door after another after another until he pulls one open to the moonlit night. His castmates glance up, then go back to their own business. Goodbyes are said.

Parsons turns back to his colleagues, and then takes his place among them. 📺



AFTER the STORM

On the front lines of catastrophe

by Nathan Dinsdale

The ground begins to shake in China. A massive wave surges violently toward Sri Lanka. Ferocious winds and turbulent waters pummel levees in Louisiana until they shudder and crack. We all know what happens next.

For most people, the utter devastation wrought by disaster — both natural and man-made — snares our attention for a few fleeting moments with horrifying television clips, shocking headlines and somber radio bulletins. Then it's back to our regularly scheduled program.

But for others, the real work has just begun. They are the ones responsible for rendering immediate aid to devastated populations in the aftermath of a catastrophe. They are also the intrepid workers who help shattered communities recover, rebuild and protect against future disasters. When lightning strikes and the world splinters, two USD graduates are among those helping to pick up the pieces.



Tracy Reines has a peculiar way of telling time. She recalls most of the last decade less by strict chronology than by geographical calamity: In 2002, it was New York after 9/11. Then wartime reconstruction in Afghanistan (2004), the tsunami aftermath in Sri Lanka (2005) followed by famine in the Horn of Africa (2008). But it was a refugee camp in the Kigoma region of Tanzania (2000) that left perhaps her most indelible memory.

That's where Reines met the man with the scar. He was one of the thousands of displaced survivors who'd escaped to Tanzania after fleeing civil wars in Burundi and the Democratic Republic of Congo to the west, and massive floods in Mozambique to the south. The man bore a hardened wound beneath his chin that stretched from ear to ear, a ghastly memento left behind by an assailant's machete.

"To me, it was the most horrific example of the darkness of humanity," she says. "But at the same time, he was alive, he had a family — two little kids running around — and he was tending his own little garden in this refugee camp and just living his life."

At the time, Reines was a backpacker-turned-volunteer-humanitarian. Now she's director of the American Red Cross International Response Operations Center, but the image still serves as a reminder of perseverance in the face of peril.

"I've seen so many people in so many terrible situations, and their ability to cope and be resilient still amazes me. When you see that over and over again, it becomes very difficult to complain about a subway train running late. Everyone has their daily annoyances, but that just puts things into incredible perspective."

After earning her communications degree from USD in 1994, Reines spent months traveling throughout Southeast Asia before returning to San Diego to teach English as a Second Language. Then she joined the Peace Corps and spent two years training teachers in rural villages ("It was very basic; no electricity, no running water") in Namibia.

"I fell in love with [Africa] when I was in the Peace Corps," she says. "I just connected with the environment, the people and the continent in general. It's a very dynamic, very emotional place, and I had a very strong affection for it."

After leaving the Peace Corps, Reines spent months backpacking across southern and eastern Africa. Then catastrophic floods hit Mozambique. She felt an urgent desire to help and suddenly found herself standing outside a Red Cross command post.

"It's kind of funny to look back at me just knocking on their door and saying, 'Hi, I want to volunteer,'" she recalls. "I didn't know anything about how the system worked. It just felt very immediate. I wouldn't say it was exciting, it was just very visceral and tangible and pressing."

She worked as a Red Cross volunteer in the Tanzanian refugee camps before returning to the United States to earn her graduate degree in international education policy from Harvard, while also interning in the American Red Cross department she now heads. After graduation, Reines spent about 18 months working as part of the Red Cross international family assistance program, which is aimed at providing aid to the families of the more than 500 victims of the 9/11 attacks who were either foreign nationals or were supporting dependents outside the U.S.



In 2004, Reines became an education manager for the International Rescue Committee in Afghanistan to help train teachers and ensure that Afghani girls had equal access to schooling. The controversial assignment took place far from the relative safety of Kabul, in a remote region near the Pakistan border where Taliban fundamentalism still reigned.

The day she arrived, a United Nations employee was shot and killed and schools were burned to the ground. Reines had to be driven everywhere by convoy; she wore head-to-toe Western clothing, while her Afghan counterparts wore burkas.

“It was a very complicated and complex environment but it was also phenomenally interesting,” she says. “It could be a bit nerve-racking, but the people I met and worked with were fascinating and, again, incredibly resilient.”

In late 2004, Reines rejoined the American Red Cross to head up hurricane relief operations in Grenada, then tsunami disaster response in Sri Lanka before returning to work at American Red Cross headquarters in Washington, D.C.

“I think there’s a very particular profile, a set of skills and interests that make you able to do this kind of work,” she says. “There’s not that many people who want to do it and can do it beyond a year or two. I just feel like a very fortunate person to have the experiences I’ve had and to be in the position I’m in.”

As director of the IROC, Reines oversees a team of six people who are responsible for handling the logistics of every international disaster response undertaken by the American Red Cross. That includes managing internal operations, dispensing funds, mobilizing response teams and deploying stockpiles of emergency supplies, all with the understanding that lives literally hinge on their job efficiency.

“I’d say 85 percent of what we do is not on the international news,” she says. “Our resources are limited, but there is always something happening. A lot of the things we’re working on right this minute — floods in Colombia, floods in Sri Lanka, food security in the Horn of Africa, aid in Gaza, cholera in Zimbabwe, fires in Australia, an earthquake in Costa Rica — most people don’t even know about.”

Reines spends less time in the field these days and more time shuttling between D.C. and the Red Cross’ international headquarters in Geneva, Switzerland, but in the last two years has still assisted on the ground with flood relief in Mozambique and overseeing food security assessments in Ethiopia, Kenya and Djibouti.

“There’s no question that when you travel a lot you crave normalcy and predictability,” she says. “So to quench that thirst, last year I bought a house and I bought a dog. That said, I have a lot of housesitters and dogsitters.”

Reines says she welcomes “dipping my toe” into some semblance of a typical 9-to-5 life and she eventually foresees herself working on more of a policy level, possibly with education reform within the United States. For the time being, however, she’s still invigorated by her work despite the rigors it commands.

“I don’t have any huge lofty ideals or naiveté about this work,” she says. “It’s complicated, it’s painful and it can be very ugly and frustrating and heartbreaking. But I also believe in this organization, and I feel profoundly fortunate to have a job that I love. You have to put your energy somewhere, and if you can affect people’s lives in a positive way — even for a moment — I think that’s a good use of your energy.”

Jennifer Gerbasi didn’t have to wait long. Mere weeks after taking over as a disaster recovery planner

in southern Louisiana, her first disaster came calling.

And when word spread that Hurricane Gustav’s arrival was imminent, her reaction was immediate.

“We just left,” she recalls with a laugh. “When they said a hurricane was coming we didn’t sit around and think about it.”

She wasn’t alone. Gustav sparked one of the largest evacuations in U.S. history across a region still nursing wounds inflicted by Hurricane Katrina in 2005. Then, 12 days after Gustav made landfall, Hurricane Ike struck. Talk about on-the-job training.

“We’re always on the edge of another storm,” Gerbasi says. “It’s just a fact of life in this part of the country. But one of the major complications is that we’re also always working on recovery programs for previous storms when the next one hits.”

After graduating from the USD School of Law in 1995, Gerbasi spent years working on environmental policy issues in California and elsewhere before earning a degree in environmental management from Cornell University, then a master of laws in advocacy from Georgetown University.

She eventually became director of policy and legislative affairs for the Tennessee Clean Water Network, an advocacy organization focused on water quality issues. In June 2008, after years of butting heads with government bureaucrats, Gerbasi officially became one when she joined the Terrebonne Parish Consolidated Government.

The biggest difference? “I can’t sue them now in order to get things done,” she laughs ruefully. “Filing a lawsuit or an injunction was pretty effective in Tennessee. I can be a little bit of an apologist (now that I’m working within the government), but in many respects it just gives me better access.”

But access doesn’t guarantee expediency. Gerbasi oversees the Hazard Mitigation Grant Program for the Terrebonne Parish planning and zoning department. The federal program — administered through FEMA — is intended to provide recovery funds for local

governments after a natural disaster. However, there’s a sizable gap between the allocation and implementation of those resources as they navigate through at least three (local, state and federal) different bureaucracies.

“Programs that are supposed to be very simple can languish for years going through all the red tape,” she says. “We’re only just now implementing projects from the 2005 storms because of how slowly the process works. That can be incredibly frustrating, but we find ways to be creative and do everything we can with what we have.”

In addition to helping residents recover from the damage of past storms, Gerbasi works to help insulate communities in the region from future disasters. That’s no easy task when considering the geography of southern Louisiana and how particularly susceptible it is to devastation.

“If you don’t live here, it seems like common sense to say, ‘Don’t build on the flood plain,’” she says. “But the topography is very different here. You go from sea level to an elevation of maybe 15 feet and that’s all. It’s completely flat and it’s mostly bayous and canals. If you see a light in the distance here, it’s probably a bridge.”

Compounding the problem is the fact that the parish’s booming economy — consisting largely of crabbing, fishing, oyster farming, shipbuilding and off-shore drilling — necessitates that the population live in close proximity to the water.

“In reality, you can’t move out of the flood plain,” Gerbasi says. “We have one of the fastest growing metropolitan areas in the nation with a huge housing demand; only eight percent of the region is on buildable land.”

Instead, Gerbasi is helping to design and implement new building and zoning regulations in order to allow communities to mitigate the risks of living in an area vulnerable to natural disasters. And in a region where erosion absorbs “a football field a day” of coastland into the Gulf of Mexico, building up natural safeguards — including erecting barrier islands and planting trees — is an essential part of her work. But those measures will take years to implement. In the meantime, yet another hurricane season approaches.

“Realistically, it’s going to take decades,” Gerbasi says. “Until then, we have to figure out how to pull people above the water and build better within the existing landscape.”

The work can be heartrending. She routinely works with citizens whose homes have been in disrepair for years while waiting on long-delayed government assistance. And while she relishes the opportunity to help alleviate that immediate suffering, her real focus is on making sweeping changes that will impact the region for decades to come.

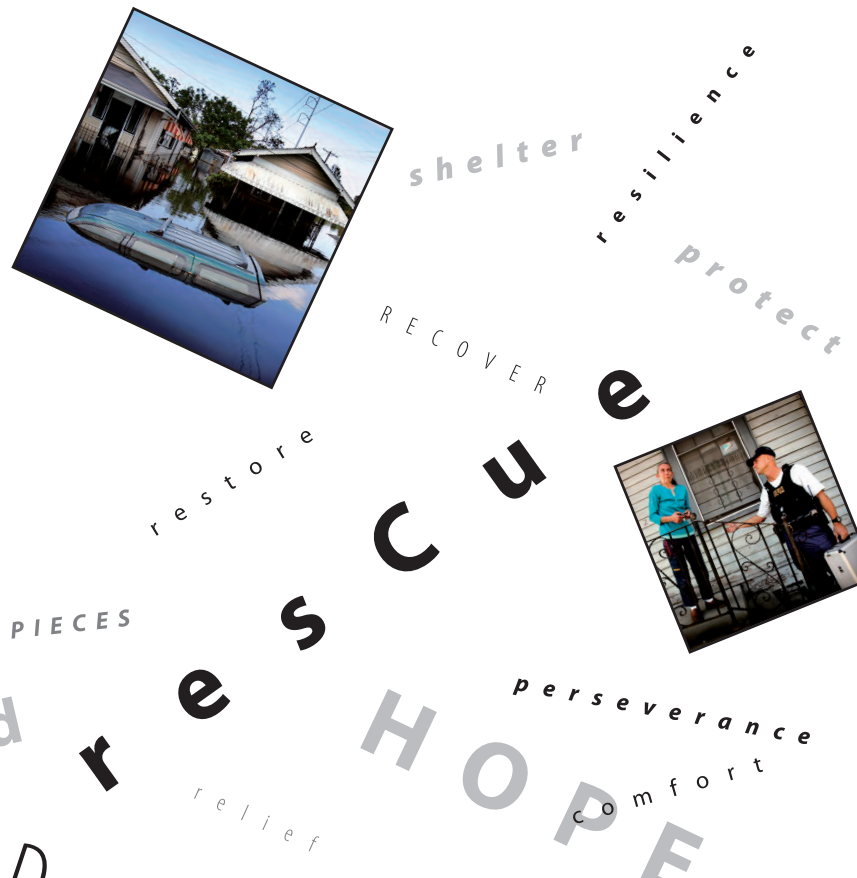
“It’s a wonderful feeling when you’re able to help people,” Gerbasi says. “At the same time, my focus is more on long-term issues. When you can get an ordinance or a piece of legislation past the city council or the state legislature (that) makes a broad change in the community value or a shift in consciousness in order to build toward a better future, that’s very gratifying.”

“Come hell or high water” is a phrase typically cast about with casual bravado. But for Reines and Gerbasi it might as well be a job description. Their work is predicated on bringing hope and comfort to people and places wracked with devastation and despair. Needless to say, it’s not labor for the meek.

“It can be very emotional, especially for the individuals who’ve been directly impacted,” Gerbasi says. “You certainly want to be attentive to that, but you also have to stay focused on the bigger picture in order to do your job efficiently and effectively.”

Bearing witness to widespread pain and suffering simply comes with the territory — but so does the ability to do something about it. And while Reines and Gerbasi have no grand illusions or naiveté about trying to save the world, both are emboldened by the fact that what they do affords them rare opportunities to make a real difference.

“I don’t think everyone can be saved just by giving them a tarp and a bucket,” Reines says. “But I believe in what I’m doing. I feel privileged to have a job I love where I can work with fantastic people and be a part of what’s happening in the world. You just have to shine your little light wherever it makes sense and, for me, this is what makes sense.”



1960s

[1963]

CHARLES WICAL (BBA) is retired in Oregon. “Although I don’t know how one can retire on over 12 acres of mostly forested land, having a lot of the proper tools and machinery helps.” Charles enjoys kayaking, rafting, bicycling and hosting family in the McKenzie River recreation area. “Life is good. We are blessed and we’ll always have San Diego County and USD in our heart.”

[1965]

DAVID DUBIE (B.S.) spent 30 years after his college graduation at the Garrett AiResearch Corp. in Phoenix in the jet engine division. “It was a great experience,” David says, but “then I entered my fun career — buying, selling and restoring older collector cars. This is an extraordinary hobby turned profession, interacting with a group of people that want to ‘own their dream.’ I hope my fellow alumni enjoy their second career as much as I do.”

THORA WALSHE-WOLFE

(CRED., B.A.) retired in May 2008 after 39 years in education and purchased a condo in Imperial Beach for the winter months. “I look forward to attending USD intersession for alumni,” she says.

[1966]

JOYCE COSTELLO (B.A.) retired in 2005 after 34 years of teaching biology at San Diego City College. Joyce and her husband, Dave, moved to Colorado in 2006 and live in Longmont. “We thoroughly enjoy living close to the mountains and our family.”

[1967]

GILES CONWILL (B.A.) was appointed chairman of the history department at Atlanta’s Morehouse College in April 2007. “I am also a priest of the Diocese of San Diego and I look forward to coming back to USD as a professor,” he says.

1970s

[1973]

CHARLES VITUNAC (J.D.) is the city attorney in Vero Beach, Fla. He is married and has two children: Doug, a lawyer in Vero Beach, and

Andrea, an advertising executive in Tallahassee, Fla.

PATRICIA (NEWMAN) WAGONER (B.A.)

is the proud owner of “Tish’s Health & Herbs” in Borrego Springs, Calif. She says the business is a “dream come true” in a community she now calls her home. She enjoys participating in community theater and Chamber of Commerce, and going to the Anza-Borrego Desert State Park, which surrounds Borrego Springs.

[1974]

DWIGHT PRESTON (J.D.) works at a private law firm, Lewis and Preston, in Elizabethtown, Ky. Dwight began his law career in private practice with Lewis, Bland and Preston in 1974. He was elected Hardin County’s attorney in 1978 and also remained in private practice until 1982 when he was elected as Commonwealth’s Attorney for the Ninth District. He returned to private practice in 1992.

[1975]

CRAIG FOX (J.D.) retired in April 2005.

[1977]

THERESA DE LA TORRE (B.A.) manages a laboratory for an entomologist and also works as a CPR instructor on the side.

[1978]

MICHAEL BROWN (J.D.) has relocated to Carlsbad from Lafayette, La., to reopen a law practice specializing in federal and state securities law, arbitration, broker-dealer regulation and expert witness testimony. He has 26 years of experience, including serving as trial attorney for the Enforcement Division of the Securities and Exchange Commission; general counsel for three nationwide securities broker-dealers; and financial adviser for a major wire house. Michael is a lecturer and author on capital markets; arbitrations, broker-dealer compliance and regulations.

TONY SALAY (BBA) has lived in Laguna Niguel for 12 years. He and his wife, Shelley, have two children: son Matt, 18; and daughter Kaela, 11. Matt is expected to attend USD this fall. He plays baseball and swims for his high school. Kaela is involved in cheerleading and gymnastics.

[1979]

E. ANN DUMOLT (B.A.) is a second-year student at the Episcopal

Theological School at Claremont in California. She is preparing for ordination to the vocational diaconate. The focus of her ministry will be pastoral care at the parish level and hospital chaplaincy.

REGINALD GATES (J.D.) published his second book, *Daring Disclosures*, on July 15, 2008. The 194-page book is a compilation of short stories based on personal experiences. Reginald’s first book, *The Barefoot Lawyer*, was published on May 5, 2006.

JAMES HITZELBERGER (BBA)

began a California division of Group Excellence, a private tutoring company, in September 2008. James has enlisted USD students to tutor college prep classes (SAT, ACT, PSAT) as well as private tutoring and tutoring under the No Child Left Behind program. USD alumnus Frank Walsh is a local contact for the company. “We’re trying to make a difference in the San Diego Unified School District as well as San Diego County,” James says.

CARMEN (PYLE) MacDONALD (B.A.)

directs the music program at the Marine Corps Air Station base at Miramar for Sunday morning Mass. She also plays piano for private parties, weddings and funerals as an organist and pianist throughout San Diego. Carmen studied chamber music at Fontainebleau, France, before returning to USD to get her California Clear teaching credential for music, French and Spanish. She taught Spanish and French at Crawford High School for 14 years and took trips to Paris for student-exchange programs. Carmen received scholarships from the Embassy of Spain and Department of Education in Washington, D.C., to study Spanish instruction techniques along with other Spanish teachers from around the world in Santiago de Compostela, Spain, for a summer.

MARILYN MENGES (M.Ed., Ed.D. ’88)

retired from hospital chaplaincy in August 2008. She and her husband have a St. Bernard puppy, Cambridge.

1980s

[1980]

THE REV. MICHAEL DEPTULA (B.A.) is with the Roman Catholic

Diocese of Phoenix, Ariz., and has traveled extensively throughout the United States, parts of Canada and Mexico as well as the Panama Canal this past year.

LINDA DUBROOF (J.D.) was promoted to associate chief in the International Bureau of the Federal Communications Commission. Her husband, Tom McGinnis, was promoted to the rank of admiral in public health service and appointed assistant surgeon general. “Our 12-year-old son, Tommy, pitched and played first base for his baseball team that won its league championship.”

BARBARA O’BRIEN (BSN) is retired. She and her husband, Robert, live in Hilton Head, S.C., where they enjoy playing golf, skiing in the wintertime and spending time with family and friends.

LT. COL. ROBERT QUINNETT (B.A.),

and his wife, Khemarin, and their son, Erik, 7, are on their third year of an accompanied U.S. Army tour of duty. Robert is a military adviser to the Kuwait Armed Forces. The family lives under the authority of the U.S. Embassy in Kuwait. Prior to his current assignment, Robert served an unaccompanied tour of duty with the XVIII Airborne Corps in Iraq for one year. He is in his 34th year of military service — 23 active and 11 years in the reserves.

JOHN RENDE (J.D.)

retired from his work with the Drug Enforcement Administration on April 18, 2007. U.S. Customs and Border Protection in the office of professional responsibility hired John on Sept. 18, 2007.

[1982]

JEANINE DEIGHAN-FAGAN (B.A.) and her husband, John Fagan ’82, are still doing well and keeping busy with their four children, ages 19 to 4. John is a family practitioner and Jeanine continues to promote oncology drugs for Roche Laboratories. Both enjoy running, golf and friends.

JASMIN SAIDI-KUEHNERT (B.A.)

launched Rare Natural Care with her family in January 2008. A fully organic and all-natural skincare line, the company won “Best of Show — Best New Vegetarian Product 2008” at the April 2008 Natural Product Expo West. For more information, go to www.rarenatural.com.

[1983]

SUSAN PAULSON (B.A.) has lived in Chicago for 20 years. She and her husband, Tom, stay busy raising their three children, Emily (16), Ben (13) and Abby (11).

COL. JAMES REILLY (B.A.) lives in Hawaii after living in Japan for three years. James and his wife, Amy, have been married for 18 years. They have two children, Ian (8) and Ava (5).

PATRICIA WILSON (M.Ed.)

retired from San Diego City Schools in June 2003, after 33 years in the district. Patricia’s last 21 years were spent in the Physical and Health Disabilities Program at Naval Hospital San Diego, then Lindbergh Schweitzer Elementary. She adopted one of her former P&H students in 1988. Jackie has CP and joined Patricia’s family of four other children. The family resides in Winnsboro, Texas, enjoying their mules and horses. “We love trail riding, RVing, horseback pleasure riding and the lovely lakes all around us.” Patricia and her husband, Al, have seven grandchildren ages 2½ to 21.

[1984]

JACQUELINE AKERBLOM (B.Acc.) was recognized as the American Society of Women Accountants Educational Foundation’s 2008 Balance Awards’ Woman of the Year. Akerblom is a managing partner of women’s initiatives and programs for Grant Thornton LLP.

JAMES PADILLA (MBA)

transitioned into a second career as an attorney in June 2006. James and his family moved to Arizona where he began working as an assistant attorney general in protective services. The family now lives in Prescott, Ariz., where James is the unit section chief for all child enforcement activities in northern Arizona. He manages attorney general offices in four Arizona cities: Cottonwood, Flagstaff, Kingman and Prescott. “I enjoy the work, and while we miss San Diego, we are very happy to be settled in Prescott,” James says.

SHARON WONG (B.A.) volunteers with a few organizations.

[1985]

BERNADETTE BUENTGEN (J.D.) recently moved from Boise to Eagle, Idaho. Bernadette is reactivating her

law license after being a stay-at-home mother for 11 years. She is licensed in California and Idaho.

TINA (VAN HOOK) SWALLOW (BBA)

and her family moved to northern Virginia after living the last three years in Japan. Tina retired from the Naval Computer and Telecommunications Command in Japan. Her husband, Chandler, was current operations officer on the staff of the commander of the seventh fleet. Their children, Beau (10), Cate (8) and Jay (6), are enjoying their return. Tina now works on maritime defense strategy for Cisco Systems. “Life is great!” she says.

[1986]

DEANNE CALVERT (B.A.) is the in-house state lobbyist for Sanofi-Aventis Pharmaceuticals and works in the capitals of Alaska, Oregon, California, Idaho and Nevada. Deanne and her husband, Philip, have one son, Jack (4).

PAUL GARSON (BBA)

moved back to New Mexico to run the family business, Garson and Sons Religious Goods. Paul is active in the Sigma Chi fraternity and hopes to recolonize a chapter at USD.

PAULETTE LEAHY (LL.M.)

recently finished a term as immediate past president of the Western Pension and Benefits Conference Joint Council of Presidents. She also served as a conference committee member for the Western Benefits Conference’s annual meeting in Seattle. Paulette is a board member for the Coronado School of the Arts and Spreckels Organ Society. She is a member of the California Bankers’ Association Trust State and Federal Government Affairs Committee, working on legislation.

[1988]

LAURA CHECKMAN (B.A.) and her husband, Mike Murdock, are both teachers at St. Joseph School in Ogden, Utah. Their son, Oliver, is in second grade at the same school.

[1989]

PATRICE CARINGTON (BBA) recently became a board-certified hypnotherapist with advanced certifications in stress management, emotional intelligence, overcoming fears and phobias, and improving self worth. Patrice is working on a board certification in medical hypnotherapy.

JOAN MOHR (M.A.) is a research fellow for the history team at the Institute for Learning. She researches, writes and develops modules on current historical perspectives for educational affiliates working with the Learning Research and Development Center at the University of Pittsburgh. Before that, Joan was a contributing historian and outreach consultant for the National Czech and Slovak Museum and Library, and a teaching fellow with the history department at the University of Pittsburgh. Joan’s area of expertise is in U.S. immigration history with an emphasis on Slavic settlement and institution-building throughout the industrial mid-Atlantic region at the end of the 19th century. She is a lecturer and scholar on the Czech and Slovak Legion in Siberia from 1917-22, and has compiled an extensive photographic collection on the subject.

1990s

[1990]

JULIE KINGSTON (B.A.) has a successful Web site business in Los Angeles. No marriages, no kids and very happy being single, she says. “Anyone who wants to say ‘Hi’ please get my e-mail address from USD.”

CATHY (PERKINS) MORRIS (B.A.)

gave birth to her son, Michael, in August 2007. He has a big sister, Rachel Kate, who is 4 years old. Cathy joined Countrywide Insurance Services as vice president of district sales in April 2008.

SUZANNE PURNELL (M.Ed.) got married on Aug. 11, 2008.

KRISTINA (BENTSON) RAY (B.A.)

was appointed communications manager for the City of Carlsbad, on Nov. 17, 2008. Her primary responsibilities include overseeing the city’s comprehensive communications program. Ray has more than 20 years’ experience in designing and implementing communication programs at the local, state and national level.

FREDERICK SCHULTZ (B.A.), his wife, Helen ’91, and their 11-year-old son Logan recently moved back to California after living in Colorado for five years. Frederick is general manager for a private country club outside of

Modesto, Calif., and still enjoys being involved with the sport of golf.

[1991]

KENNETH POLLOCK (J.D.) was elected as a district court judge in the 8th Judicial District of Nevada. He began his term in office in January 2009.

[1992]

KARLA CLEARY (B.A.) gave birth to a girl, Ava Michelle Cleary, on June 20, 2008.

GREGORY FELTON (MBA)

moved to Lake Tahoe in 2004 and loves it. Gregory and his wife, Kim, have three sons, ages 15, 14 and 10. “All hours are filled, but not with the standard American fare of TV and fast food,” he says. “We fly, sail, actively participate in search and rescue patrol at Heavenly Ski Resort, etc. We are one big, happy family.”

GINA GUIDI-BILLIGMEIER (B.A.)

lives in Linden, Calif., with her husband, Mike, and daughters Sofie and Sydney. Gina is an elementary school teacher and helps her husband farm their ranch.

WENDY HIMES (B.A.)

moved from Tyler, Texas, to Parker, Colo., two years ago. Wendy is a stay-at-home mom to three boys, Liam (7), Evan (4) and Connor (8 months), but works out of the house on weekends.

DAVID MULLEN (M.A.)

and his wife, Linda (Johansen) ’92, recently moved to Omaha, Neb., to be closer to her family. They have one son, Frankie (8), and two daughters, Maggie (7) and Mary (5). Linda works part time as a therapist for Capstone Behavioral Health. Their children attend the local Catholic school.

JASON ROMERO (BBA)

has three children — Sierra (8), Sage (7) and Sofia (2) — and has been living in Puerto Rico for “five wonderful years.” Jason works for General Electric as a general manager for a consumer finance business. He has been running in marathons and recently began triathlons. “Life has been very good,” Jason says. “Best to all Toreros!”

DAVID SMITH (BBA)

and his wife, Sandi, celebrated their third wedding anniversary in September 2008. They have two children — son Jamison (2) and daughter Andrea, born in July



[move that bus]

THE SUPER BOWL OF HOMEBUILDING

Brothers go to extremes for Fresno family, providing them with unveiling of a lifetime

by Ryan T. Blystone

The door of the limousine opened onto Fresno's East Robinson Avenue. One by one, the town's newest VIPs emerged. They were home, but they didn't yet realize exactly what that meant. A larger parked vehicle was positioned to shield their new house from their view. Then the Riojas family shouted in unison, along with 6,000 onlookers: "Move that bus!"

Faithful viewers of the hit ABC-TV show, *Extreme Makeover: Home Edition*, know all about that phrase and its accompanying moment of truth. (Note to the uninitiated: it means a new home, built from the ground up in 106 consecutive hours, is ready to be shown to a deserving family.)

This particular revelatory moment was aimed squarely at Mary Ann Riojas, a single mother of four teenagers who has lived her entire life without legs and with only one fully functioning arm. But the unveiling was also an epiphany of sorts for brothers Ryan '03, '04, and Brandon De Young '07, along with their parents, Jerry and Paula, owners of De Young Properties.

The De Youngs' homebuilding company — along with 4,000 volunteers and the team of the TV show — built the 3,200-square-foot, two-story pumpkin-orange

home in less than a week. As well as being fully furnished and decorated, this particular extreme makeover included environmental and energy-saving features and incorporated standards set by the Americans with Disabilities Act.

"We enjoyed the family's reaction to the house as the bus departed to reveal their new home," says Brandon De Young, vice president of operations. "Our family was standing behind their family, so their reactions were obscured to us at the time. But as we watched 'Move that bus' occur on film, the varying expressions from the family members of surprise, delight and tears of joy were extremely gratifying. Seeing their faces glow with excitement and appreciation made the long hours and stress from this project worth it."

The show's crew, ably led by host/carpenter Ty Pennington, chose De Young Properties to lend a hand to a deserving Fresno, Calif., family in November, but the company didn't know just who they'd be building for until Jan. 8. That's when Pennington emerged from the bus to shout, "Good morning, Riojas family!" into his trademark bullhorn.

"It was a truly humbling experience for our company to be asked," says Ryan, vice president of finance. "The Riojas' story motivates everyone. She's overcome incredible obstacles. Her story teaches us all to stay posi-

tive and keep going." Riojas has been an inspiration to others, especially children, with physical disabilities. She grew up in Easter Seals-sponsored programs and later worked as an ambassador for the organization before landing her current job with the local housing authority.

Ryan and Brandon understood that being responsible for the rapid-fire construction effort would impact their business, big-time. The episode, broadcast nationally on March 8, was seen in 70 countries worldwide. "This was the Super Bowl of homebuilding for us," Ryan says.

Despite the intense schedule, the De Youngs didn't compromise their building standards, but they did get a big assist. A special hot concrete mixture for the foundation enabled workers to begin construction after only three hours instead of 28 days. Teamwork among the volunteers — which included USD graduates Erin Parnagian '04 and Andrea Machado '03 — was essential.

"The first night on site we had electricians, ventilation workers, framers, inspectors and others. It's not normal to see so many people working all at once, but I'll never forget walking around the house and seeing everyone with smiles on their faces," Ryan says. "To have that many people working together to get the project done was wonderful."

It sounds like everyone feels right at home. 🏠

Brothers Brandon and Ryan

De Young say that being part of TV's *Extreme Makeover* was extremely gratifying.

LA BELLA VITA PHOTOGRAPHY

2008 — and the family lives a suburb of St. Paul in Minnesota.

[1993]
LARA (SMITH) BLAIR (B.A.) and her husband, Dave, and two daughters moved back to Washington state after living in New York for three years. Lara owns a fine art portrait studio in Camas, Wash. Lara and Dave ran in the Phoenix Marathon, their fifth, in January 2009.

GABRIELLE FREEMAN (B.A., M.A. '01) and her husband, David, welcomed their second child, Cyrus David, on Oct. 2, 2008. Big sister Aurora is enjoying her new playmate. Gabrielle is teaching classes at East Carolina University and online for North Carolina Virtual Public Schools.


CATHY HAMMOU (MBA) still works for Schlumberger in Houston, recently moving from global IT strategic sourcing manager to process and business systems manager. In her new position, she is in charge of a global team that is responsible for IT applications supporting Schlumberger's supply-chain organization.

KELLI (KOENIG) HORNER (BBA) launched a boutique marketing and public relations firm, Zebra Partners, in Seattle in January 2009. Kelli went to work at Nintendo in 2000 and was with the marketing team, where she led hundreds of product launches, including the successful launch of Wii. She and two Nintendo executives left to launch Zebra Partners "with the goal of bringing some of our unique marketing principles to life for other brands." One of the company's initial clients is San Diego-based Sapphire Energy, a leader in the algae-based fuel industry. "It was hard for me to leave San Diego, but having Sapphire Energy as a client not only hits a personal passion I have for green alternatives and forward-thinking solutions for the environment, but it also gets me back to my roots in San Diego," she says.

TRACY PATTON (B.A.) lives in Alexandria, Va., where her husband, Jeff, works for the U.S. Air Force at the Pentagon. Tracy is a stay-at-home mother for Kate, who was born Aug. 10, 2008, and 21-month-old Jack.

JOANNE ZIPAY (MFA) is the artistic director and producer of the Ju-

dith Shakespeare Company NYC, as well as a teacher at Pace University in Lower Manhattan. In 2008 she directed *Elizabeth Rex* for Nicu's Spoon Theatre Company, which moved to off-Broadway in August. Joanne also teaches annually at Collin College in Plano, Texas, where she recently directed Shakespeare's *Comedy of Errors*.

[1994] 
ELIZABETH (GANSE) CACCIARONI (B.A.) returned to the Bay Area after teaching second grade in Venezuela. Upon her return, Elizabeth met and married Steven Cacciaroni. The couple celebrated their third wedding anniversary in 2008. Elizabeth teaches third grade in San Jose. Besides teaching, Elizabeth loves being outdoors, running and walking. She completed her 12th half-marathon in October 2008.

LCDR. DANIEL ETTLICH (B.A.) served a seven-month individual augmentee deployment in Baghdad in fall 2008 as a naval officer.

CATHY GONZALES (B.Acc.) has been promoted to partner at KPMG, an audit, tax and advisory firm. Gonzales, who has been with KPMG since 1996, provides advisory services to clients in the San Diego area. She lives in Carlsbad with her family.

JE'NELLE SMITH PASQUAN (B.A.) gave birth to her second child, Adalei, in 2007. "Now that we have two little girls, they keep us on our toes," she writes. A retailer at the Westfarms Mall in Connecticut picked up Je'Nelle's jewelry line. "Between making jewelry, my contract work in the insurance industry and my family, I am a very busy and happy person."

SHARMAN (LUTZ) RICE (B.A.) and her husband, Jeff, welcomed the birth of their daughter, Elizabeth Jane, on August 29, 2007. She joins big brother Thomas, 4. Sharman is enjoying her time as a stay-at-home mom.

MEGHAN SELWAY (B.A.) left USD to pursue a teaching credential in Northern California and, after completion, moved to Manhattan and worked for a learning center. Meghan transitioned into public relations. After three years in New York, she moved back to San Francisco. After the dot-com crash, Meghan

returned to teaching high school. She teaches at Miramonte High School in Moraga, Calif., does consulting curriculum and coaching work for the University of California, Berkeley, History Social Science Project and lives in San Francisco.

LEE SPANNHAKE (B.A.) has two kids, ages 4 and 7, and works full time as a lead physical therapist for a home health agency. She and her husband, William, will be celebrating their 11th wedding anniversary this summer.

ERIC TORYKIAN (BBA) married Juliet Brace on April 26, 2008, at Founders Chapel. The reception was at the Hotel del Coronado. Eric is the West Coast sales representative for American Defense Systems. Juliet is the director of marketing for FMT Consultants in Carlsbad. The couple lives in Del Mar Highlands.

[1995]
RICHARD BRUECKNER JR. (B.A., J.D. '07) is prosecuting gang and gun crimes. He surfs often and is enjoying life in Ocean City, Md., where he lives on the beach. Richard surfed in Costa Rica in the winter. "I love visiting San Diego and USD every August," Richard says.

MAJ. JEFF CHAMBERLAIN (B.A.) returned from his third deployment with the Army; he has 18 years of military service to his credit. He has been reuniting with family and friends since his return. In January 2009, he was promoted to general manager of Equity Thru Energy. He joined the energy management firm in 2008 as director of sales with nine years of previous experience in sales and marketing for Nabisco Biscuit Co. and Scholastic.

JENNIFER GERBASI (J.D.) has earned two more degrees — Environmental Management at Cornell University and an LL.M. in Advocacy at Georgetown University Law Center — since obtaining her law degree from USD. Jennifer has been published in several journals on international trade, water and public services. She now heads up hurricane recovery efforts in Louisiana in the Planning and Zoning Department. Most important to her is her daughter, Sophia Pearl Gerbasi Roberts. "My husband, baby and I evacuated for our first hurricane in September 2008. The excitement never ends. Be well."

ADRIA PENNER CLINE (B.A.) married Daniel Penner Cline on May 31, 2008, in an outdoor garden wedding in Chico, Calif.

LAUREN POLEK (B.A.) stays busy with boating and living just north of Charlotte, N.C. She and her husband have a son, John (4), and daughter, Stephanie (2).

[1996]
KIMBERLY BENEVIDES (B.A.) and her husband, Manny, celebrated their third wedding anniversary on Nov. 26. "No children yet," Kimberly writes, "just two cats, Mason and Rambo." Manny is a lineman for AT&T, and Kimberly works with her father as a loan officer for a mortgage broker in Sacramento. In their free time, they love to travel and ride their mountain bikes around Folsom Lake near their Roseville, Calif., home. "To the Class of '96, I would like to say, 'Hi,' and hope each of you are doing well!"

NEAL CLEMENS (B.A.) is serving in the U.S. Air Force as a Catholic chaplain. He was deployed to Iraq for six months.

LCDR. JOAQUIN CORREIA (B.A.) moved to Sicily, Italy, to serve as the executive officer of the communications station for the U.S. Navy.

SEAN FLANNERY (BBA) and his wife, Jodie '96, had their first son, Jack Quinlin, on May 20, 2007.

DAVID MULLINS (B.A.) earned a Master of Fine Arts degree from the Iowa Writers' Workshop in 2005. His short stories have appeared or are forthcoming in *The Yale Review*, *The Massachusetts Review*, *New England Review*, *Cimarron Review*, *Fiction* and *North Dakota Quarterly* and have been nominated for a Pushcart Prize. David has been awarded fellowships from Yaddo and Sewanee Writers' Conference, and he recently completed a collection of short stories titled *Long To Love You*. David lives in Omaha, Neb., with his wife and two children. He is a resident assistant professor of creative writing at Creighton University.

JENNIFER NAKORCHEVSKY (B.A.) gave birth to a son, Ivan Aleksey, on July 2, 2008. He joins his big sister, Olivia Ruth, who was born Dec. 31, 2005.

ELIZABETH SKANE (J.D.) has merged her own law firm with a small Los Angeles-based firm so she can spend more time at home with her 2-year-old daughter, Lindsay. In October 2005, Elizabeth formed Jampol, Zimet, Skane and Wilcox. "The practice has done well, and we now have expanded from Los Angeles and San Diego into San Francisco and Las Vegas," says Elizabeth, noting that she was admitted to the bar in Nevada in 1999.

CHRISTOPHER SMITH (B.A.) and his wife, Nicole, welcomed the birth of their first child, Delaney Ruth, on July 22, 2008.

SARAH THOMPSON (B.A.) lives in south Orange County with her husband and three children. Sarah is working on a master's degree in education at night while staying home with her children during the day.

[1997]
NATALIE (McDONALD) HAYES (BBA) and David Hayes were married in the Oregon high desert on Sept. 13, 2008. The wedding party included USD alumni Nicole Button, Kerry (Degenhardt) Forsell, Katie (Sirek) Smith and Megan (McAuliffe) Emery.

CARLOS MARTINEZ (B.A.) married Sahlee Melad in 2003. They have a 4-year-old daughter, Olivia Christine. Carlos worked for the San Diego Padres baseball organization for nine years until 2005. He served as director for Team Mexico during the 2006 World Baseball Classic. He earned an M.A. in Asian Studies from San Diego State University in 2001 and is a 3L at Thomas Jefferson School of Law. Carlos lives in Chula Vista.

ELIA PIROZZI (LL.M.) is a superior court judge in the county of San Bernardino, Calif. He presides over criminal and civil matters including misdemeanor and felony arraignments, pre-trial conferences, probation modifications and violations, criminal motions, criminal trials, sentencing and unlawful detainer. Prior to becoming a judge, he practiced in the areas of land use, real estate and business law as an attorney in the Inland Empire. Elia has had articles published by the *Southwestern University Law Review* and the *University of Oregon Journal of Environmental Law and Litigation*.

He and his wife reside in Rancho Cucamonga, Calif.

JEANNE TANNONE (B.A.) opened her own boutique, specializing in bikinis, lingerie and exotic dance-wear. She also has her own label, Pretty Kitty, offering custom bikinis and clothing.

CHERYL VERBER (M.A.) and Pamela Alexandra were legally married at Universal Spirit Center in San Diego on June 28, 2008. They live with their furry companions in San Diego, where Pam works as a real estate broker. They travel frequently to Puerto Vallarta, Mexico, where they own several vacation condos. Cheryl rents these condos and those of other owners through her business, www.veryvallarta.com. Pam and Cheryl also share a psychotherapy practice in San Diego.

[1998]
CHRISTINA COVINGTON (BSN, MSN '00) gave birth to a fourth child, Catherine, in July 2008.

DAN DUFRESNE (B.A.) married Elise McPherson of Sandpoint, Idaho, on Oct. 4, 2008, at Founders Chapel. Dan is in-house counsel and director of government relations for Epsilon Systems Solutions, a defense contractor headquartered in San Diego.

RNEST GOVEA (B.A.) deployed to Iraq with the 13th Marine Expeditionary unit in 2007 and was promoted to the rank of major. Ernest is the unit's logistics officer. He was deployed again in January 2009. Before that, Ernest and his family moved to San Clemente, Calif.

EVAN HLAVACEK (B.A.) and his wife, Jennifer '99, relocated to Prescott, Ariz., so Jennifer could start a full-time teaching job at Yavapai College. Their daughter, Ava, is 3 and "looks a lot like her Daddy," Evan writes.

MICHELE (FREIDHOFF) SEIBOLD (B.A.) married Brian Seibold on July 21, 2007.

ECHRISTINA SPEVAK (B.A.) earned a doctorate from Oregon Health and Science University in Portland, Ore., in 2006. Christina then accepted a post-doctoral position at the University of California, San Francisco's Cancer Research Institute. She

is a post-doctoral scholar and research associate in a cancer research lab at the San Francisco VA Medical Center.

MICHELLE (ABARIENTOS) TILLMAN (BBA, M.A. '06) recently celebrated her ninth wedding anniversary to Percy Tillman. Their daughter, Janea, is in kindergarten in San Diego.

LAURA WOMBOLT (B.A.) gave birth to her third child, Isabella Kate, on March 6, 2008.

[1999] 
CYNTHIA HARF (LL.M.) was named a San Diego County Top Attorney 2008 in the area of family law. Cynthia has been associated with the law office of Myra Chack Fleischer since mid-2007. Cynthia, her husband, David Kaiden, and their two boys, Tanner Reese (4) and Cooper Dane (2), welcomed a baby girl into the family, Montgomery "Emmy" Claire Kaiden on Jan. 31, 2008.

JORDAN HOPCHIK (MSN) became the first nurse practitioner in the state of Pennsylvania to be credentialed to perform colonoscopy independently in 2008.

CLAIRE PATIN (B.A., M.Ed.) married Frank Falcone III on Feb. 9, 2008, at USD's Founders Chapel. Frank is a 2008 graduate of San Diego State University, earning a Master of Science in mechanical engineering. Claire and Frank moved to the Chicagoland area this past summer for Frank to pursue employment at Argonne National Laboratories. Claire is substitute teaching as her California teaching credential is being transferred to an Illinois certificate. She plans to pursue a permanent teaching position in 2009. The couple recently adopted Ginger, a 4 ½-month-old pointer mix, "who is a lovely addition to our home," Claire says.

BRIAN RICHARDSON (B.A.) and his wife, Daniella, welcomed the birth of their first child, Chelsea Diane Richardson, on Jan. 25, 2008. The family has relocated to upstate New York to be closer to family. Brian continues to work as an associate attorney for Geico Insurance.

BRYAN WEATHERUP (BBA) and his wife, Elizabeth '01, moved with daughter Evelyn and son Carter to

Germany to work for the U.S. State Department in Berlin at the U.S. Embassy at Brandenburg Gate. The new job involves flying for the German Navy from its naval air base in the small city of Nordholz, Germany. Evelyn attends the local German kindergarten, and Carter is expected to start there later this year.

MOLLIE WOLF (B.A.) loves living in Brazil and working for John Deere. "I love reading all about USD happenings in the *USD Magazine!*"

2000s

[2000]
KRISTIN (McMAHON) COVARRUBIAS (B.A.) and her husband, Eddie, welcomed their third child, Cruz Eduardo, in March 2008. Big sisters Victoria, 4, and Gabrielle, 2, are enjoying helping out with Cruz. In addition to being a full time mom and wife, Kristin works full time as a third-grade teacher and has a party-planning business on the side. Eddie continues to work for Frito-Lay and is happy to have another "man" in the house.

ELIZABETH (JABLECKI) JOHN-SON (J.D.) married Jason Johnson in Lake Havasu City, Ariz., on Sept. 15, 2007. Elizabeth is practicing family law at the law office of Elizabeth M. Lewis.

JOHN SULLIVAN (B.A.) and his wife, Christina, live in Las Cruces, N.M., with their children Jack (2) and Lily (8 months). John has been in construction project management since graduation from USD, most recently with Southern U.S. General Contractor. The company is in the process of constructing a federal courts building in Las Cruces. Upon completion of the project, the family plans to move back to Austin, Texas, where John and Christina look forward to raising their children and enjoying the Texas Hill Country.

[2001]
DEVON BOZLINSKI (B.A.) has been working at Science Applications International for 5½ years as a dolphin trainer for the Navy Marine Mammal Program. Dylan Gaudet '00 and Devon bought a house in La Mesa in September 2007. "Enjoying life working on the house with the two dogs," Devon says.

SAMANTHA (DEVORE) DUNBAR (BBA) and Jason Dunbar '08 were married in June 2007. The bridal party included alumnae Mollie Jones, Katherine (Hill) Rehder and Renee (Duma) Vigo. Samantha and Jason live in San Diego.

MEGHAN CLARK HURLEY (BBA) and Daniel '01 were married in October 2007. Mike Kirkeide, Mark Epes and Jennifer (Salter) Vasquez were all in the wedding party. Daniel was promoted to regional vice president of mutual funds sales with Evergreen Investments, a division of Wachovia. Daniel and Meghan relocated to The Woodlands, just outside of Houston, as a result of Daniel's promotion.

KARINA KIRANA (B.A.) married Derek Vollmer on Sept. 6, 2008, in Milwaukee. Karina and Derek met through their mutual friend, Beth Rogers-Witte. In attendance at their wedding were Kendra Shorten Wochos, Kelly Lynn and Beth Rogers-Witte. On Nov. 1, 2008, Karina and Derek celebrated their marriage with a second wedding in Bali, Indonesia. In attendance at the Bali wedding were Matt Wheeler and Diane Dumas. Karina and Derek live in Washington, D.C., with their dog, Dasher.

SISTER SHARON MCGUIRE (Ph.D.) has been appointed to the steering committee and governing board of Catholic Scholars for Worker Justice.

LISA POPKINS (B.A.) was married on Oct. 4, 2008.

SHAUN SUMNER (B.A., J.D. '07) welcomed Dominic Frank Anthony Sumner on Oct. 21, 2008, at 11:32 a.m. Dominic was born at UCSD Medical Center in Hillcrest weighing 5 pounds, 3 ounces, and measuring 18 inches in length.

[2002]
SAMUEL ASSAEL (BBA) signed a contract shortly after the 2002 USD baseball season with the Detroit Tigers, where he played one year in the minor leagues. After that, he started in the business world as a wine representative with Gallo Wine Co. Eight months later, Samuel found his way into the finance field with JP Morgan Chase Bank as an account executive. Samuel has been at his current job for five years and enjoys the relationships he has built with friends and clients.

"I continue to work out and run as much as the weeks allow me to, travel whenever possible and see my family on a regular basis," Samuel says.

CALEY COOK (B.A.) married James Ballew '02 on June 7, 2008. USD alumni in the wedding party included Danielle Deblieux, Katie Fenelli and Nicole (Ott) Zilliox. Caley is now pursuing a Ph.D. at the University of Colorado, Boulder, in journalism and mass media.

ANDREA FERRADA (B.A.) is a traveling nurse and does relief work in foreign countries during her time off. She has been to Indonesia, Bangladesh and Peru; most recently she spent a month in Haiti, where she worked with Hands On Disaster Relief, an organization that rebuilds houses and schools after natural disasters.

NATASHA RADWAN (BBA) received her J.D. from Whittier Law School and is now a practicing attorney in Orange County. Natasha specializes in real estate and business law.

MARVIN SERHAN (MSGL) updated a paper he originally wrote for a 2001 USD ethics class and entered it into the *John Ben Sheppard Journal of Practical Leadership's* essay contest. The University of Texas editorial board chose Marvin's paper as the cover story for the journal's Spring 2008 issue. Marvin, a retired U.S. Navy captain, was a graduate of the Naval War College and Navy Fighter Weapons School. Marvin's 27-year naval career culminated as commanding officer of Fleet Aviation Specialized Operational Training Group Pacific Fleet. Since leaving active duty in 1997, Marvin has worked in the utility, telematics and security industries. He works for IBM as a business development executive supporting their Intelligent Utility Network team. Marvin lives in Camas, Wash., with his family.

JUSTIN SMITH (B.A.) married Amanda Phelps '03 on Dec. 4, 2004. They welcomed daughter Savannah Grace Smith into the world on Aug. 28, 2006. "We love our life together," Justin writes. Justin and Amanda are both in education. Justin has taught pre-algebra, algebra 1, geometry, algebra 2 and psychology. The family lived outside of Philadelphia for four years but now lives in The Woodlands, Texas.

KARA (BRANIFF) WELLER (B.A., M.A. '06) and her husband, Jason '01, (J.D. '04, MBA '06) welcomed "future Torero" Hunter Braniff Weller to the world on Feb. 16, 2008.

[2003]
JOCELYN (TAFOYA) CASTILLO (J.D.) has become a shareholder in the Albuquerque, N.M., law firm of Moses, Dunn, Farmer and Tuthill. Jocelyn serves as the Young Lawyer's Division Liaison to the State Bar of New Mexico's Business Law Section. Jocelyn also serves as co-chair of the Committee on Women in the Legal Profession, which was the 2008 winner of the New Mexico State Bar's award for outstanding committee.

ANDREW FLETCHER (M.A.) married Tiffany Maguire on Aug. 9, 2008.

MARY ANN (CANE) KAWAKAMI (BBA) married Stewart Kawakami on May 9, 2008, in Hanalei, Hawaii.

JENN (TORIO) MARQUIS (BBA) and her husband, Dom Marquis '03, welcomed their first child, daughter Kaylee Jean Marquis, on July 3, 2008. Jenn has put her event-planning career on hold to stay home and raise Kaylee. Dom continues to work for Ernst & Young in Denver.

ENRIQUE MONTEAGUDO (J.D.) passed the USPTO Patent Bar exam. Enrique works for ISE Corporation, a heavy-duty hybrid vehicle manufacturer, as their patent manager.

JULIA (FERRIOLO) RAUSCHER (B.A.) has been married to her husband, Seth, since July 15, 2006. They were married at the Bernardo Heights Country Club in San Diego. They live near San Diego State University with their black Labrador. The couple works for their pool servicing company, Rauscher's Pool Care. Seth takes care of all the maintenance, repairs, sales and customer service, and Julia does the accounting. Julia also works in childcare and is taking early childhood education classes.

CLARK GULER (BBA) and his wife, Courtney Leaver, were married Oct. 19, 2008, at a vineyard in Escondido.

MARISSA LYFTOGT (BBA, J.D. '08) was hired in December 2008 as an associate at Fisher & Phillips LLP, a law firm that specializes in labor and employment law, in Irvine, Calif. Prior to finishing her law degree, Marissa was a legal assistant at Puente Consulting. She lives in Costa Mesa.

KRISTEN (SEMON) LYNCH (B.A., M.A. '07) and her husband, Patrick, welcomed their son, Riley, who was born on May 6, 2008. "He is healthy and happy and has brought much joy to our lives," Kristen writes. Kris-

ten is working at Leesville Road Elementary School in Raleigh, N.C., as the kindergarten, third- and fourth-grade counselor. "I work with an amazing staff and wonderful kids," Kristen adds. "My family and I are very grateful for all the wonderful things in our lives."

ANN SCHOTT (B.A.) is in her fourth year teaching kindergarten at an elementary school in Hillsboro, Ore. Ann vacationed in Belize with her family in summer 2008.

MELISSA SHOTELL (B.A.) graduated from dental school in May 2008. Melissa is now in advanced residency at Ohio State University.

HEATHER SPENCE (BBA) spent 18 months working in Caracas, Venezuela. Heather received her MBA in May 2008 from Notre Dame.

AISHA TAYLOR (B.A.) was accepted into a Ph.D. program at Portland State University in the field of industrial/organizational psychology. Aisha is expected to begin the program in September 2009. She plans to move from Washington, D.C., to Portland and leave her current position as executive director of the Women's Ordination Conference.

[2004] 🎓
JIMMIE ELLIS (Ed.D.) was selected by the LDS Church to be the county director for all humanitarian projects in Vietnam that are sponsored or co-sponsored by the LDS Church. Jimmie and his wife, Julia, are to be stationed in Hanoi until 2010, but Jimmie's position was expected to have him traveling to check on various projects. These include the distribution of wheelchairs and a vision project with U.S. doctors operating on cataracts. Julia planned to teach ESL students at a university in Hanoi.

DAVID ROSALES (BBA) married Kendra Tarrant on Dec. 20, 2008 in Corona del Mar, Calif.

PETER SCIABARRA (MSGL) retired March 28, 2008, from the U.S. Navy after 27 years onboard the USS Midway. He was named director of field operations at Vistage International in San Diego on June 18, 2008, and is enrolled in the Ph.D. program at USD's School of Leadership and Education Sciences.

[2005]
MICHAEL BEIDLER (MSGL) is attending the Army's Defense Language Institute in Monterey, Calif.

SOLAIMAN MESDAQ (BBA) opened his own business, Tabac, a specialty coffee and hookah lounge in downtown San Diego. The business' Web site is www.tabacsd.com. "We also manufacture cigars and roast our own blend of coffee," Solaiman says.

CAPT. ANDREA NEWHOUSE (B.A.) left the U.S. Marine Corps in July 2008 after serving four years on active duty. She is serving in the Inactive Ready Reserve and was promoted to the rank of captain on Aug. 1, 2008. She started a new job as a defense contractor with AUSGAR Technologies, working in Point Loma at SPAWAR. Andrea planned to start the part-time MBA program at USD in Spring 2009.

JAY PARKER (MSEL) says, "Our 2006 move to the Great Inland Northwest (near Spokane) has proven to be a great blessing. We enjoy seeing and visiting friends and business colleagues." In August 2008 Jay returned to consulting for the Department of Defense programs, which he hopes will bring him back to San Diego on occasion.

DAVID ROSALES (BBA) married Kendra Tarrant on Dec. 20, 2008 in Corona del Mar, Calif.

PETER SCIABARRA (MSGL) retired March 28, 2008, from the U.S. Navy after 27 years onboard the USS Midway. He was named director of field operations at Vistage International in San Diego on June 18, 2008, and is enrolled in the Ph.D. program at USD's School of Leadership and Education Sciences.

[2005]
MICHAEL BEIDLER (MSGL) is attending the Army's Defense Language Institute in Monterey, Calif.

CHRISTINA BERTSCH (B.A.) graduated with a master's degree in mass communication research from the University of Colorado, Boulder, in May 2008. She is now working as

a senior representative of employee communications for Northrop Grumman Corporation in Los Angeles.

ANNA (DIEGO) DECLERCQ (B.A.) is working toward a Ph.D. in Spanish Literature at the University of California, Riverside.

JENELLE HAWKINS (B.A.) moved to San Francisco and works as marketing and special events associate for a nonprofit organization called Level Playing Field Institute. "Our goal is to find innovative solutions for unfairness in education and the workplace with program to help low-income students of color go to (UC) Berkeley and graduate debt-free," she says.

JESSICA (MILBOURN) REED (B.A.) married Christopher Reed '05 on Sept. 6, 2008, in Cyprus Shore, San Clemente, Calif. The newlyweds live in Hawaii.

[2006]
CARYN ANDERSON (J.D.) joined the complex civil litigation practice group at Luce Forward Hamilton and Scripps LLP. Caryn represents clients in matters involving class actions, contract disputes, employment law, unfair competition law, consumer protection law, white-collar crime, professional liability and trade secrets.

JAMES BLACK (B.Acc.) runs his own accounting practice. He reports that he is one section away from obtaining his CPA license.

LINDSEY BUDNY (B.A.) and Jason Kehrer '05 were married in Founders Chapel on June 28, 2008. "We met in undergraduate chemistry lab at USD," Lindsey says. Lindsey is a manager at the Ritz-Carlton in Phoenix, and Jason is expected to graduate from medical school in June 2009.

REBECCA (ESPARZA) CONTRERAS (M.A.) and Rigo Contreras Jr. were married July 6, 2007. They purchased their first home on Dec. 4, 2008. Rebecca is coordinating a college outreach program called San Diego State University Talent Search.

CHRISTINE CYR (B.A.) and her husband, Fernando Clemente, have a son, Alejandro, who was born in August 2006. "I am currently staying home with him and enjoying



ALAN BURCH

[profound impact]
JUDITH RAUNER [1937-2009] passed away from a malignant brain tumor on March 23, 2009. Her life was dedicated to family and community service. In 1980 — while raising four children — she wrote and self-published a handbook for nonprofit organizations titled, "Helping People Volunteer." She founded USD's Center for Community Service-Learning in 1986 and served as its director until she retired in 2002. The innovative course-based service-learning program that she began in 1995 has led to over 80 courses from departments across the university that incorporate relevant service-learning components into their classroom studies. Rauner touched a great many lives with her work; read testimonials from colleagues and former students or make a donation to a scholarship fund in her name online at www.sandiego.edu/csl/judyrauner.

every minute,” Christine says. She is studying nutrition and is considering pursuing a degree in osteopathic medicine.

ASHLEY EVANS (B.A.) lives in Los Angeles and works as an assistant to the hosts and anchors of the entertainment television show, *Extra*.

KERRY FARRAND (B.A.) attends Alliant International University and is in the Psy.D. program in forensic psychology.

DANIEL GIESE (BBA) and his wife, Shannon '00 had their second child, Gavin Daniel, on Nov. 4, 2007.

SULTANA AKKAN KASSEGNE (MBA) joined Leap Wireless International (Cricket Wireless) and has been enjoying her job as manager of capital planning and putting all of the people management skills and finance and accounting knowledge she acquired at USD into practice. “My studies at USD have been transforming and enabled me to position in an area where there are many opportunities for career growth,” she says.

JENNIFER MALKOWSKI (B.A.) teaches in the Department of Communication Studies at USD. “Go Toreros!”

ERIGENA MILLAN-COFFEY (M.Ed) married Jason Coffey on July 1, 2007, in National City, Calif.

LINDSEY PARKER (B.A.) works as a graphics designer in Carlsbad for the Upper Deck Company. She is a designer for Upper Deck’s creative sports division and specializes in the company’s NFL products.

VANESSA PERRY (B.A.) is enrolled at San Diego State University’s Master of Science in Rehabilitation Counseling program. She specializes in psychiatric rehabilitation.

ANDREW RABITOY (M.A.) was recently hired as the director of the BBA Career Management Center at Emory University’s Goizueta Business School in Atlanta.

MATTHEW SKARZYNSKI (B.A.) was awarded a Fulbright U.S. student scholarship to Malaysia and is working as an English teaching assistant in the province of Kuala Terengganu through November 2009.

He previously worked for the non-profit Baltimore Urban Debate League, an organization that enriches the lives of Baltimore City middle and upper school students through participation in team policy debate.

LAURA SMITH (M.Ed.), her husband Steven and their children have relocated to Dover, N.H. Laura teaches physical education at Pittsfield Elementary School in Pittsfield, N.H. She also coaches a middle-school boys basketball team.

LAURA (STANCZAK) STRALEY (B.A.) married Christopher Straley on Dec. 20, 2008, at Founders Chapel.

CHELSEY WATKINS (M.Ed.) and her husband, Sheldon, moved back to San Diego from Bloomington, Ind. Chelsey accepted a principalship at Southwestern Christian School in Chula Vista. Sheldon finished his teaching credential and coaches Mira Mesa High School’s varsity baseball team.

YONG YEH (J.D.) is a second-year associate in the tax department at Weil Gotshal and Manges LLP in New York City.

[2 0 0 7]
KATHRYN AGOSTINELLI (B.Acc., B.A.) is in her second year at UCLA’s School of Law, where she is pursuing a specialization in business law. She planned to work with Foley and Lardner in Los Angeles as a summer associate beginning in May 2009.

JOY CHESBROUGH-BERRY (M.A.) recently took a job managing all of MAP International’s philanthropy and development nationally. As senior development director of philanthropy services, she manages and supervises a team of five national regional development representatives for MAP, a global relief and development nongovernmental organization. “My next step is to take a job with MAP in Europe and manage their international development and fundraising, globally,” she says.

C. BRANDON De YOUNG (BBA, MSRE ’08) completed his Master of Science in Real Estate at USD in 2008. He is now vice president of operations at De Young Properties in Fresno, Calif. De Young Properties is a land development and home build-

ing company. (See story on page 36.)

JULIE DILLING (B.A.) attends medical school at American University of the Caribbean School of Medicine. Julie is living on the island of St. Maarten. “It has been challenging, but the USD Biology and Chemistry Department gave me the foundation I need to become a successful medical student,” Julie says. She completed her second semester in January 2009 and expected to return to the U.S. for her rotations. “I am very grateful for the worthwhile opportunity and being able to serve those who are in need.”

MICHAEL COLIN DOWD (BBA, B.A.) is working for the Vanguard Group in Scottsdale, Ariz., and is running a football ticket business, www.DesertSeats.com.

ASHLEY (CLEMENTE) FULMER (B.A.) was married at Founders Chapel in August 2007. In fall 2007 Ashley entered the teaching credential program at the University of California, Riverside, and received an internship at Sierra Middle School in Riverside as a seventh-grade life science teacher. Ashley received her preliminary teaching credential in June 2008 and continues to teach at Sierra Middle School, where she is a volleyball coach and the yearbook adviser.

MONICA GREENWALD (B.A.) has been attending Vanderbilt University’s School of Nursing. She expects to graduate with a master’s of nursing in pediatric primary care in August 2009. She hopes to work as a pediatric nurse practitioner in Phoenix.

JENNIFER (BROWN) GRIFFIN (B.A.) married Naaman Griffin on Aug. 16, 2008. The couple now lives in Spokane, Wash.

JASON HANCOCK (MSRE) relocated to Dallas and is working for Criterion Development Partners, a company that develops apartments in Texas and in the Northeast.

BROOKE HOYT (B.A.) has pursued acting post-college. “I have been fortunate enough to land agents in Los Angeles, Orange County and San Diego. I was recently credited on www.imdb.com for the last film I was in and I am part of a local improvisation troupe, Hinges Improv,”

Brooke says. In addition to acting, Brooke has modeled for *Perfect Wedding Guide* and has also gotten involved with them on a business level as an account coordinator. “I do advertising sales, bridal shows and handle client accounts.”

KRISTOPHER KILDOSHER (B.A.) is in his second year at the Bethel School of Supernatural Ministry in Redding, Calif. He is expected to graduate in May 2009.

RAYMOND MERCADO (B.A.) is pursuing a Ph.D. in political science at Duke University. He also serves as a consultant to plaintiffs and defendants in patent litigation.

JENNIFER MILLER (BBA) is a first-year law student at Loyola Law School.

OLGA NAVARRETE-MOTE (BSN, MSN ’08) is teaching for the nursing program at San Diego State University.

CARRIE PACELLI (B.A.) started a master’s program in education (secondary biology) after graduating from USD. She expected to graduate in March 2009 and then planned to move to Maadi, Egypt, to work and pursue a second master’s degree in anthropology.

JOSEPH QUIROZ (B.S./B.A.) got a full-time job at Northrop Grumman’s Unmanned Systems Development Center in Rancho Bernardo. He supports the integration and testing of systems for the ground segment of the Global Hawk program. “It has been a superb first job, providing me with opportunities to travel and to lead teams. I’m hoping in the next few years to attend grad school to work toward an MBA in some sort of operational management, possibly in conjunction with an MSE in Industrial Engineering,” he says. Joseph lives in Clairemont and has “no desire to move away from San Diego anytime soon if I can help it.”

JOY RICHARDSON (BBA) was employed as marketing coordinator for Diedrich Coffee after graduation. After working in Orange County, Calif., for a year and a half at Diedrich Coffee, she was offered a promotion and the opportunity to move to San Francisco. Joy is now assistant brand manager for Diamond Foods and is

enjoying her time in San Francisco. “I have been in contact with several USD graduates who currently live in the Bay Area,” she says.

ELIZABETH SALES (LLMT) is an attorney for Butterfield Schechter LLP in San Diego. Elizabeth specializes in ERISA Litigation, employee stock ownership plans, pension and profit sharing plans, employee benefits, business law, qualified domestic orders and tax law.

SARAH SPEED (J.D.) is the director of the Pennsylvania State Director of the Humane Society of the United States. Sarah advocated for recently passed anti-puppy mill legislation that will positively affect hundreds of thousands of dogs held in Pennsylvania’s commercial breeding kennels.

[2 0 0 8]
BENJAMIN BRUESEKE (J.D.) and his wife, Lori, are living in Las Vegas. Benjamin is a law clerk for the Clark County District Attorney’s Office. “I passed the Nevada Bar and I love it out here,” he says.

JASON CHAN (J.D.) founded Eastern Leaf during his first year of law school. Jason’s company is in its fourth year of business with a large warehouse and office with several employees. For more information, visit www.easternleaf.com.

DANIEL CHIRIBOGA (B.A.) was in Quantico, Va., for training in the U.S. Marine Corps and expected to go on to Pensacola, Fla., for Navy flight school.

LT. DEREK GOTTLIEB (B.A.) was commissioned from the Air Force NROTC at San Diego State University on May 23, 2008, becoming a second lieutenant on active duty. Derek and his wife, Ann (Jeffries) Gottlieb ’08, celebrated their wedding day on May 24, 2008. The day after that, Derek and Ann graduated from the University of San Diego. The couple went on their honeymoon in Kauai and Maui, Hawaii. “It was a wild three days, to say the least,” Derek says. The couple is now in Columbus, Miss., where Derek is attending Air Force flight training and Ann is attending Mississippi State University to earn a master’s degree in counseling. “We can’t wait to see USD again and see the changes,” Derek says.

GINA (ROALDI) HOGUE (M.A.) and her husband, Sonny, had a daughter, Kaya Marie, on Nov. 21, 2007.

KATHLEEN HOLLOWAY (B.A.) is teaching English to businessmen for a private school in Milan, Italy, “just like I told *USD Magazine* what I was planning on doing for an interview for the last issue!”

JENNIFER JONES (M.A.) has joined the board of the San Diego Human Dignity Foundation.

JENNIFER (TOPLEY) JOSSELYN (M.Ed.) married Jeff Josselyn of Riverside, Calif., on June 6, 2008. Jeff is a helicopter pilot in the U.S. Navy. Jennifer works in the San Diego Unified School District as a resource specialist at Jones Elementary and Zamorano Elementary schools.

PAUL KHAIT (MSEL) and his wife, Julia, welcomed the newest addition to their family, Mia Danielle Khait, on July 28, 2008. Paul and his family have since moved from San Diego to Santa Clara, Calif.

PAMELA LANDY (B.A.) is a first-grade teacher in Chula Vista.

JEFFREY LEWIS (B.A.) makes cosmetics at a San Diego-area personal care manufacturing facility.

ANN MANCHESTER (MSN) was married in September 2008 at Founders Chapel.

CRISTINA MARES (B.A.) is a teaching assistant in Cassà de la Selva, a small town outside of Girona, Spain. She expects to be in Spain until June 2009. “I am enjoying Spain immensely. I returned (here) after spending my junior semester at USD in Madrid,” Cristina says.

ALEXIS (OLSEN) MELROSE (B.A., CRED.) married Brian Melrose ’06 at Founders Chapel on August 23, 2008.

MICHAEL PAA (J.D.) is an attorney for Blanchard, Krasner and French in La Jolla.

CHRISTOPHER RAMSEY (B.A.) is a graduate student at Providence College in Providence, R.I., where he’s in the Providence Alliance for Catholic Teachers program. Following a two-year commitment to un-

der-served Catholic schools, he will receive his master’s degree in secondary education and a certification in Spanish.

JENNIFER RANGLES (MSN) lives in San Diego with her husband. She works as a clinical nurse specialist in the emergency department at Palomar Medical Center.

SANNA (HENZI) ROOT (MSN) married Jeffrey Root on May 30, 2008, in Maui, Hawaii, shortly after graduation. The couple lives in Huntington Beach, Calif., while Jeffrey finishes his last year of surgical residency at the UC Irvine Medical Center. Sanna took a position as trauma injury prevention coordinator at the UC Irvine Medical Center.

AARON SHELLEY (MBA) completed his Marine Corps career on Sept. 30, 2008, and finished a tour with the Naval Reserve Officers Training Corps Unit, San Diego. He works for Calloway Golf Company in Carlsbad as a principal financial analyst.

LEONIDA SILAO (B.A.) says, “I’ve been enjoying time to myself and am currently searching for a temporary job to begin paying off loans and to save up for grad school — if I decide to go through with it.” Leonida also is contemplating teaching English in Japan or South Korea for a year.

RYAN SWEETNAM (BBA) has been working on establishing and expanding Extreme Clean, a company that offers a wide range of exterior maintenance services. He started the business four years ago. “The university instilled strong values and morals which have structured the company’s core while providing an ethical, compassionate and environmentally friendly service to the community,” Ryan says. Learn more at www.extremecleansurfaces.com.

In Memoriam

TOM HAGEDORN, USD men’s tennis coach, passed away after an 18-month battle with leukemia on March 21, 2009. His wife Melissa and his sister Sandy were at his side. Those wishing to honor him with memorial gifts are asked to make a donation in his name to the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society of San Diego or to the

USD Athletics Department. (See story on page 15.)

SISTER HELEN HAMMACK, RSCJ, served as associate professor and chair of the biology department at USD from 1969 to 1971. She passed away in Atherton, Calif., on March 16, 2009.

JOHN O’TOOLE (BBA ’86) passed away on Aug. 2, 2008. He was an attorney and had lived in Orange County since 1988. “He enjoyed traveling, listening to music — particularly the symphony where he was a season-ticket holder — baseball and playing with his German shepherd, Joey,” writes his wife Nancy.

JUDITH RAUNER ’95 (Ed.D.), a visionary community service leader and author who founded USD’s Community Service-Learning Program, died peacefully from a malignant brain tumor on March 23, 2009. Her family suggests contributions to the Dr. Judy Rauner Scholarship at the University of San Diego. For information, go to www.sandiego.edu/csl/judyrauner. (See story on page 41.)

Have You Moved?

E-mail your new address to alumni@sandiego.edu, or mail it to: University of San Diego, Advancement Services, 5998 Alcalá Park, San Diego CA 92110.

Send Class Notes

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

E-mail: classnotes@sandiego.edu
Web site: www.sandiego.edu/usdmag
U.S. Mail: USD Magazine Class Notes, University of San Diego, Department of University Communications, 5998 Alcalá Park, San Diego, CA 92110

Please note that Class Notes submitted after May 1, 2009, will be considered for publication in the Spring 2010 issue of USD Magazine.



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The Student Life Pavilion is nearly complete, scheduled to open this fall.

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