

USD MAGAZINE

UNIVERSITY OF SAN DIEGO / SPRING 2019



THE GIFT HORSES

Miracles happen.

Just ask Meggan Hill-McQueeney '94.

[life-changing]

TORERO NATION,



Since arriving in August, alumni, students and faculty members have asked me, “What attracted you to USD?” That may seem like an easy question to answer: “Because it’s a great place!” But truly, that doesn’t come close to adequately conveying the real answer. There were so many amazing aspects of the school that were clear the minute I stepped onto campus. In essence, the answer to the question mirrors why our students and alumni decided to attend USD, whether that was a year ago or 45 years ago. Like them, I knew this was the place for me to learn, to grow and to cherish.

First, let me share that higher education is a calling for me. Further, an education at a contemporary Catholic university is something that inspires us, challenges us and calls us to be our best selves. So many of you understand that USD has been and continues to be life-changing. The Catholic intellectual tradition invites us to bring critical thought to some of our most pressing social issues, to find cures for debilitating diseases, to care for those who cannot care for themselves, to build breathtaking structures, to craft prose that transports us, to foster a new era of entrepreneurship. All those things we see each day bolster our belief that faith enriches our lives and those around us. They are grounded in the DNA of USD through our liberal arts education.

Second, because USD has a history of forming critical thinkers, I have had the privilege of meeting alumni who are actively engaged in changing the world through their professions, their communities and, of course, their families. Entrepreneurs, educators, elected officials, astronauts, scientists, clergy, writers, filmmakers, actors, peacebuilders, CEOs, engineers, coaches, athletes ... the list goes on.

The education and life-changing experiences students and alumni have and had at USD is thriving today because we have gifted faculty, talented staff, dedicated alumni and a mission that is the foundation for a distinct USD experience and education. This does not happen by accident. Alumni, parents and friends of the university have each played a critical role in supporting USD by serving on our advisory boards, supporting our students and donating to much-needed scholarships and capital projects. However, as USD answers the call to educate the next generation of Toreros as well as be an innovator in higher education, we need your help.

The next generation of students, our future Toreros, will find themselves curing, building, creating and transforming. In short, they will lead the way. So, how do we need your help at this juncture? By hiring our recent alumni, recommending remarkable high school students to apply to USD and by giving generously to USD! An investment in USD now ensures that we continue to be a thriving, contemporary Catholic university and continue our legacy and live our mission for generations to come.

Many thanks for all you do for USD and for allowing me to be a part of the Torero family!

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[usd magazine]
USD Magazine is published by the University of San Diego for its alumni, parents and friends. Third-class postage paid at San Diego, CA 92110. USD phone number: (619) 260-4600.

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

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

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

[mailing address]
USD Magazine
University Publications
University of San Diego
5998 Alcalá Park
San Diego, CA 92110

[website]
www.sandiego.edu/usdmag

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[0119/68,700/PUBS-19-2211]

#Thank You!
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On November 27, Torero Nation came together to paint the day blue and show our Torero pride. From coast to coast and around the world, over 800 alumni, parents, and friends contributed to support our students and programs.

IF YOU MISSED TORERO TUESDAY,
IT'S NOT TOO LATE!

Visit sandiego.edu/give to make your gift today.



USD MAGAZINE

UNIVERSITY OF SAN DIEGO / SPRING 2019

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It was Henry David Thoreau who led Byron Palmer '03 (BBA) to the rolling oak-sprinkled hills of Sonoma, but the path was filled with switchbacks and more than a few bumps along the way. His work in restorative agriculture is key to one burning desire: to find a way to actively participate in making the world a better place.

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EVERYWHERE Among the many ways that Toreros help each other is by building connections with one another. From interacting with students to hiring interns to being proactive about offering mentorship and career opportunities, the alumni network has got your back.

GO SLOW TO GO FAST.

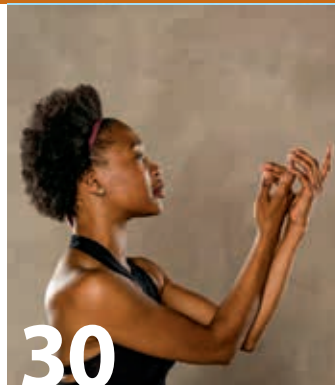


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Meggan Hill-McQueeney '94 (BA) offers those in need the transformative experience she's found in the world of hippo-therapy. She believes horses have the power to heal those suffering from physical and emotional trauma. As president of BraveHearts Therapeutic Riding and Education Center, she heads the nation's largest veteran-focused therapy program.

BE FEARLESS AND BOLD.



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[writerly]

A BRILLIANT TRIO

Three USD professors strut their authorial stuff

by Julene Snyder

Stories bring humanity together. And in very different ways, three University of San Diego professors have added to the rich tapestry of the written word with the recent publication of three very different works.

Stories are at the heart of Greg Prieto's new book, *Immigrants Under Threat: Risk and Resistance in Deportation Nation* (NYU Press, 2018), which explores ways that Mexican immigrants "seek not to transcend, but to burrow into American institutions of law and family so that they might attain a measure of economic stability and social mobility."

An assistant professor of sociology, Prieto hopes his book garners an audience outside of academia; he thinks that

the anecdotal nature of stories gathered through his ethnographic research will be of broad interest to all readers.

"What's important for me is to think of immigrants not just as pawns in a larger policy or political game, but as active subjects who are — in their everyday lives — finding ways to mitigate the reach of the state into their personal lives."

Focusing on two Mexican immigrant communities on California's Central Coast, Prieto says the book "puts some flesh on the bones of this social problem. Readers can learn about the kinds of concerns people have and the life/world anxieties and hopes for the future they hold for themselves and their children. It's an accessible narrative that's really the heart of this book."

Prieto sees hope even in the thorny thicket of the current political climate. "The potential of collective politics and the beauty of everyday life inspires us to keep going," he says. "Immigrants keep going. If they can, we can too."

Dennis Clausen, who's been teaching at USD for nearly five decades, is passionate about storytelling. He recently published a novel, *The Diary of Rachel Sims* (Sunbury Press, 2018), which he describes as "a fictional account of a young woman who learns in her early 20s that the people she thought were her parents are not



Clausen, who grew up in tiny Morris, Minnesota, has long been interested in small-town life in America. "Our county was the most unpopulated in the state," he recalls. "It was very, very remote. For the first two decades of my life, no one I knew watched TV."

her biological parents, triggering an obsessive psychological need to find 'where she fits in.'"

The prolific Clausen teaches courses on American literature and screenwriting; the bulk of his writing takes place during academic breaks. It's an arrangement that works well for him.

"I love the combination of writing in seclusion in the summers, and then going into the classroom during the academic year and being among young people and building a passion for storytelling in them," he says.

For us, reading, storytelling, was a way of life."

Captain of the basketball team in both high school and college, Clausen thought at one point that he might pursue a career as a university coach. But his abiding love of literature instead led him to academia, where he could pass along his love for the written word to new generations.

All these years later, he's still invigorated by the power of stories. "In my screenwriting class, I urge students to write screenplays as a way to come up with an outline

Assistant Professor of Sociology
Greg Prieto (below left), English
Professor Dennis Clausen (below)
and Professor of Labor and Employment Law Orly Lobel (below right)
each have stories to tell.

for a novel. I want them to have the challenge of telling a story from beginning to middle to end."

The result? "They get enthusiastic about storytelling."

Another work that provides an engaging way of telling a complicated story is School of Law Professor Orly Lobel's book, *You Don't Own Me: How Mattel v. MGA Entertainment Exposed Barbie's Dark Side* (W.W. Norton and Company, 2017), which will be released in paperback this spring and is also available on Audible and Kindle.

Lobel's website (www.orylobel.com) sums up the book — which recounts the lengthy court battle between Barbie distributor Mattel and Bratz collection distributor MGA Entertainment — in a provocative nutshell: "Are your ideas your own or does your employer own them? This is the question that set off the greatest toy war of our time."

The book has won multiple awards and has received rave reviews from major media, including *The New Yorker*, *Wall Street Journal* and NPR. Lobel says that innovation wars in the toy industry invite readers to think about the power of icons and how parenting and consumer markets interact with images of womanhood, race and sexuality.

"The story becomes not just about who owns Bratz, but who owns a lot of different ideas and knowledge in the market," Lobel explained at a 2018 talk at Harvard Law School. "There are antitrust issues, there are a lot of questions about corporate ethics, but all the while, this is really about our culture, the culture we create."

Seeking answers to deep questions is apparently woven into the fabric of the Lobel family. "As I reveal in the book, I became an early critic of the toy industry," she says. It seems her psychology professor mom filmed Orly as a child for her research about gender development in kids.

"In one set of videos, I played with girl or 'pink self' toys, like Barbie, and in the other, with more stereotypically boy toys, like a basketball." Her mom then asked subjects around the world to answer questions about the little girl in the videos.

"The results were overwhelmingly consistent. When I was seen playing with a ball or toy truck, I was thought of as smarter, more likely to succeed and more of a leader than when I played with 'girly' toys."

Clearly, for each of these authors, the answers to very different questions turn out to largely be the same: We begin by telling each other stories. 📖



[AROUND THE PARK]

Humanities Directorship

With a \$1.5 million gift from Carol Vassiliadis, the College of Arts and Sciences has established the A. Vassiliadis Director of the Humanities Center, which will be held by the center's current director, Brian Clack (pictured). This donation ensures that funding for the director and his vision is fully supported. "Mrs. Vassiliadis has been delighted with the expansive nature of the center and its unique collaboration with University Galleries," said Dean Noelle Norton.



Women in the Boardroom

Research by Clinical Professor of Finance Annalisa Barrett was instrumental in informing legislation on a recently passed California bill requiring women to be included on the boards of directors of firms headquartered here. The bill addresses the lack of diversity in corporate boardrooms and was proposed because women comprise 52 percent of California's population, yet only represent 15 percent of the directors of public corporations in the state.



DACA Law Scholarship

USD alumnus John Gomez '89 (BBA) has funded a new scholarship to support future Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) School of Law students. The scholarship is part of a university-wide effort to provide more support to DACA recipients, who are currently protected from deportation. School of Law Dean Stephen C. Ferruolo hopes that having such a scholarship will enable more DACA recipients to attend law school. Gomez pointed out, "No one becomes an attorney alone."



New MFA Director

The Old Globe and University of San Diego Shiley Graduate Theatre Program has hired Jesse J. Perez — an accomplished actor, choreographer, director and professor — as its new director. He comes to San Diego after 12 years of distinguished teaching at New York's Juilliard School. Perez joins the USD theatre faculty and oversees the internationally renowned Master of Fine Arts in Acting program, a joint effort between the university and the Old Globe. "We are honored to welcome him to USD," said Dean Noelle Norton.



CHRIS PARK

[extraordinary]

AUTHENTICITY, SQUARED

Parent Joseph Bradley goes the extra mile for USD students

Cisco's Joseph M. Bradley (at right) is excited about tapping into the deep talent pool of USD students. He's pictured alongside his son, Joseph '20 and wife Laurie.



by Ryan T. Blystone

Joseph M. Bradley has an impressive job title at Cisco, the multinational technology conglomerate: He is global vice president of the Digital and IoT (Internet of Things) Professional Services Organization.

So when Bradley, the parent of accountancy major Joseph J. Bradley '20, learned that USD's Career Development Center was planning one of its popular Torero Treks to Silicon Valley in 2017,

he knew he wanted Cisco involved. Connecting through the Parent Career Network, he saw the trek as an opportunity to not just expose USD students to Cisco, but to echo the positive impression USD made on him, his wife Laurie and their son during Joseph's college admissions process.

"I'll never forget the genuine care and knowledge that every faculty member we met had for their students," Bradley recalls.

"You could see that, just as in business, the customer was first. At USD, the student is at the center of that experience. It was incredible."

It stands to reason that Bradley, a member of USD's Parent Association Board, was excited, alongside key Cisco leadership colleagues, to host 40 undergraduate students for the trek. Students heard from Cisco's Executive Vice President and Chief People Officer Fran

Katsoudas, from Bradley and from leaders for the Cisco Hyper Innovation Living Labs (CHILL).

But for Bradley, the biggest takeaway was the caliber of the audience.

"What stood out was the quality of the questions that the students asked," Bradley says. "They showed their ability to listen, to adapt and to learn on the fly. It was one of the most impressive student interactions I've ever had."

Coming out of the trek, Bradley's team leaders were also impressed. They worked with USD's Career Development Center to create four internship opportunities, two each in data-centric services and strategy organization. Students worked at Cisco's corporate headquarters in San Jose on projects before flying to Chicago to present them to the company's leaders.

"They did an incredible piece of work on engaging and driving new IoT solutions," Bradley says. "Some of their analysis will lead to a new service offering that we'll bring to market. Everyone said that they brought a different, unique perspective. They brought the voice of a different customer set that we weren't necessarily in tune to, and they asked a different set of questions that ultimately challenged our core beliefs."

"But you know what?" he continues, "We should not necessarily be worried about what we don't know. We should worry about what we believe to be true and let's start challenging some of those core beliefs. Their analysis allowed us to debunk at least three core beliefs we had in the marketplace that, through the work they did, we no longer hold."

What's next? "This year, every one of my leadership team wants USD students. We're going from two or three in data services to 10."

Bradley's connection to USD and the Parent Association Board has resulted in more than internship experiences. Midyear graduating electrical engineering major and entrepreneur Kheperah Ray '19 expected to begin a job at Cisco as a network engineer in January 2019.

Bradley and parent executives at other companies who want to tap into the deep talent pool of USD students understand the importance of what's at stake.

"The cost of a bad hire is ten-fold," Bradley says. "If we can invest in a student early, I'll do it all day long. It's well worth it."

[bon voyage]

WE'RE NUMBER ONE

USD tops in the nation for study abroad

by Ryan T. Blystone

The University of San Diego was ranked first in the nation for undergraduate study-abroad participation among the top 40 doctorate-granting universities by the Institute for International Education (IIE) which announced the list in mid-November.

Using the IIE's most recent data, USD's 76.9 percent participation was the top score. Notre Dame was second (73.7), followed by Wake Forest (73.5), University of Denver (72.6) and Pepperdine (72.4).

"It's an honor to be ranked number one, but it's the quality, diversity and innovation of our programs for which we are most proud," says Denise Dimon, PhD, associate provost of international affairs.

The university's undergraduate study-abroad program has been a consistent rankings success for more than a decade. In eight of the past nine years, USD has finished among the top three, including the top spot in 2011 and 2012.

"This ranking is a testament to USD's commitment to international opportunities, as well as to the adventurous spirit of our students and faculty," says Kira Espiritu, PhD, director of International Studies Abroad programming. "The USD International Center advising team works tirelessly to prepare undergraduate students to study abroad. Our faculty are dedicated to making the international experience the best it can be, both academically and culturally."

USD offers more than 75 programs worldwide. The university has a permanent international

facility in Spain, the USD Madrid Center, which supports USD's largest semester-abroad program. It created the Second Year Experience Abroad for January's three-week Intersession, which is exclusively for sophomores.

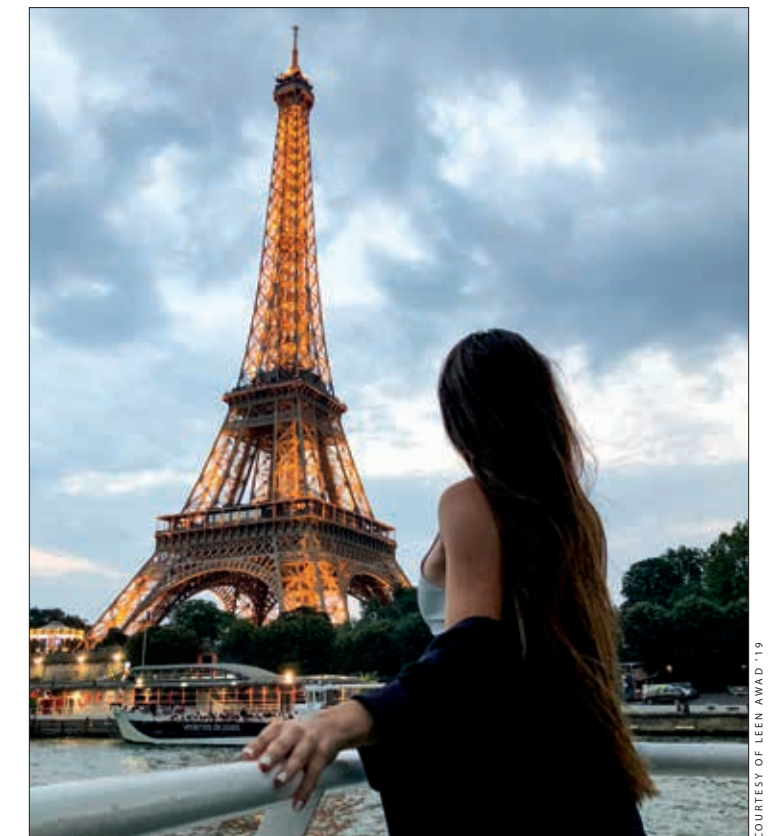
This multipronged approach causes Dimon to note that USD's offerings are both innovative and diverse. "Most universities offer study abroad, but the University of San Diego offers study abroad 2.0."

For example, the International Center, created in 2007, serves as a one-stop shop for undergraduate students. "We also decentralized study abroad in our professional schools for our graduate students," Dimon explains. "As a university, we leverage advantag-

es that come both from centralization and decentralization."

Undergraduate students can choose from more than 50 courses each year that take place all around the world and cover many disciplines. Some are project-based learning opportunities that allow students to truly engage with local communities.

"Studying abroad contributes to USD's strategic initiative objectives by furthering our engagement globally," Espiritu says. "We work hard to make sure that studying abroad is accessible to all students. USD's dedication to international experiences for students and faculty is one of the distinguishing features of our university."



Post-doctoral fellow Angela Nurse came to USD because of the university's great reputation as a teaching institution.

[multiplicity]

DIFFERENT PERSPECTIVES

Increased faculty diversity benefits students



NICK ARADILLA

by Timothy McKernan

When Noelle Norton became dean of the College of Arts and Sciences in 2013, one of her first priorities was increasing the diversity of the college's faculty. At the hands of Professor Perla Myers, Assistant Dean Pauline Powell and Professor Alberto López Pulido, special assistant to the dean at the time, the college launched the Diversity Postdoctoral Faculty Program in 2014 to establish a pipeline to help achieve that goal.

"Academic excellence is at the heart of USD's mission, and you can't have academic excellence without a diverse faculty," Powell says. "Different perspectives help students develop a more comprehensive understanding of subject matter that really can't be replicated any other way."

Since the program was created, 15 post-doctoral faculty have participated. Though some have moved on to other institutions, some have remained as faculty.

Each year, post-doc faculty positions are opened to applicants who have completed requirements for a doctorate or other terminal degrees. The precise balance of teaching and research depends largely on the department.

"All focus on research and want to gain experience in the classroom," says Associate Dean Kristin Moran, current co-chair of the program. "The program creates opportunities for people in a variety of disciplines to understand what it means to teach at a liberal arts university, and at the undergraduate level."

It was USD's reputation as a teaching institution that piqued the interest of Angela Nurse.

"I was open to tenure-track positions as well as post-doc fellowships when the USD opportunity came to my attention," says Nurse, who earned her doctorate in sociology at Michigan State.

"I saw the clear commitment to teaching and faculty-student interaction. I really want to make a difference in the classroom, and USD has been the perfect place to develop the talents and skills needed to do that."

"The environment was so encouraging. The department chair visited my class and gave me some tips on improving pedagogy. It was so wonderful to have someone that invested in you and in making you better."

In addition to providing teaching and research opportunities, the diversity postdoctoral program also helps students challenge some preconceived notions.

"For example, a black faculty member in chemistry is something most students likely have not seen," Powell says. "To shatter stereotypes while at the same time providing the highest-level classroom instruction is a very valuable part of a USD education."

Nurse, who has accepted an offer for a tenure-track position at USD in 2019, says she was initially "shocked" at the response of many of her students.

"I've had students come to my office hours just to thank me for being here," says the sociology professor who students affectionately refer to as "Doctor Nurse."

"I've had some tell me they've never had a professor that looked like me — or like them. It's been humbling."

Norton considers the program a "catalyst of institutional change" with far-reaching implications.

"We receive about a hundred applications for the program," Powell adds. "Scholars from across the nation are seeking us out. That competition means we're bringing some very innovative and brilliant minds and diverse voices into our classrooms, and our students benefit directly. We're focused on the College of Arts and Sciences, but we hope to take the program to the institutional level; a sustainable, funded model to benefit students all across campus."

[impactful]

TIME OF YOUR LIFE

Dual degree program has a global flair



MARSHALL WILLIAMS

by Ryan T. Blystone

Hopes and dreams are kicked into high gear when a student heads off to college. They're expecting to emerge with not only a diploma, but a vast trove of experiences that they'll look back on as the time of their lives.

That implied promise may be idealistic, but a new cohort of School of Business dual-degree students is well on its way to making those hopes and dreams a reality. This is the first year that five international students have arrived on the USD campus, halfway to their goal of graduating with two business degrees.

The quintet arrived in Fall 2018 from Madrid's Universidad Pontificia Comillas, where they spent two years working on an international business degree. The students (above from left to right) — David Alba Burbano,

Clara Toledo Pajares, Maria Lopez Melendo Goyarrola, Angela Gomez Fernandez and Ignacio Lopez Rey — are eager to take the next step in their journey of cross-cultural academia.

"Having the opportunity to go to another place, to meet new people and to be in a culture I'm not used to, I'm treating this as a gift," says Goyarrola.

For USD students interested in the dual degree route, options include Madrid's Comillas, Dublin City University in Ireland, Rome's John Cabot University, Catolica Lisbon School of Business and Economics in Portugal and the University of Strasbourg in France.

"This program is not for everyone, but it specifically targets students who like a challenge, want to expand themselves culturally and are

well prepared for it," says Associate Dean and Economics Professor Stephen Conroy, PhD. He points out that earning a dual degree will raise a student's profile both professionally and personally. "It's going to push students to grow in areas even they may not expect."

"Professionally, we're improving our English fluency and we're trying to adapt to the lifestyle of the American people," Fernandez says. "I know we will go back to Spain with a broader picture of everything. You can't have that if you don't go abroad."

"If I were a student thinking about doing the dual degree program, they should go for it," says Rey. "You'll 100 percent regret what you don't do. I'm having the time of my life here. I'm enjoying every minute," says Rey.

[fellowship]

A SUPERIOR COURT

Men's Tennis has a distinctly international flavor



CHRIS PARK

by Don Norcross

Walk into the Skip and Cindy Hogan Tennis Center during a men's tennis practice and you might think the U.N. changed location. Overheard languages include Danish, Dutch, Portuguese, Spanish, French, German and Italian with a little Farsi tossed into the mix.

The Toreros have won five straight West Coast Conference Tournament championships, and the team is as diverse as it is talented.

The No. 1 singles player, August Holmgren, built his all-court game in Denmark. The Toreros' top doubles team of Gui Osorio and Nico Borter hail from Portugal and Switzerland, respectively. There are two players from Sweden, one from Holland and another from New Zealand. First-year Armin Rostami was born in Iran.

In all, eight of the nine players were born outside the United States. "It's cool that we have so many different backgrounds," says Osorio.

The man who built this internationally-flavored team is USD head coach Ryan Keckley. Now in his fourth season as the Toreros' head coach, Keckley recruits the United States hard, particularly the southwest and Pacific Northwest.

But his goal is to build USD into one of the nation's top 10 programs. To broaden the talent pool, he recruits globally, particularly in the Scandinavian region.

"The cultures aren't that different," Keckley says.

Members of the men's tennis team come from countries that span the globe, making for a group that's as diverse geographically as it is talented.

To find top international players, Keckley spends hours on the internet, identifying high-ranked players and tracking their results.

Then Keckley and assistant coach Rich Bonfiglio contact players via social media and begin building relationships. "I just felt a connection every time I talked to the coaches," says Holmgren.

With players from such disparate backgrounds, Keckley works to build camaraderie. Miniature soccer balls are booted around at practice. Touch football games break out at beach outings. The players splatter each other during paintball trips.

Keckley's formula is working — on and off the court. Consider those five straight WCC Tournament titles. In October, sophomore Holmgren climbed to No. 30 in the NCAA Division I singles rankings. Osorio and Borter were ranked 10th in doubles. Academically, the team compiled a 3.08 GPA for the 2017-18 school year.

Learning is also going on away from the court and outside of the classroom. Pratt Keerasuntonpong educated teammates about New Zealand's dense sheep population. Borter told tales of Switzerland's beautiful mountains.

Of the melting pot atmosphere Keckley has created, Holmgren says, "It comes naturally for us to just hang out, and kind of be brothers." 🇺🇸

GETTING TO KNOW ...



ZACHARY BARRON

DANIELLE O'TOOLE

AGE: 24 **HOMETOWN:** Upland, California.

CREDENTIALS:

As USD's assistant softball coach, O'Toole brings some serious clout to the Torero dugout. You'd be hard-pressed to find any other coach in the WCC who's a current member of Team USA Softball and a former PAC 12 pitcher of the year. "I love the game and want to share that passion with the girls." **LASER FOCUS:** "What do I like to do when I'm not coaching or playing? Wow, I don't really know. My work as a coach and my Team USA responsibilities take up all of my time. Oh, and I'm getting married, so that's pretty much it. Softball and wedding planning." **MOTHERLY MENTOR:** O'Toole had an undeniable passion for the sport from day one, and she didn't have to look far for inspiration and motivation. "My mom was a really good softball player at UCSD, and she was my pitching coach growing up. I feel like I have a great opportunity to teach the girls the best of what she taught me, as well as what I've drawn from my own experiences playing." **STAR STRUCK:** While at the University of Arizona, O'Toole had an opportunity to train with perhaps the most well-known USA softball player of all-time, Jennie Finch. "When I found out I was going to be training with Jennie, I just sat in my car and started crying. I looked up to her so much growing up, and to have the chance to work with her on drills and technique was just crazy. She was awesome!"

SPORTS BRIEFS

Three-time Olympian Bryan Volpenhein has been named training and technical director for San Diego men's rowing. Volpenhein joined the Toreros after serving as the U.S. National Team men's coach for the past six years. He selected and prepared the priority boat for competition at World Cups, World Championships and the 2016 Rio Olympics. Volpenhein is a three-time Olympian as a competitor: He stroked the U.S. Men's Eight to a gold medal at the 2004 Athens Olympics and earned a bronze medal at the 2008 Beijing Olympics. He is a 10-time U.S. national team member and was elected the U.S. Rowing Male Athlete of the Year in 2002 and 2004.

Carolyn Greer retired this past July after spending 40 years as USD's head athletic trainer, a span covering 419 football games and 1,171 men's basketball games. She was a trailblazer in the industry as the first female head athletic trainer at a Division I university in the country. "One of the giants of the industry is leaving," said USD football coach Dale Lindsey.

The 41st Annual Sports Banquet — the flagship fund-raising event held annually for Torero Athletics — is set for May 9 in the Jenny Craig Pavilion. Funds raised at this event help to support all Torero Athletics programs through its annual fund. The 2018 edition was a packed house and a huge success in raising funds to help provide our scholar-athletes with a top-notch Division I experience. The support of sponsors, guests, alumni and friends of USD Athletics is vital to ensuring the success of USD scholar-athletes.



NATURAL SON

An honest embrace of the world: Byron Palmer walks the walk

by Julene Snyder

Photography by Chris Park and Byron Palmer



“AIM ABOVE MORALITY. BE NOT SIMPLY GOOD; BE GOOD FOR SOMETHING.” — HENRY DAVID THOREAU



The view from Sonoma Mountain ripples with layers. Up close, there are rolling hills of grass, mostly in shades of brown this early in the fall. A few green shoots peek through in response to the first true rain of the season. Stands of mature oak trees are dotted about, with younger upstarts sprinkled among occasional clumps of speckled gray boulders that appear almost curated in their pleasing placement.

Roads and fences are evident but unobtrusive, hugging the rolling landscape in patterns that mimic nature's curves. As one's gaze moves to the middle distance and the great beyond, drinking in the vista soothes the soul and quiets the mind. A turkey vulture wheels and dips through the air, its vast wingspan and outstretched primary feathers spread like fingertips.

"I love this landscape," says Byron Palmer '03 (BBA), squinting as he leans against the tailgate of his work truck. "That's Mount Tam, that little peak there." He glances up at the soaring bird above our heads. "There are a lot of turkey vultures, hawks and harriers, which have a white strip on their tail. Voles too, they're sort of



like skinny gophers."

Palmer is passionate about a lot of things: Restorative agriculture. Henry David Thoreau. His wife and baby. Finding a way to make a real difference. But for him, it always comes back to nature.

"When you look across this landscape out at the hills, historically — let's say 15,000, 20,000 years ago — before the Native Americans even got here, there would be crazy amounts of herbivores grazing through those agricultural bottoms shoulder-to-shoulder. They'd all be moving in this amazing symbiosis of basically animals eating, predators chasing them, the animals moving off, and the grass regrowing.

"That is literally the definition of

the relationships that equal ecological health; that is the context in which the ecology that we live evolved. The reason we see this land as beautiful — with trees that are kind of cropped and grass that seems almost manicured — is because that means there's a lot of food there. When we look to manage the environment, to improve biodiversity, we're attempting to mimic those relationships that existed before."



For Palmer, the road to Sonoma and his work in restorative agriculture was a bit like riding up the mountain in his pickup truck — bumpy enough to rattle

Palmer received a substantial academic scholarship and was offered a spot on the football team.

Outspoken, blunt and more than occasionally profane, Palmer is particularly clear-eyed, even when (perhaps especially when) he talks about himself.

"My decision-making matrix was very unsophisticated," he says with a rueful laugh. "I took the influence of my dad pretty heavily. USD is a gorgeous campus, aesthetically, and that certainly played a role."

His football career as a tight-end was cut short by a harrowing career-ending back injury at a practice his first year. "I got decelerated, was about four feet horizontal in the air and landed on my lower back," he recalls. "I could barely feel my legs for a few minutes." While football receded in his rear-view mirror, his scholarship carried through all four years, and Palmer looks back on his academic experience with genuine affection. He sees a clear through-line from classroom to what has become his life's work.

"Dennis Clausen was my English professor during the first semester of sophomore year. That led to my classic collegiate awakening: He exposed us to a breadth of different books, but we read excerpts from Henry David Thoreau's *Walden*, and that just blew my mind wide open," he recalls.

"I'd never really read anything like that. It started a cascade of reading and exploration that caused me to want to actually move away from my business degree, but my dad talked me out of it. He said, 'Look, business degrees can be really practical.' So, I picked up a philosophy minor to deal with the existential angst that I had."

Professor Clausen, who's still teaching literature at USD, remembers Palmer with remarkable clarity, considering it's been well over 15 years since that par-

ticular class. "Learning for him went so deep inside of him," he recalls. "He didn't learn on a superficial level. It was a joy to watch him delve into the deepest part of himself. I have a lot of students that I remember fondly, but a few stand out as unique. Byron is definitely one of them."

Palmer took advantage of USD's flexibility by building a curriculum in conjunction with faculty. "I was reading books that combined evolutionary biology and ecology and business ethics, to basically put together a program that I was interested in within the context of the business degree program."

Of particular interest to him were organizational development, design and theory. "Just how people come together to accomplish projects."

Another aha moment came in a sociology/criminology class with then-professor A. Rafik Mohamed. "He was extremely impactful in me understanding the role that class and privilege plays in America, as well as all the benefits that it bestowed upon me that I just took for granted," Palmer says. "The world is, for lack of a better term, designed for me. It's

designed for white male people that are six feet tall and loud."

He laughs his booming laugh and continues. "So, I had some pretty formative experiences there, and it basically began a deep searching for me in how I wanted to participate in trying to make the world a better place."



After college, Palmer worked jobs to make money to travel. "I got the sense that I was going to find my calling by wandering around backpacking in Europe," he says. It took a while, but it worked. Over the course of the six months he was bouncing around the continent, he met some guys who were interested in documentary filmmaking and thought that might be a way to help save the planet.

"I thought, 'That's the problem, people just don't know that the world is [messed] up. What we need to do is tell them and then everyone will behave!'"

That booming laugh reappears. "It didn't work out well. The occupation worked out great but there was a hubris of youth — an important thing to have

and an important stage to go through — the idea that what the world was missing was my effort or strategic capacity."

He wound up getting a job in Marin at Habitat Media working on documentaries about nature and politics. While working on a film about building community and political support around agriculture, Palmer tripped over what would ultimately become his career.

"I ended up on a lot of farms, working on farm stuff. During that time, I was struggling with the idea of telling stories about stuff that was happening, but I wanted to actually do the physical work of making the changes that I was documenting."

He knew he needed to make the political personal.

"I decided I wanted to get into farming and be part of the actual tending of the land in an ecologically nurturing way — myself, directly, instead of just documenting those efforts."

So, he got to work, quite literally. "I started by doing some lightweight stuff like growing a vegetable garden in my own backyard. I sold my car and started riding my bike everywhere, which is

"AND SO THE SEASONS WENT ROLLING ON INTO SUMMER,
AS ONE RAMBLES INTO HIGHER AND HIGHER GRASS." — THOREAU





hard to do in the Bay Area."

That's no understatement. "I was living in Marin and biking out to the 101 and taking the bus to the East Bay." It was practically a full-time job.

Now in his mid-20s, Palmer started taking workshops and visiting and interning at farms.

His next stop seems made for its own documentary: "I did an organic farming apprenticeship at The Farm in Tennessee," which was co-founded by iconic countercultural hippie Stephen Gaskin who worked alongside a few hundred spiritual seekers from the Haight Ashbury district.

While Palmer was still searching, he was getting closer to what he was looking for. After some more traveling, he wound up as an apprentice in Bolinas at the Regenerative Design Institute (RDI), whose tagline is "cultivating skills and deepening awareness of our place on Earth."

"They had a nine-month educational program that I was pretty excited about. It was essentially focused on three components: Permaculture (a sustainable landscape design methodology), leadership, and nature awareness, which is essentially animal tracking,

primitive skills and naturalist skills. So, it was basically a special forces hippie camp."

For Palmer, it all comes back to Thoreau.

"There's something to be gained from sitting still in the natural world and observing what's happening. The fundamental core routine of the nature awareness component of that education is literally 'sit spots,' sitting in nature day after day, at the same place, same time, and observing the patterns on the landscape of deer, bobcats, birds, coyotes, those types of things."

It's really about paying attention.

"When it comes to environmental change, a lot of people, just based on the way society is structured, don't have a direct relationship with a natural place," he explains. "They have a relationship with different natural places that they've visited or been, or parks that they go to. But it's kind of like the difference between something happening to someone else's mother and something happening to *your* mother."

Palmer was exactly where he needed to be to get to the next stage.

"That program was really meaningful to me, and it also

happens to be where I met my wife. Apparently, RDI is a great place to meet your partner. It's kind of like a church; you meet people that are based in your faith, whether it's politics or work-wise, or whatever. That really narrows down the dating pool."

Palmer smiles as he thinks back on one pivotal moment. "The first gift she ever got me was a scat identification card. I thought, 'I knew this woman was special.' Here she is, she's beautiful and buying me a card to help me identify mammal excrement."



Figuring out how to actually make a living while making a difference is a tricky business, something that Palmer knew from day one.

"When you're trying to do work in the do-gooder world, figuring out the economic and lifestyle calculus is hard," Palmer says. "It's all well and good when you're in your 20s, but if you choose to go the route of having grown-up bills and kids and all that, then you've got to have a different sort of livelihood. So, I was like, 'Man, climate change is going to be a problem. Anybody that's doing work that can help mitigate that is probably going to have job security.'"

Palmer got busy and cold-called every ranch in Marin and Sonoma counties trying to get hired. The response? Crickets.

"Why should they hire me? I had very little to offer."

But eventually he got picked up for a job doing permaculture design on a Marin ranch and then got hired on at Terra Firma Farms, which delivers weekly organic produce and products to "those who care about what they eat."

"I managed the ranch operation," Palmer recalls. "I was pretty green, but I had a capacity for managing projects which came from my time at USD."

Fast-forward to today, and

Palmer finds himself wearing two professional hats. He's the grass-land and cattle manager for the Sonoma Mountain Institute (SMI), a nonprofit that "works to support human beings' relationship with nature." He oversees 4,500 acres and about 750 head of strategically placed grazing cattle. It all translates to using integrated methods of soil-building, replanting grasses and trees, water management and providing space for people to get a firsthand experience with nature.

"At one of the ranches we manage, we've seen a 162 percent relative increase in species. For us, having more biodiversity is an indicator that the health of the land is moving in the right direction."

Another big push is soil monitoring, work related to a Healthy Soils Initiative grant that SMI received from the State of California. "We work with the local resource conservation district to measure to see if the compost we use along with grazing are improving the soil carbon."

In fact, SMI is a demonstration site for the program, which promotes the development of healthy soils, seeking out "innovative farm and land management practices (that) contribute to building adequate soil organic matter that can increase carbon sequestration and reduce overall greenhouse gases."

Palmer has nothing but good things to say about SMI. "They're a great organization to work for," he says with sincerity. "They care about the earth, they care about their people, they value peace and calmness, and those things are rare, I find, in a work reality."

Calmness is key, particularly in Palmer's other job, which is as CEO and co-founder of Grounded Grassfed, which "builds biodiversity, nurtures healthy animals and puts healthy food on your table through evolutionary grazing."

Palmer is adamant that this work is important.

"When you look at the beef that we at Grassfed produce and how it's raised and you look across this landscape, it doesn't come at the exclusion of other biodiversity. It actually encourages it. This is a community of which the cattle are just a part. When you look around and see who else gets to live here, guess what? You've got mountain lions and bobcats and coyotes and voles and snakes and eagles. It's amazing."

Palmer is sensitive to the intricacies involved in agricultural philosophies. "Most folks are doing the best they can," he says. "But in row crop agriculture, often you're keeping other life off the land that's in competition with the plants. In grassland, pasture-based systems, herbivores coexist with so much life. Walk into a soybean field, then walk onto an oak-studded savannah landscape and tell me: Which one do you want to have a picnic at? People say beef is bad without understanding the nuance and ecological context of these production systems."

And for those meat eaters who want to feel like they're making an ethical choice with their dining dollar, Grounded Grassfed aims to let customers make an educated choice about what they feed their family.

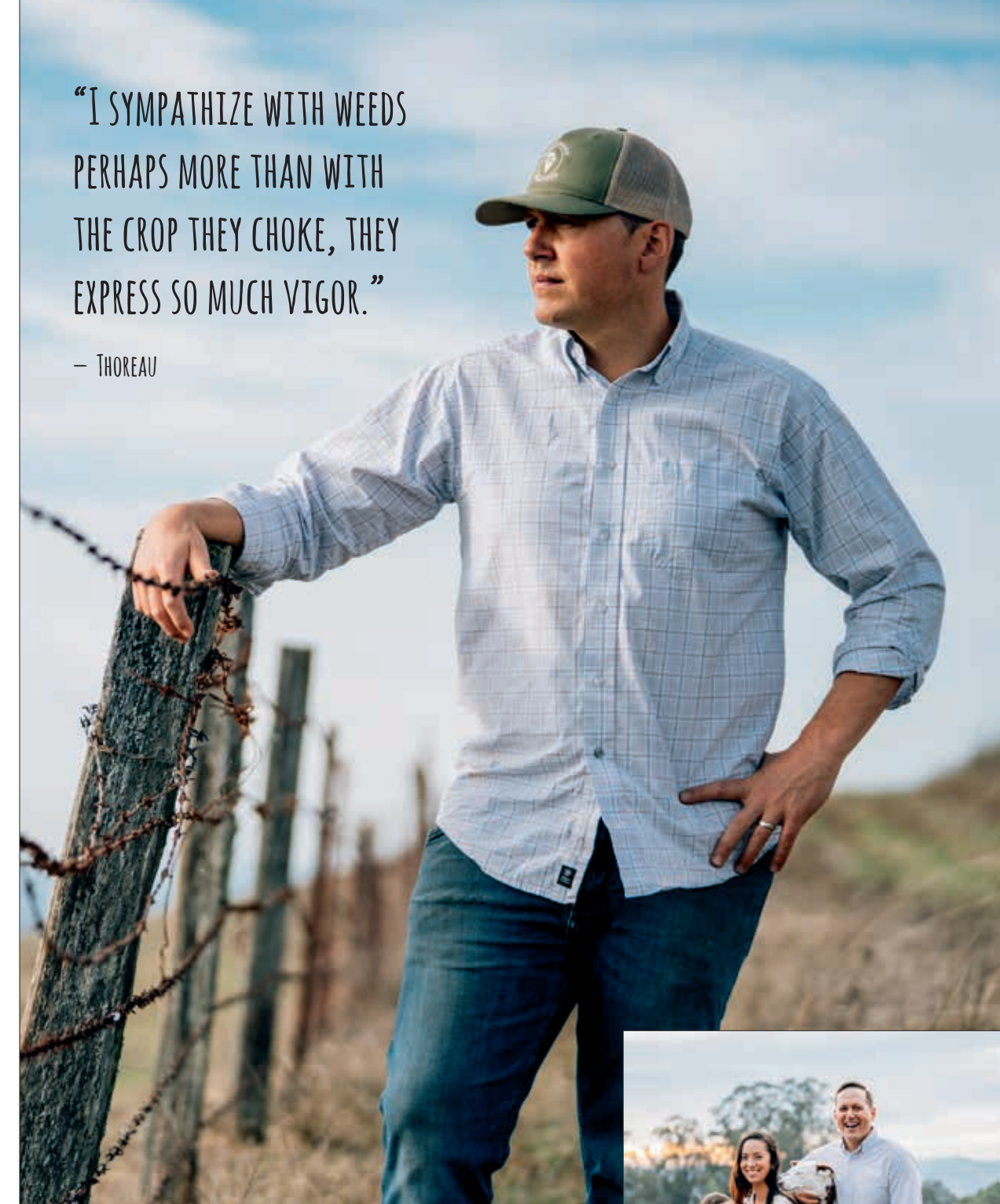
"It's super important to be as open and transparent about our process as possible," he says. "I want folks to be able to make an informed decision." His customers can buy anywhere from an eighth share of a cow to a whole cow, and come to the ranch to pick up their meat once a year — after cattle are harvested in their prime, typically in late spring.

It's a full day for customers that includes a ranch tour, an opportunity to meet ranchers, ask questions, and "eat, play, hide and cause trouble in general."

The end result? "Your freezer ends up filled with things that you feel good about. You don't

"I SYMPATHIZE WITH WEEDS PERHAPS MORE THAN WITH THE CROP THEY CHOKE, THEY EXPRESS SO MUCH VIGOR."

— THOREAU



have to stare at the grocery store meat case and try to figure out, 'What lines up with my values and pocketbook?'"

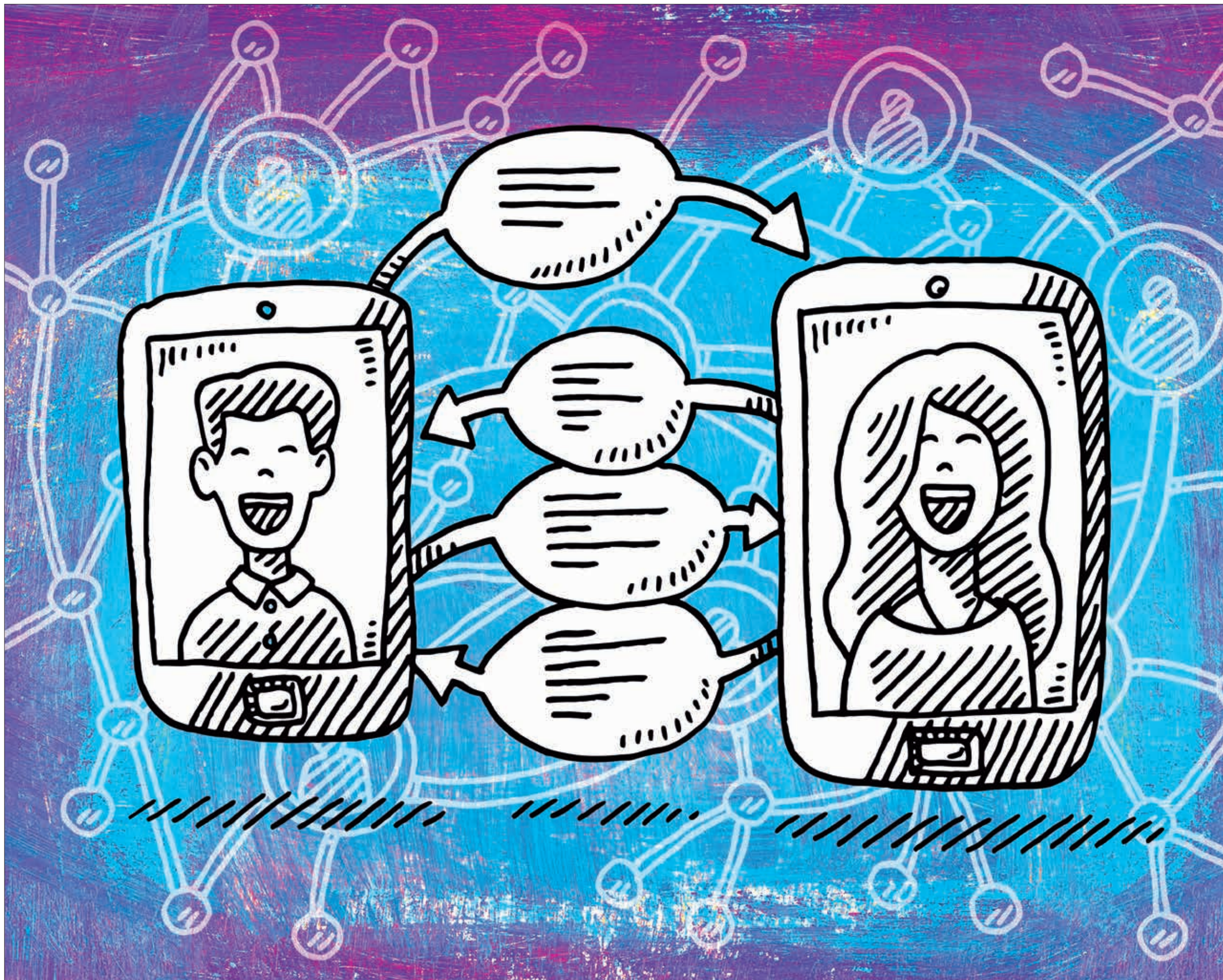
All this talking makes a person hungry, which is not a problem, as it's lunchtime. After bouncing along yet another bumpy road, we pull up to the house, where Palmer's wife, Alessa, is dressing a salad while baby Emma scoots along under the watchful eye of

her grandpa and the family's two dogs.

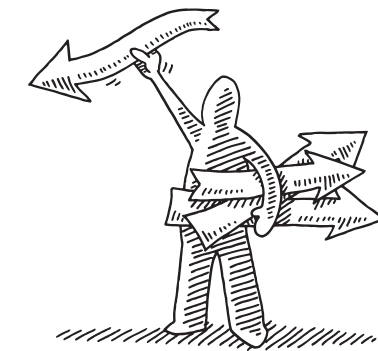
Steaks and burgers are, naturally, part of the family-style lunch buffet.

It all smells and tastes, delicious. As a bonus, it comes without a side-order of guilt. 🌱

Go to sonomamountaininstitute.org and groundedgrassfed.com to learn more.



WE ARE EVERYWHERE



**Looking for a job? Torero Nation
has got alumni covered.**

by Karen Gross

When Annie Powers '15 (BA) began looking for a job, she had a pretty good idea of where she wanted to work.

"I wanted to get into sales and technology. I was hoping to work at Salesforce," she recalls. "So I went online. I searched 'USD and Salesforce,' and Aaron's name came up."

At the time, Aaron Blumenkranz '97 (BA) was a regional vice president with the cloud computing powerhouse.

"I'd like to say I prospected him on LinkedIn," Powers jokes. But her sleuthing paid off. She messaged him online and after speaking by phone, the two met in person. Blumenkranz helped her apply for a position.

"He was really helpful throughout the whole process. He helped me understand Salesforce, he prepared me for my interview, and ever since then he's been a mentor to me."

Powers didn't get the first job she applied for, but she succeeded the second time. After just a couple of years at the company's office in San Francisco, she's an account executive responsible for more than 300 clients.

"One thing I like about hiring USD alumni is that you know what you're getting: someone thoughtful, smart and ethical with the social intelligence to navigate complex situations."

"Annie and I built a relationship, which I think is what USD really embodies," says Blumenkranz, now a field sales leader at Google. "One thing I like about hiring USD alumni is that you know what you're getting. Someone that's thoughtful, smart and ethical. But they're also going to have the social intelligence to navigate complex situations."

Over the years, Blumenkranz has drawn on that rich resource to fill internships and other positions, while also serving for a time on the board of the Alumni Association and acting

as a student mentor. "I'm totally open to meeting or talking to alumni on the phone. I don't always have a job opening, but I'm happy to give advice and help them brainstorm about what they want and how to achieve it."

Access to alumni such as Blumenkranz hasn't always been that easy for students and young graduates. USD is a relatively young school, and its once-fledgling alumni network reflected that in the beginning. But things began to change about 10 years ago, when the financial crisis made finding a first job that much harder.

"University leaders determined there was an additional need to be preparing our students for the world outside of college," says Kara Marsh Proffitt '04 (BA), director of alumni operations and engagement. "In the past half-decade, the Career Development Center has grown astronomically. With that renewed focus there, it's trickled down to a lot of other entities on campus."

Of particular importance is Proffitt's office, which launched Hire USD, a targeted campaign in partnership with career devel-

opment. "The program is really being a champion for the concept of putting USD alumni and students first; giving the opportunity to fellow Toreros first and foremost, thinking about USD talent when job opportunities open in your office."

With about 25,000 alumni living in San Diego and a total of some 68,000 worldwide, it's a fertile field. Housed within the Alumni Association's dedicated website, Hire USD (sandiego.edu/hireusd) is a virtual treasure trove of information and opportunity. Handshake, the platform's job listing portal, is the place where employers can post jobs, internships and volunteer openings for free. Torero Connections link current students and alumni directly with other alumni for mentorship and career advice.

For employers, opportunities to volunteer on campus or participate in career fairs feature prominently. Another program, Torero Treks, takes small groups of students locally and around the country and gives them an inside look at workplaces that employ graduates of USD.

"This is one of the key benefits of an alumni association," Proffitt says. "Leveraging this network to create opportunities."

Some alumni, such as James Brennan '96 (BBA), were actively plumbing the university's talent pool well before this latest push. A hugely successful San Diego entrepreneur, Brennan launched a series of nightclubs and restaurants, including Stingaree and Herringbone, before branching out into consumer products. As CEO of Enlightened Brand Ventures, Brennan co-founded and nurtured Suja Juice, Kopari Beauty and Original Grain, a local watchmaker. His latest baby is Liveli, a health supplement company.

Brennan's strong ties to USD have led to more than 100 internships and job opportunities.

Brennan's casual demeanor and wide smile belie his enviable standing among the city's business elite. His strong ties to USD have led to more than 100 internships and job opportunities for students and young graduates.

"I've hired valets, restaurant managers, servers and executives," Brennan says. "I think an alum's greatest responsibility to the school is the students coming out. That's number one. Don't get me wrong, writing a check is very important, and we all need to do that too. But now that we're coming into our own, there are no more excuses. Now it's about digging in and taking advantage of what the school is putting out."

There's no doubt he means it. Sitting in Kopari's state-of-the-art La Jolla headquarters, Brennan is flanked by Megan Whitman '10 (BS) and Tori Mauser-Jepesen '15 (BAcc/BA). Whitman began working for him right after graduation, taking a job she'd seen advertised on the university's online job board.

"I actually didn't understand the USD connection until my first day on the job," she says. "But I

met James that day, and then it made sense." Since then, Whitman has been with Brennan's companies for all but about two years. She became Kopari's chief digital officer in 2015 and can claim credit for a good part of the company's rapidly expanding footprint.

"I don't think that when Megan was working on her math degree she thought she was going to end up here," Brennan jokes. "But you know, it made a lot of sense once you look at all the things she's doing on a daily basis."

Mauser-Jepesen took a different route. She joined KPMG right out of college, putting in long hours as a junior accountant for two and a half years.

"I realized I wanted to feel like I was making more of a tangible impact on something," she says. "I'm actually a huge user of Kopari and I was familiar with James' name through that, through Suja and the USD network. I went on LinkedIn. I think my first line was 'Hi, I'm a fellow Torero and I'm looking to transition out of public accounting. I just wanted to reach out and see if you had anything in mind. Email me.'"

Brennan did, the next day. Liveli was in its infancy, and they were looking to bring somebody on for finance and accounting. "I think the fact that he saw USD on my LinkedIn and that I added 'fellow Torero' on my first note caught his eye," Mauser-Jepesen says.

Brennan remains remarkably open to engaging with students and alumni. He gets bombarded with requests to connect on LinkedIn but says he'll always accept an invitation from a Torero. Even more effective are handwritten notes.

But while he's happy to speak by phone or squeeze you in for a coffee, make sure you have something to say before you set something up.

"I'm very busy," he says. "It should be very easy to knock on the door and have the door opened. But make sure it's the right time and you're ready to have a conversation."

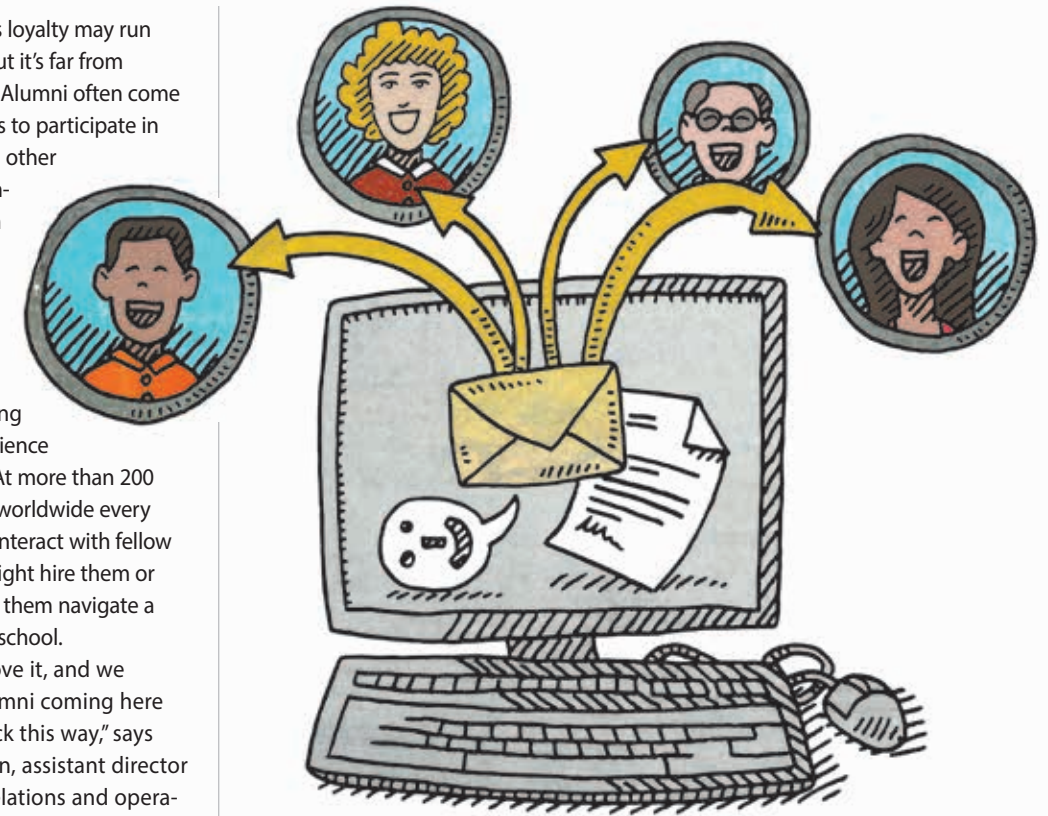
Brennan's loyalty may run deep, but it's far from unique. Alumni often come back to campus to participate in career fairs and other events that connect them with students. They appear on expert panels, discussing topics ranging from engineering to computer science to journalism. At more than 200 alumni events worldwide every year, students interact with fellow Toreros who might hire them or otherwise help them navigate a future beyond school.

"Students love it, and we appreciate alumni coming here and giving back this way," says Sheila Schaffzin, assistant director of employer relations and operations in the Career Development Center. "What we find is it helps the students feel more comfortable and connected with the organizations they represent."

The appreciation is mutual. "I've been fortunate to stay pretty close to the university," says Rasheed Behrooznia '02 (BS/BA), vice president of technical product delivery at Cubic Transportation Systems. "We've hired quite a few students as interns, early graduates, and even more senior-level professionals."

"The engineers that come out of USD are high caliber. They prioritize things like ethics, sustainability and humanitarian efforts."

Over the past seven years at Cubic, Behrooznia says he's brought in more than 30 Toreros to fill an array of positions. "The engineers that come out of USD are really high caliber. They prioritize things like ethics, sustainability and humanitarian efforts. I think that makes a big difference in the



kind of employee you get."

Cubic tracks promising young engineering students by sponsoring some of their senior capstone projects. And Behrooznia often shares job postings with the Career Development Center, which he says has become an excellent resource as the office has grown over the past few years.

"We'll also occasionally host a Torero Trek or participate in campus events," he says, adding this bit of advice for young job seekers.

"Come to those, get your name front and center, and then connect with us on LinkedIn. Our school might be small with a relatively young alumni base, but the connections are pretty strong. Build them over time and they'll be beneficial when the time comes."

His thoughts are echoed by Kristine Duehren '08 (BA), who started working as a server at Firehouse in Pacific Beach and quickly worked her way up through its parent company, SDCM Restaurant Group. Today, she's a managing partner with a hand in seven restaurants across the city, and was nominated for Woman of the Year

by *San Diego Magazine*.

"I would say networking is your best friend. See what other USD alumni are doing and reach out to them," she says. "I haven't had a USD alumnus personally reach out to me, but if I did, I would 100 percent go out of my way to at least get them an interview and try to place them somewhere."

As USD's alumni network continues to grow in size and influence, its young beneficiaries are already starting to pay it back.

At Salesforce, Annie Powers, who'd been helped by Aaron Blumenkranz, did the same for another graduate who found her on LinkedIn.

"I trained her for the interview, what to say, what they're looking for, and I referred her internally as well," Powers says.

"She got the position, and now she's been transferred to Singapore. I got to help out another Torero. It's really special when you can do that." Powers also recently learned that her team manager is a Torero too. "I've met other alumni at Salesforce as well," she says. "We are everywhere." 🌐





PHOTOGRAPHY BY MATT APCAR

THE GIFT HORSES

Miracles happen.
Just ask Meggan Hill-McQueeney.

by Tim McKernan



Meggan Hill-McQueeney was three when she fell off Popsicle and broke her left arm — an especially unfortunate accident for the congenital amputee born without a right one. Meggan's parents were determined that their one-handed daughter would not suffer in a two-handed world. She was six months old when she was fitted with a prosthetic arm. Meggan resisted using it, then despised it, and ultimately refused to wear it.

"But all little girls love ponies" she says with a laugh. "My dad introduced me to Popsicle and I fell in love. He asked if I wanted to ride and of course I said 'YES!' He said, 'Well, go get your arm.'"

Meggan got back on the horse, in this case a Shetland pony. She fell off again and broke another bone. Bone after broken bone after many broken bones. But Meggan learned to ride.

She learned a lot more than how to hold the reins. Meggan learned to pick up a brush and a bridle and a saddle and a pitchfork and a bucket and a wheelbarrow and a hay bale. She acquired confidence and purpose.

The pony didn't give Meggan her life. He helped her find it. "Popsicle taught me to fear less and live more," she says.

Today Meggan is president of BraveHearts Therapeutic Riding and Education Center. Military veterans suffering from physical and emotional trauma and people with special needs have the opportunity to experience the transformation that Meggan did. Hank, Maverick, Boone, Trick, Dan and Mighty, 32 in all, carry on in the tradition of Popsicle.

"Therapy dogs wear orange vests; these therapy beings wear saddles. The horses are magic. They know."

The home of the nation's largest veteran-focused therapy riding program is actually two remarkable places on the Illinois prairie.

BraveHearts in Harvard and BraveHearts Poplar Grove are connected by a 15-mile stretch of Interstate 173 in Boone County, a two-lane highway through farmland that seems on both sides to stretch to infinity. Conveniences are to be had along the way in Chemung (population 510) and Capron (population 1,370). The Grove Inn makes a damn good veggie burger and, clearly, is a loyal supporter of North Boone High School: Go Vikings.

The Poplar Grove location — BraveHearts at the Bergman Centre, officially — is abuzz on a sunny and crisp fall Wednesday. This weekend, 100 or so Special Olympians, and another 500 family and friends are expected for the 2018 Special Olympics Equestrian Games, and the staff is busy in preparation. Amber Eck, BraveHearts' volunteer director, is showing me around the Poplar Grove farm. I ask if all those people, and the cars that bring them, will spook the horses.

"They'll be fine," she says. "Therapy dogs wear orange vests; these therapy beings wear saddles. The horses are magic. They know."



It was in fact a special needs kid that motivated Meggan to begin her deep dive into the field. Meggan began studying horse therapy — hippotherapy — not long after earning her undergraduate degree in psychology from USD in 1994. She was asked if she'd lead her gelding, Prince, for a little boy with Down syndrome who wanted to ride him.

"Tim was 4, and he wasn't walking or talking," she recalls. "His occupational therapist put him on Prince's back, and the effect was

incredible. I saw a little boy who was engaged and smiling and cooperative. The therapist worked with him to sign the word 'horse,' and Tim's mom just lost it. It was the first time he had communicated. She was crying, and Tim said 'mama.'"

At this, Meggan's voice cracks. "It was his first word. It was an amazing thing to see. I looked at Prince. His head was down, his eyes were soft, and I realized: this horse has purpose."

Meggan launched Cowboy Dreams, a therapeutic riding program in Barrington, a few METRA train stops toward Chicago from Harvard. Cowboy Dreams and Meggan Hill-McQueeney got the attention of Marge Gunner, the co-founder of BraveHearts. When Cowboy Dreams eventually shuttered its barn doors, Gunner saw her opportunity.

"We had been rather softly recruiting Meggan for two years," says Gunner. "When we found out she was available, we were

on it like a wolf on raw meat."

BraveHearts offers physical, occupational and speech therapies, including activities to improve trunk strength, balance, range of motion, fine motor control and improved communication for those with communication disorders. Equine-assisted psychotherapy helps those with anxiety disorders, autism, childhood neglect/abuse, conduct disorder, grief, loss, eating disorders and PTSD. The vets are referred to BraveHearts, typically through the Veterans Administration, in seven-week session blocks; the vet and a family member/caregiver take the lessons at no cost to them. Anyone entitled to VA benefits is eligible.

"Those buses come up and we have no idea who is getting off, other than they are veterans and they are somehow damaged," Meggan says.

"Horses literally try to align their heart with yours. Horses sync their heart rates with their human."

I am in the middle of an enclosed round pen at Harvard with Hank, a majestic brown gelding with a white star above his eyes. Meggan is on the perimeter, instructing me how to direct Hank's feet. Right. Left. Be still. Ultimately, I'm able to get Hank to come to me. We repeat the exercise, and each time he comes close he aligns his massive shoulder with my chest. It's not an accident.

"Horses literally try to align their heart with yours," says Meggan. "Horses sync their heart rates with their human. In the wild, horses are prey, not predators, and are very sensitive to the energy of everything around them. They can literally smell adrenaline."

It's not by chance that Meggan selected Hank as the horse for me to work with. Of all the BraveHearts' herd, Hank may be the most patient. Once, Meggan tells me, a veteran was admiring Hank from the vantage point of a wheelchair.

"He wanted to ride, and wanting to is the only real requirement," Meggan says. "We brought Hank to the mounting area. It took three of us 17 minutes to get that gentleman

out of his wheelchair onto Hank's back. And for 17 minutes, I swear to you that horse didn't move a muscle. He knew exactly what he was doing and exactly who he was carrying."

Her eyes mist over. The passion in her voice is matched by the conviction.

"The transformation of that gentleman that day was magic," she says. "The relaxing effect is almost immediate, and the connection to the horse is too."

That was the case for Air Force veteran Ron Hathaway. He says after his 24 years in the service and another half dozen in the corporate world, he was at the end of his emotional rope.

"I'd been through every type of therapy, every type of medication. It was worthless," he says. "All I wanted to do was sit in my garage, smoke cigars and look at a calendar to decide on which day I was going to end my life."

On his first visit to BraveHearts, Hathaway was mounted on Boone.

"Within 15 steps I let out a huge exhale, and everything just melted away," he says. "It was just me and the horse. It was the first time I'd felt comfortable in my own skin in years. I came back the next week with the same result. I started to let the world back in again."

After more than 2,000 volunteer hours — during which he worked closely with Meggan — Hathaway became a riding instructor.

The veteran who at one point knew nothing of horses is now the BraveHearts barn manager.

"Only job I ever had that isn't work," he says. "Meggan brought me along slowly, didn't put too much on my plate until I was ready. It saved my life."

Hathaway knows I'm at BraveHearts to write an article. "Your challenge is to tell people about the magic that happens here, that happened to me, that happens every day," he says. "The connection that the veterans experience with these horses saves lives. That's not an exaggeration. That's not anything but a fact."

Many of these vets and special needs kids seem to have lost or been unable to demonstrate the ability to trust. In that way, they are very like the wildest horses in the BraveHearts' stables.

There are some 40,000 mustangs running free through the open lands of 10 or so western states. Another 50,000 live in pens, herded there by ranchers and Bureau of Land Management (BLM) helicopters. None had ever been touched by a human being before being



captured, castrated, inoculated, freeze-branded and removed from their herds.

Four of them came to BraveHearts as part of Operation Mustang, a program that pairs adopted mustangs from BLM with veterans.

Mitch Headlund (pictured, at left) talks about Mighty, who was so terrified he tried to barge through his pen, leaving his face scarred.

"I thought, 'I so wanna touch him,'" Headlund recalls. "I *feel* how he *looks*. I was just like him. I didn't trust people; people hurt us. Mighty was separated from his herd, I was separated from my platoon. I was terrified of what was going to happen next. So was he."

Headland spent four years in the army as an infantry mortar man. He recalls his "final kill." Caught in a surprise attack, he grabbed a rifle.

Through the weapon's scope, he sighted a wounded Afghani soldier crawling for safety about 700 meters away ... some 765 yards. "I hit him in the back with a few" shots, he says, what soldiers call a "double tap," pumping extra rounds into an already dead body. Headlund's bright, alert eyes suddenly seem to be focused on something far away. His voice gets soft. "I still see it sometimes," he says.

The rocket-propelled grenade fired by the Taliban didn't hit him. It just came close enough. "My back was ripped apart," he says.

Headlund came back a broken man, physically and emotionally. In addition to the back injury that put him in a wheelchair, he suffered a traumatic brain injury. Every bit as agonizing as the physical wounds were the horrors he relived in his own head.

"I used to get physically sick at certain sounds and smells." He offers an observation that blood has a "coppery, metallic smell when it burns."

He was on a diet of 54 pain pills a day. His marriage suffered, then dissolved, deepening already cavernous wounds.

"I hated everything," he confesses. "I created a black hole around me so no joy could come into my life." Then his mom pushed Headland and his wheelchair into the BraveHearts facility in Poplar Grove.

"I was scared out of my mind," Headland says of his first ride. "But there was such a feeling of freedom. It was a magical moment."

Meggan saw Headland begin to come out of his shell. She gently urged him to consider becoming a riding instructor.

"It was a miracle for me, and it's been a miracle for a hundred or more guys I've personally seen come through here," he says. "It's just unanimous that no booze, no drugs, no medi-

cations, no therapy has done for them what developing a relationship with a horse did."

Headland's voice gets low.

"Every day, 22 veterans commit suicide," he says slowly, and repeats the number. "Twenty. Two. If any other segment of the population was losing a person almost every hour of every day, there'd be outrage. But people just seem to have accepted that mental health issues and suicide just goes with the territory with having served in combat, but it's not at all acceptable. You hear all the time, hear people saying 'support the troops, support the troops.' Well, here's an area that vets really need support, and here's a thing that really truly works."

Once an angry and withdrawn recluse, the former infantryman is now a certified instructor and exercise rider at BraveHearts.

He's also a college student studying to become a counselor. "BraveHearts gave me back my life," he says.

"Horses are angels wearing saddles."

Part of my visit to BraveHearts — of course — included getting on a horse.

I mounted Dan more deftly than might be expected of a guy who grew up in the

suburbs (though my dismount was considerably less elegant).

Meggan showed me how to hold the reins: palms up, with the leather intertwined in my fingers. I resisted the impulse to hold the reins like bicycle handlebars and learned to steer Dan gently left then gently right. After a few minutes, I got used to the fact I wasn't going to hurt him if I spurred him.

And it happened. We figured it out, ol' Dan and me. I learned to rise in the saddle and fall with Dan's gait. I could feel him feel me trying, and he tried to help me. I looked in the distance, an endless cornfield here, a tree-spotted horizon there, where it seemed no problems could possibly live. Trotting, I could almost hear Dan's horse voice: "Let's gallop." I know he could hear me back: "I'd love to, buddy, but: corral." It was magic.

Magic. The same word Meggan used talking about Popsicle, that Air Force veteran-turned-barn manager Hathaway used to describe his experience, that infantryman-turned riding instructor Headland used, the same word used by Amber, the volunteer director. Until I came to BraveHearts I thought the only magical horses were unicorns. I left BraveHearts feeling quite different.

"Horses," Meggan says, "are angels wearing saddles." 🐾

To learn more, go to braveheartsriding.org.



[exultant]

THE WORK OF ART

Natasha Ridley finds solace and release in dance

A dancer and choreographer, Natasha Ridley '16 (MA), sees a clear relationship between the arts and leadership.



CHRIS PARK

by Julene Snyder

When it comes to what's important in life, Natasha Ridley '16 (MA) is clear: "I can't live without art. I find freedom in dancing. For me, it's another way of expressing emotion. Instead of using words, movement is a release." In her work as a dancer and

choreographer, Ridley combines traditional modern dance techniques with classical ballet; she's also heavily influenced by the raw emotion of traditional African-American storytelling through dance.

Since the age of 10, she's found solace and release in dance and

the arts. While most artists struggle to find a way to live by art alone, Ridley is particularly clear-eyed about choices. "Art keeps me in a safe space. I've always done other things — jewelry making, painting, mixing different media forms — which makes me really happy."

As a student at San Diego State University, her initial plan was to become a child psychologist, but she ultimately decided that path wasn't for her. She enjoyed the subject matter and earned her undergraduate degree in psychology, but "there really wasn't an immediate need

to go straight into a master's program. What I needed to do was figure out what I was going to do to make a living."

Ridley took an unlikely path, at least for someone as immersed in the arts as she'd always been.

"I'm a licensed financial assistant," she says, with an infectious laugh. "I've been blessed to be an organized creative. I have a side of me that's extremely organized and very efficient. Doing this type of work is fun for me. There's a lot of problem-solving, which I enjoy."

Over the course of the eight-year gap between SDSU and her graduate studies at USD's School of Leadership and Education Sciences, Ridley became a principal dancer at La Diego Dance Theater, performed in a number of classical ballets for local studios, and took part in collaborative shows such as the contemporary repertory company PGK Dance Project and the annual Mission Federal ArtWalk.

She also became a choreographer. "It's definitely different than dance; you're creating a story in a different way. You have to

figure out a way for the dancers to feel connected to movement. Now you're involving more than just yourself and your own experience."

Early in her studies toward her graduate degree, she connected with fellow graduate student and visual artist Maureen (Moe) Abugan '16 (MA). The two hit it off: both were artists who grew up in Southeast San Diego. The spring before graduation, the pair joined forces to create the Artists Building Community (ABC) project.

"Our vision for the ABC project is to create a lot of different community engagement events or programs that are arts-related for Southeast San Diego," Ridley says. "MOSAIC, which is in its third year, is the first project we've been working on."

The pair saw a need and sought to fill it. "I'm extremely familiar with Southeast San Diego. I basically grew up there, and a lot of my family either live in Skyline, Valencia Park or Lincoln Park."

While the vibrant community has a lot going on, she says there's a dearth of consistent and

established arts programs. "If you wanted to take dance classes in Southeast, there aren't any dance studios that you can easily locate. If you wanted to take painting classes, it's the same thing."

Enter MOSAIC. "We look to incorporate art that take topics of importance that have some sense of seriousness to them, and make it a little bit easier for people to interact by using art," explains Ridley.

She sees a clear relationship between art and leadership. "The two go together. While leadership studies don't always leave a lot of space for creativity and innovation, when you start to add the arts, you can come up with all sorts of different ideas."

Ridley laughs her musical laugh, remembering. "Moe and I were the only artists in our cohort. I actually did a dance in my 'Love and Leadership' class. We were supposed to bring a gift to share with the class, so of course I performed."

"People are used to thinking, 'This is not acceptable,' but I went for it. There are other ways to do things, after all." 🎨



ALUMNI BOARD

The 2018 Wine Classic marked the 10th anniversary of the event, which has raised more than \$500,00 dollars in student scholarship support.

It's just one of the ways the USD Alumni Association is making a real difference on campus. Senior Director Charles Bass says the energy of the current incarnation of the Alumni Association Board of Directors has made a big difference.

"The alumni board has always had members passionate for USD, and this group is pretty special," Bass says. "They jumped right in and started making things happen. It's fun to be around so many people with that much energy."

Under the leadership of alumni association president Gerry Rodriguez '97, the group undertook efforts to increase opportunities for other alums to reconnect with USD.

"We changed the focus of our mission to increase engagement and enrich the Torero community for life," says Annie Toth '07, a past community outreach chair.

"For example, at the Torero Takeover this year, we had more than 20 events all over San Diego County for Toreros to engage off campus. We launched it two years ago, and attendance this year was way, way up."

One of the next areas of focus for the board is to raise the profile of Hire USD, the program that encourages alumni to keep the Torero community in mind for hiring and internship opportunities.

"The Torero Network is strong, but it's just not as visible as it should be," Bass says. "With the energy this board has, I expect that to change, and very soon. It's impossible to acknowledge how much USD appreciates the commitment of these folks."

She reports that she and her husband, Tom, have been married for 46 years and they live in Montana.

[1974] 🎓
TERRANCE JESMORE (BA) has retired from his role in USMC Counterintelligence and is a MCCA/MEGA member.

[1975]
GILBERT CARRASCO (BA) reports that he and his wife, Iryna Zaverukha, taught human rights at Ukrainian Catholic University in the LLM program during the spring of 2018. “I was on a Fulbright,” Gilbert says.

[1976]
ALBERT DE LEON (JD) has volunteered with the Financial Services Volunteer Corps for six years. He has traveled to Tunisia, Albania, Kenya and Russia to conduct training and workshops for country regulators as well as bank and insurance staff on how to organize anti-money-laundering/counterterrorism financing programs. Albert is the chair of the audit committee for the New York City Industrial Development Agency/ NYC Build and a board member of Newark Public Radio.

THEODORE VAN OOSBREE (BA) writes, “After obtaining a BA in history at USD, I earned a PharmD at UCSF and worked as an inpatient pharmacist at Kaiser for 33 years. My wife and I have five children and live in La Mesa, California. Our fourth child is currently a sophomore at USD who intends to major in behavioral neuroscience and hopes to move on to med school.”

[1979] 🎓
MARILOU ALCANTAR (BA) writes, “I am blessed to have come full circle in my life and career to be working in the very department I earned my degree in ... music! It’s so great to hear the beautiful sounds of music echoing down the halls while I work in the music office!”

ADAM SARANCIK (JD) published *Takeaway Quotes for Coaching Champions for Life* (Amazon.com or CreateSpace.com), a companion book to *Coaching Champions for Life — Coaching the Whole Person, Not Just the Athlete*. He says that the most recent book “will help coaches be proactive in designing practice plans that coach life lessons with the game, for beyond the game.”

1980s

[1980]
ANDREW BANKS (JD) retired in 2017 after more than 20 years on the Superior Court of California, Orange County.

[1981]
THOMAS LOFFARELLI (MBA) reports that he married Brenda Andrade on July 1, 2017. “I am very lucky to have an incredible wife,” he says.

[1982]
MICHAEL GABRIEL (LLM) has launched attorneyetal.com, the first legal social media site dedicated to providing continuing legal education. The site provides resources such as discussion boards, provides opportunities for attorneys to post articles and more.

RICHARD HUVER (BBA) reports that he closed his law practice after a 30-year career as a trial lawyer and has transitioned into full-time media-tion throughout Southern California.

JOHN PURCELL (BA) notes that he was a founder of the USD Rugby Club in the fall of 1980.

[1983]
GEORGINE (ARON) BRAVE (JD) is special counsel with the law firm of Antonyan Miranda.

MARK TUNNEY (BBA) and Susanne Tunney serve as the presidents of the parent relations board.

[1984] 🎓
KARI BOVÉE (BA) has published *Girl with a Gun: an Annie Oakley Mystery*, a historical fiction mystery novel.

JAMES FLOROS (BA) is the board chair of the California Association of Food Banks.

[1986]
STEPHANIE GARCIA (MBA, ’18, MS) writes, “I just accepted a job offer at Cobham Advanced Electronic Solutions. Looking forward to the new challenge!”

PETE MURPHY (BBA) moved to Chicago in January 2018.

[1988]
KAREN (MEYER) CAMPBELL (JD) has temporarily moved back to her

hometown in New York. Since legal editing is done entirely by email, she reports that she has kept her job.

EUGENE GUTIERREZ (BBA) and his wife, Tamara, live in Monrovia, California, with three daughters. Eugene reports that he planned to celebrate both his 30-year reunion and his oldest daughter’s first year in the Torero family as a freshman at USD.

VICTORIA (CORICH) NENNER (MSN) retired from nursing and moved to Hillsboro, Oregon, to be near family.

WILLIAM PARROTT (BBA) has published his second investment book: *A View from the Perch — A Collection of Financial Blogs, Short Stories and Other Musings*.

DAVID ROLLS (BBA) is president of MasterPieces, Inc. He writes, “Finally signed a major-league contract, not to play, but to develop and market MLB toys, games, puzzles and novelties.”

PAUL WINTERS (BA) was named associate vice president for strategy and knowledge at the International Fund for Agricultural Development, a specialized agency of the United Nations based in Rome.

[1989] 🎓
WILLIAM GILLIS (BBA) writes, “We are focused on our soon-to-be 10-year-old daughter’s health and raising pediatric stroke awareness. Three years ago, she suffered a catastrophic stroke and is now an amazing stroke survivor. Kendall is a remarkable little girl and we are so grateful for all of the prayers and support of our friends and family in San Diego, including fellow USD alumni.”

REBECCA JENNEY SEYMOUR (BA), ’90 (MEd) writes, “As a teacher working in the Los Angeles area, it’s always pleasant, but not too shocking a surprise, to meet a fellow Torero. After all, San Diego isn’t that far away. But imagine working at an elementary school in Pasadena (California) with four of us!” Rebecca adds that her daughter, Megan Seymour ’18 (BA), is a USD alumna and is also working on a master’s degree in education at USD.

1990s

[1990]
DONNA BIRD-FLYNT (BSN), ’10 (MSN) retired from Sharp Health-Care in January 2017 and is living in the Colorado Rocky Mountains.

CHRISSY (LOCKE-PADDON) HAGERTY (BA) lives in Tokyo with her four children and husband, who is the U.S. ambassador to Japan.

WILLIAM TRACY HAMBY (BA) retired from the Marine Corps Reserves on June 1, 2018, after 31 years of service. He enlisted while a student at USD and served as a machine gunner. He was commissioned and became an armor officer when he graduated in 1990. After four years of active service, he remained in the reserves while attending law school. After law school, he served as a judge advocate and, during his career, he deployed to Somalia and Iraq. He is currently an attorney for the Department of Homeland Security.

PETER NEILL (BBA) is working for Comcast as division vice president of Business Sales and Operations for the West Division out of Denver, Colorado. “We just dropped off our middle son, Philip, who is a freshman at USD,” he writes.

[1991]
RANDY LASER (MBA) writes, “Hello to the MBA Class of 1991, from South Florida!” Randy is a principal management consultant at Windward Airline Consulting based in Fort Lauderdale, Florida.

KRISTIN SAN MARTIN (BAcc), ’98 (MBA) is the chief financial officer of a growing real estate services firm. “We just completed an office buildout and relocation and are loving our new modern space,” she says.

[1992]
BRIDGET SMITH-COPPES (BAcc) reports that she completed another round of schooling and was promoted to nursing supervisor of women’s services at Park Nicollet Health Care.

[1993]
LILIA (VASQUEZ) ALVAREZ (BBA) is a financial representative for the Sentry Pacific Financial Group. “Also gearing up to obtain a Series 65 license,” Lilia says.

ANGIE GOSSETT (BBA) is the chief of human resources for Marine Corps Community Services aboard MCAS Iwakuni, Japan. Angie has been living in Japan for two years and says that when she is not working, she is “on an adventure traveling in Japan, Asia or somewhere else fantastic around the world.”

MICHAUN HAYES (BAcc) is the assistant controller for the University of Nevada, Reno, after spending almost six years as the assistant director, scholarship administration. “USD prepared me well for diverse career opportunities,” Michaun says.

[1994] 🎓
DANIEL SULLIVAN (BBA) writes, “2017 and 2018 brought challenges in the vineyards and on the mountain, but both the 2017 vintage and the 2017-18 ski season shaped up to be great. The ski season in Chile is shaping up nicely too. Join me!”

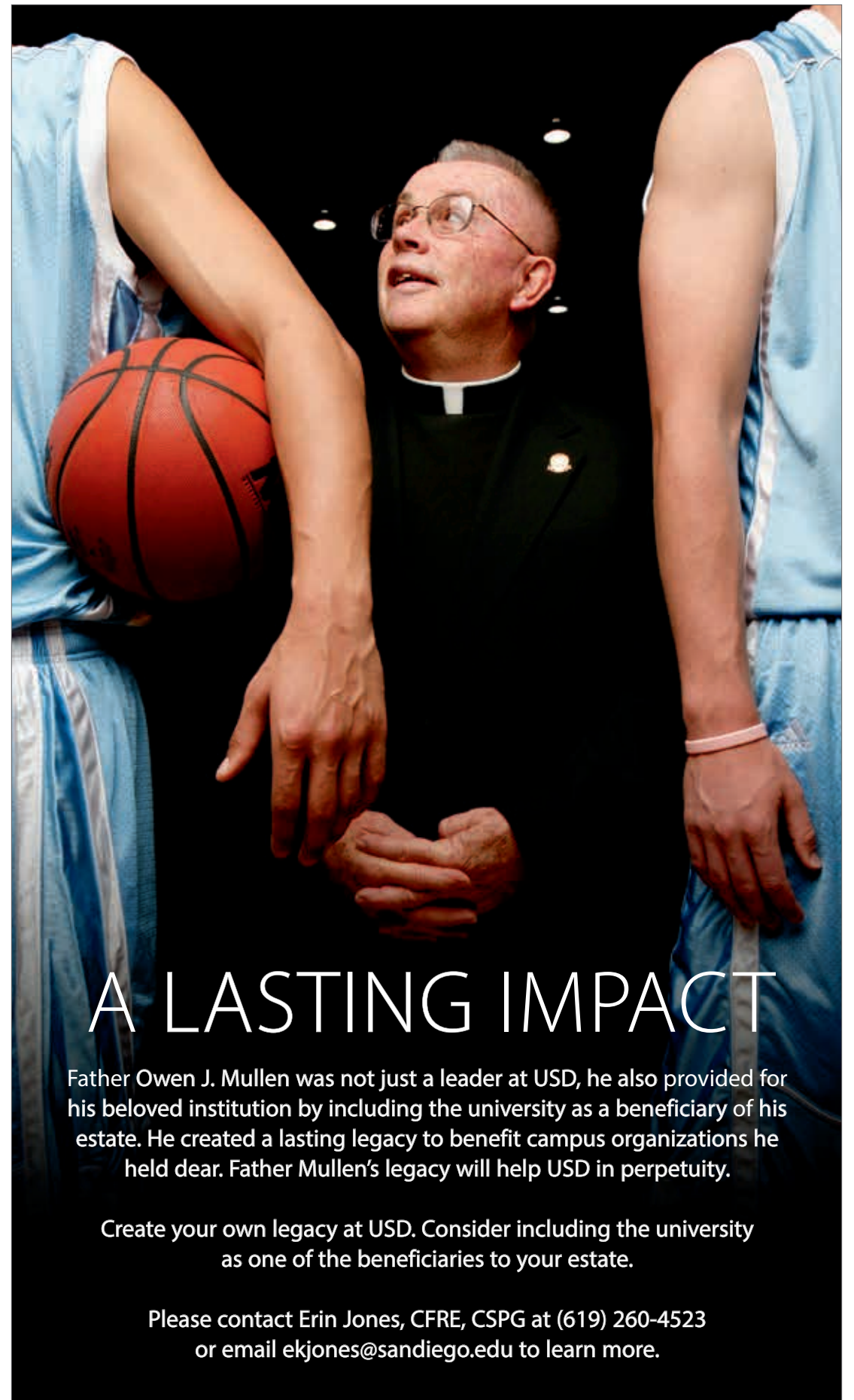
[1996]
JENNIFER BROBST (JD) received the 2018 SIU Outstanding Scholar Award for law faculty at Southern Illinois University School of Law.

LARRY PEREZ (MEd) is the director of student life and an instructor at Barry University in Miami. “Enjoying South Florida and the great culture, weather and beaches,” he says.

[1998]
TASHA JACKSON FITZGERALD (BA) earned a master’s degree in clinical psychology and psychotherapy from John F. Kennedy University. Prior to private practice as a psychotherapist, she worked in a range of community mental health agencies. She also has co-authored *Unveiling Weddings* with Rebecca Sacerdoti, has been published in trade journals and has presented advanced training for mental health professionals. “Whenever possible, I volunteer my mental health services to nonprofits via direct services or consultation,” she says.

LEXIE MOBLEY (BA) is a senior merchandising manager at Adidas for the Dick’s Sporting Goods account. She lives in West Linn, Oregon, with her husband, Dan; her daughter, Emerson, 7; and her son, Parker, 4.

ABBY PARTA (BA) is a director of government affairs and public



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JOHANN GEORG THERON

[underwater]

DEEPENING UNDERSTANDING

Diving into marine science leads to impressive discovery

by Karen Gross

When Morgan Martin '14 (MS) arrived at USD to begin her graduate studies in marine science, she imagined herself in a SeaWorld-like setting, interacting with blubbery sea lions, San Diego's iconic coastline as her picturesque backdrop. The reality could hardly have been less glamorous.

"I worked with sea lion poop," she says, still laughing at the memory of countless hours in the lab at the National Oceanic and Atmosphere Administration's Southwest Fisheries Science Center in La Jolla. "I had 600

individual sea lion scat samples I had to wash, then microscope the remains. I ended up counting more than 20,000 fish ear bones and squid beaks to analyze what the sea lions were eating."

Martin, a native of Springfield, Illinois, had dreamed of working with marine mammals ever since a visit to Florida when she was seven. She'd never been to California before she applied to USD. The offer she received from Ron Kaufmann, the director of what's now known as the Environmental and Ocean Sciences Graduate Program, seemed too good to

turn down. He'd set her up with one of USD's off-campus scientific research partners.

"I knew it involved sea lions, and I knew it involved dietary research on sea lions, but I didn't know the nature of the samples she was going to be working with, and I didn't know exactly what the project was going to be," Kaufmann recalls. "Some people would've run screaming into the night, but Morgan actually handled it pretty well."

Given what he knew about Martin's character, attitude and aptitude, Kaufmann fully expect-

ed her to quickly move on from sea lion scat once she had completed her master's. She did, in a big way, winning a Fulbright scholarship and a National Geographic Society Explorer's grant to pursue her PhD in Namibia through the University of Pretoria. There, on the other side of the world, Martin finally came face to face with the creatures she's coveted since she was a kid.

"Namibia is a global hotspot for whale and dolphin life," she says from her home base of Walvis Bay. "There are 86 species in the world total, and 33 live here." Among them is a resident species of smaller dolphin called Heaviside's, who are quite common along the coast. Martin says she sees them on a regular basis. "They're often swimming out in the bay."

Which is how she made a

discovery that landed her research on the cover of *The Proceedings of the Royal Society B*, a highly respected biological science journal. Equipped with underwater microphones called hydrophones that she dangled off her kayak, Martin began recording the sounds emitted by the Heaviside's. She described the corresponding activities she witnessed into a Dictaphone slung around her neck. "No one has ever tried to do it with this species before," she explained. "It was basically an unopened book."

What she found when she opened that book surprised her, along with many underwater acoustics experts.

These little dolphins use two different types of sonar sound, known as clicks. One, used for navigating and hunting, is ultrasonic and can't be heard by killer whales, which are the dolphins' only ocean predators. But the second is lower in frequency and has a much wider bandwidth.

"The lower frequency and broader bandwidth of these clicks means they are less directional and travel further underwater, so they are much more effective for communication," Martin explains. "What we put together was that they're using the second type of click to communicate. So far, this seems to be the only species that selectively increases communication range by changing the structure of their clicks." The tradeoff, she notes, is that their social chatter can be heard by killer whales, which puts them at higher risk of being hunted and caught.

What's impressive about Martin's discovery is that among more than 70 species of whales and dolphins whose underwater acoustics have been studied, the Heaviside's are the only ones now reliably known to produce

use both types of clicks.

"What Morgan has done is pretty terrific. I've already shared it with some colleagues who do marine mammal acoustic work," said Kaufmann. "It's a neat insight into how dolphins manage to communicate with each other and balance being eaten by a predator that can listen in on some of the frequencies they use."

Professor Zhi-Yong Yin, who worked with Martin as her faculty thesis advisor at USD and has kept in touch with her since, expected nothing less.

"It's not surprising that she's been successful," he says. "She's willing to put in the effort. I think she's going to be a very promising new scientist in her field." But while Yin was quick to credit Martin's talent and work ethic, he adds, "I think what we did here set her up with a good foundation."

USD's Environmental and Ocean Sciences Graduate Program enrolls between five and seven students per year. They work closely with not only faculty but also with more than 100 undergraduate majors — one distinctive feature of the curriculum. Another is its emphasis on lab and field work. "Instead of being in a classroom, we go to the ocean, to the mountains, to the deserts," Kaufmann said. "We get our students out into the field, so they can see the systems they're supposed to be learning about."

Beyond the sea lion scat, those excursions are among what Martin remembers best. "We went to the Salton Sea, to Mexico, to Cabrillo, La Jolla and Mission Bay," she said. "Being able to leave school and go on a field trip right outside the door was incredible. Everything was at your fingertips. It spurred my love of marine life and the oceans even more." 🐬

policy for Vertex, a Boston-based biotech firm that focuses on cystic fibrosis. Abby lives in South St. Paul, Minnesota, with her two children: Leighton, 11, and Liliana, 6.

DAVID SANCHEZ (BBA) started Kinitros, his own digital marketing agency, which focuses on the U.S. Hispanic market.

[1999] 🎓

LOUISE STANGER (EdD) was awarded the Excellence in Service Award by the Peggy Albrecht Friendly House, which was presented at the nonprofit's 29th annual awards luncheon. The Friendly House was the first residential program for women recovering from substance abuse and alcohol abuse. Louise is an independent interventionist, lecturer, professor, clinician, trainer and author. She expected to publish the first textbook on addiction interventions in the fall of 2018.

2000s

[2000]

DAVID BYE (MBA) joined Fairway Technologies, a team of technology experts who can help with any software project.

KATE (BERG) GALINDO (BA)

was promoted to senior professional development specialist for Curriculum Associates in Central Florida, where she has worked for the past five years. She consults with administrators and educators to provide ongoing training and support for K-8 schools for Ready and i-Ready teacher resources.

KELLY (EGGEN) HILL (BA) was promoted to manager, program contracts, with Raytheon. She also celebrated her 15-year work anniversary at Raytheon in San Diego.

[2001]

DANIEL KLEIN (BA) writes, "Our daughter, Luna, is turning 3 and our son, Tomas, is going into his senior year of high school. We are finally moving out of San Diego after 22 years (but not too far away) to San Clemente to be closer to Dan's new job as general counsel and director of human resources at Madison Creek Partners."

[2002]

JEANMARIE HARRINGTON BISCEGLIA (BA), '08 (JD) is now a partner at Christian, Dichter & Sluga.

MARISA BOWSER (BA) writes, "We are cruising around Mexico in our 40-foot Beneteau. We are both retired now."

JANINE (JOHNSON) JORDAN (BBA)

is executive director of Green Wave, which fiscally sponsors several projects, such as a Trash to Treasure community and industry challenge under the Electronic Music Alliance project. The nonprofit is also introducing permaculture into their school project, Futuro Verdo, and reintroducing the scarlet macaw bird that became extinct on their peninsula in Costa Rica. "We are excited that both the school and the wildlife center are working together on curriculum." Her new home/office in Costa Rica is an eco-show home and mini-permaculture farm, which has been featured on Habitat TV and is now open to the public for viewing.

PILAR MENDOZA (BA) is at home with her 4-year-old daughter and 2-year-old son. Last summer, she and her husband, Harry Moore '01, traveled in California with their kids and spent time at the zoo and the beach.

[2003]

CAROLE HAIR (PhD) writes, "I am enjoying retirement after a 43-year career in nursing that included 39 years of service within the Department of Veterans Affairs."

[2004] 🎓

PAULINE AMERSON (MBA) is focused on contract marketing jobs and is looking for a full-time role.

[2007]

PAMELA BELLOSO (BBA) is a procurement manager for 23andMe.

MARC CAVATORTA (BBA) has developed a strong passion for organic agriculture and sustainable food systems; he is in the planning stages of starting an organic farm on the North Shore of Boston. "In addition to growing healthy food, I am exploring the cultivation of cannabis (hemp) for CBD oil," he says.

TAMMY DePETRO (MS) is senior manager of commodity in aerospace and is actively seeking job opportu-

nities as director of supply chain in Southern California.

TAYLOR NEWENDORP (MA) published his first book: *The Perfectionism Workbook: Proven Strategies to End Procrastination, Accept Yourself, and Achieve Your Goals*. It is available on Amazon.com.

ANGELICA ROBLES (BA) finished a fellowship at Brown University and reports that she is excited to be starting her first job out of medical school and training.

[2008]
MICHELLE DARNELL (BA) earned a master's degree in art business at Sotheby's Institute of Art, New York. She is currently working at an art advisory and consulting firm in Los Angeles.

AMY ENGLISH (BA) started a new job as communications and development director at Pathfinder International.

BRIAN EVAVOLD (BA) retired from the U.S. Navy on June 1, 2018, after 25 years of service. He was a student in the Navy commissioning program from 2005 to 2008 and he completed the last 10 years in the Washington, D.C. area.

GISSELL MALFITANO (BA) writes, "Exciting things in the FinTech landscape."

ZACH MOODY (BA) reports that his wife, Megan Roberson '08, started the Pharm-D program at the University of California, San Francisco, in July 2018.

[2009] 🎓
ROWENA DALY (BA) spent two years working in organ procurement and donor/family relations before completing her doctorate in naturopathic medicine as part of the inaugural class of Bastyr University in San Diego. She now practices with UC Irvine at the Samueli Integrative Health Institute in Costa Mesa, California.

RACHEL SALCER DICKSON (BA) reports that she was married on June 9, 2018.

LOGAN JOHNSTON (BS/BA) reports marrying Crystal (Peterson) Johnston '10 in Temecula (California) wine country in April 2018. Logan and Crystal were happy to celebrate their

union with their family and friends, including their wedding party, of which more than one-half were USD alumni. They live in La Mesa, California, with their 7-year-old husky. Logan is an engineer at General Atomics and Crystal is a digital marketer for the USD Alumni Association as well as a spin instructor for Rush Cycle.

ELIZABETH KNUDSON (BA) reports that she and her husband, Bryce Knudson '08, welcomed a baby boy, Connor, in April 2018.

AUSTIN PARKER (BA) studied avian and tropical ecology in the Amazon during the summer of 2018. A biological technician at Cabrillo National Monument, Austin lives in San Diego and is a graduate student in Miami University's Advanced Inquiry Program. His work in the Amazon was through Miami University's Earth Expeditions global field course.

2010s

[2010]
STEPHAN DUPOURQUE (JD) oversees FAA certifications for unmanned aircraft at General Atomics Aeronautical Systems. "We accomplished a significant milestone by becoming the first civil unmanned aircraft to cross the Atlantic in July," he says.

JESSICA ELKIN (BA) reports that she and Clay Elkin '11 were married in May 2015 prior to becoming river guides in Salida, Colorado, for the summer. They now live in Boise, Idaho, where Jessica is a physician assistant and Clay is a firefighter. In July 2018, they welcomed a baby boy, Cooper Michael.

TEDDY FULHAM (BBA) is the vice president of finance and business development at Clarify Medical, a San Diego-based startup for a connected medical device for the home treatment of chronic dermatological conditions.

MATTHEW HERRMANN (BA) has a fellowship in infectious diseases/HIV at Harbor-UCLA Medical Center in Los Angeles.

JERRY LANG (MSGL) published his first book: *Secrets to Selling Software*, which is available on Amazon.com.

NATALIE LEWIS (BBA) lives in Del Mar, California, with her husband and Shih Tzu. "Loving being a business owner!" she says.

ERNEST BONIFACE MAKULOLO (MAPJ) is a regional director for African projects at Un-bound, a non-profit in Kansas. After graduation, Ernest joined the U.S. Navy and was stationed in San Diego. He is a founder and chief executive officer of EBM Scholars, which helps international students from developing countries find scholarships and compete to win. He also is the author of several books, including *It Was Not Russia* and *A Loving Father*.

ROBERT NARANJO (BBA) is finishing a deployment to Iraq. "This will be my third overall (two others to Afghanistan)," he says. In 2019, he expects to start a new job at the U.S. Embassy in Bahrain, where he will be working with the Bahrain National Defense Force.

KIMBERLY PERKINS (BS/BA) is an engineering officer for the U.S. Air Force and is currently deployed with the Air Force Special Operations Command in Afghanistan. Kimberly was assigned avionics chief for the Delta Rocket program (2014-17). She earned a master's degree in 2014.

CHRISSIE SORENSON (EdD) is in her 10th year in Germany and starting her fifth in Bavaria/Munich. "Still enthusiastic about my work, seeing the relevance in what I do every day. How lucky am I?" Chrissie says.

MICHELLE (DOMBROWSKI) SULLIVAN (MSGL) was president and chief operating officer of a technology company, which she left to co-found Dragonfly Consultants, a leadership development, cultural transformation and executive coaching company. After five successful years of growth, she started her own company, Sullivan Global Consulting, which she has owned for 10 years. "My niche is working with global, multicultural clients since I've lived and worked abroad for several years in multiple countries," she says. "Although I spend most of my time in California for business, my husband and I call Puerto Vallarta, Mexico, home."

[2011]
CONOR CAWLEY (BA) and Bri Wanlass '11 met freshman year at USD,

lived across from each other in the Vistas, dated each other's roommates, and, after graduation, went their separate ways. Bri traveled throughout southern Africa, taught English in Istanbul and hiked in Boulder, Colorado. Conor returned to Chicago to pursue comedy and start his writing career. When Bri decided to pursue a master's degree, Conor persuaded her that a school like Notre Dame would be the perfect fit. During her yearlong global health program, we fell in love after many weekend trips between Chicago and South Bend," Conor says. "Now we live in downtown Chicago."

SHANNON CULHANE (BA) reports that she is living in Sydney.

JOHN-RAYAN INGALLA (BA) moved from Southern California to Seattle and joined Microsoft as the global supply chain planner for Xbox.

JENNIFER IX (BBA) moved back to Los Angeles after spending two years as a high school counselor in Sacramento, California, and then one year teaching English abroad in Costa Rica. She now is a school guidance counselor in Los Angeles.

CHRISTOPHER JOHNSON (MA) was selected to command Combat Logistics Battalion-31, a Marine Corps forward-deployed unit with emphasis on crisis response in the western Pacific.

ROLAND MONTES (BA) left his position as a network solution executive at AT&T and accepted a job as enterprise account executive for the U.S. Southwest region for Apple.

MEAGAN (NADAL) PEPIN (BA) reports that she recently got married.

DUNCAN PRESTON (MSGL) writes, "In July (2018), Ellen and I relocated to Yokosuka, Japan. I accepted a promotion as director of Puget Sound Naval Shipyard Detachment Yokosuka, where we provide industrial maintenance and logistics support for USS Ronald Reagan."

KURT WHITMAN (JD) joined Dillon, Miller & Ahuja in August 2018 as a real estate/business litigation attorney in the firm's Carlsbad, California, office. "My family, including my wife, Suzanne, and my two kids (Alex, 7, and Thalia, 5) are enjoying our new home in San Marcos," he says.

[2012]
DANIELA (GARCIA) ALLIE (BA) reports that she has beat cancer. After months of mystery symptoms, diagnosis with Hodgkin lymphoma and six months of chemotherapy, Daniela is now cancer free and healing.

MEGAN EILERS (BA) graduated from Chapman University Fowler School of Law in May 2018.

KATHLEEN HAGAN (BA) spent four years with the international committee of the Red Cross and she recently started an endeavor co-founding FHG Marine Engineering Inc. in Fort Lauderdale, Florida. "My experiences gained while at USD on Semester at Sea were a fundamental part of my decision," she says.

BEATRIZ JIRON (BBA) is a producer for Televisa. In the last four years, she has been in charge of local news and local entertainment shows that are shown nationally throughout Mexico.

CHEYENNE MCCARTHY (BA) completed her first year in the Doctor of Chiropractic program at Palmer College of Chiropractic West in San Jose, California, where she is specializing in military veteran treatment and rehabilitation.

JOHN MORENO (BA) was promoted to captain in September 2016 and is now a company commander.

MELISSA (EPES) O'DONOGHUE (BA), '14 (Med) writes, "Around seven years ago, I was set up with John (O'Donoghue) for a sorority dance, and this July we got married!"

NATALIE POLETTI (BA) opened a Club Pilates in Novato, California, and is celebrating four years of owning and operating a thriving pet resort, The Pawington, in South San Francisco.

CATHERINE QUIRK (BA) reports that she married Chris Hanneke '12 on May 5, 2018. They met in Gina Lew's Introduction to Media Studies class, where the first assignment was to interview each other and write profile pieces. They still have copies of those interviews today and even quoted from them in their wedding ceremony. Both communication majors, they remained friends while they worked on *The Vista*, where



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Chris was editor-in-chief. Today, Catherine and Chris live in Seattle.

TIM ROSE (BBA) is owner of Mari-
posa Ice Cream in Temecula, Califor-
nia; he is in the process of opening a
second store in Murrieta, California.

SHANE SMITH (BA) is a general
surgery resident in Seattle.

ELLE STRICKLEN (BA) married
Vince Zieser in Santa Cruz, California.
She is the dean of students at Damien
Memorial School in Honolulu, Hawaii.

TRACY (ZETTS) TELLIARD (BA)
moved to Riverside, California, in the
summer of 2016 after earning her MA
in higher education leadership at
USD and founding the USD Founders
Chapel Choir Affinity Group. She is
the assistant director of alumni and
parent relations at Harvey Mudd Col-
lege in Claremont, California.

JEREMY WHELEN (BA) reports
that he married Katie Kuchic '12.

[2013]
HANNAH BERTRANDO (BA)
started a new job as a deputy district
attorney in Fresno, California.

SOPHIA CARRILLO (BA) graduat-
ed from Stanford Law School in June
2018. As a law student, she success-
fully represented a client seeking asylum
and additional clients seeking execu-
tive clemency, appealing government
decisions and more. She says her
favorite work was volunteering to
prepare women and children in immi-
gration detention in South Texas for
their credible fear interviews. She
worked abroad with the Office of the
Legal Counselor at U.S. Embassy The
Hague on international law matters
and with the Department of Justice
in the Counterterrorism Litigation
Section. She is now clerking for a
federal judge and says she looks
forward to a career of trial work and
pro bono representation of asylum
seekers and the underrepresented.

TONI DeGUIRE (BA) reports that
she was married recently in Austin,
Texas, and purchased a condo with
her husband in Dallas. She is working
for Teach for America while also pur-
suing opportunities as an entrepre-
neur in career coaching and talent
management. She is actively en-
gaged in the Dallas community
through Junior League of Dallas.

JAMES DONNELL (BBA) complet-
ed the Master of Business for Veter-
ans program at the University of
Southern California.

REBECCA GARCIA-RANGEL (BA)
earned an MSW from Boston College
and is finishing her field placement
in Santiago de Chile at Servicio Jesu-
ita Migrante.

**ALLISON (CAPOZZOLI) GAR-
RETT (JD)** was selected by the
San Diego Daily Transcript for its
2018 40 Under 40 list.

MAHAD GHANI (BA) is in the
Class of 2019 at Georgetown Law. Past
experience includes work as a legal
and policy intern at Fair Trials Interna-
tional and as a law clerk for the Office
of Sen. Dick Durbin of Illinois, a mem-
ber of the Judiciary Committee.

SARAH JORGENSEN (BA) was
promoted to producer in CNN's
New York Newsgathering Bureau.
In recent months, she has covered
the West Virginia teachers' strike,
immigration and many other stories
in the New York region and beyond.

YAVARI LAUDAN (BBA) is a
Class of 2019 MBA candidate in the
UC Davis Graduate School of Man-
agement. Yavari plans to continue
working in the agriculture industry,
striving to create a more sustainable
food system.

JULIAN LEIRO (BA) earned a
master's degree in statistics at the
University of Utah and works for
SoCalGas as a business analyst.

LILY MARUCCI (BA) graduated
from the Midwestern University
College of Dental Medicine in Glen-
dale, Arizona, with a Doctor of Dental
Medicine. She practices at Sun Life
Family Health Center, a public health
facility in her hometown, Casa
Grande, Arizona.

CHRISTINA MEEKER (BA) gradu-
ated from the Fieldstone Leadership
Network's Nonprofit Leaders Learn-
ing Group and is celebrating five
years with Words Alive, Southern
California's leading nonprofit for
literacy advocacy.

TREVOR OLSON (BAcc) moved
back to San Diego in 2016 after work-
ing as an assistant coach for the
women's basketball team at Hender-


son State University in Arkadelphia,
Arkansas. Trevor is now the assistant
women's basketball coach at USD.

KATHERINE SCHOBLASKE (BA)
graduated from the Physician Assis-
tant Studies program at Oregon
Health and Science University in
August 2018. She is pursuing a career
as a family medicine physician assis-
tant in the Portland area and is look-
ing forward to working in the com-
munity she calls home.

JACKSON SHANNON (BA) recent-
ly finished his professional interna-
tional baseball career (Australia,
Czech Republic, Switzerland, Germa-
ny, Canada). He was also featured
on the International Stars website:
<https://bit.ly/2xbZjef>.

**MARIA FERNANDA TORRES
(MA)** moved back to San Diego after
living and working abroad as a pre-
school and elementary school coun-
selor at an American School in Valen-
cia, Spain. She is looking for a job
opportunity in San Diego.

JAKE ZAWLACKI (BA) is a gradu-
ate student at Stanford University
under a fellowship to study Russian,
Eastern European and Eurasian stud-
ies in their master's program.

[2014] 
MOLLY BARIL (BA) earned a mas-
ter's degree in counseling and school
counseling from Loyola Marymount
University; she is now a mental
health counselor at San Fernando
Valley Mental Health Center in Van
Nuys, California.

NICOLAUS COLLINS (BA) is work-
ing for Politico, a global politics and
policy news media company, in
Washington, D.C.

TRISHA GARCIA (MSGSL) moved
to Los Angeles to assume the posi-
tion of deputy chief of logistics at
the VA Greater Los Angeles Health-
care System.

**TAYLOR (MORRISON) McCLAY
(BA)** writes, "We are living right down
the road from USD. Sam is currently
serving as an officer in the Navy. We
just got married on June 2 (2018)!"

MARINA PARDINI (BBA) expect-
ed to complete a master's degree in
computer interaction at University
College London in September 2018.

ANDREA RICE (MSGSL) was sta-
tioned as the executive officer on a
Coast Guard cutter in Alaska after
graduation. She transferred to Base
Miami Beach in the summer of 2017
as the personnel support depart-
ment head, helping more than
10,000 Department of Defense and
Department of Homeland Security
employees throughout the district
area, including Florida, North and
South Carolina and embassy workers
in South America.

IAN RODGERS (BA) earned a Mas-
ter of Public Health in May 2018 from
Columbia University Mailman School
of Public Health and began working
for the New York State Office of
Mental Health, researching quality
and performance measures for
behavioral health care as part of
New York's Medicaid reforms.

JOHN SCATTERDAY (BA) com-
pleted his first year of graduate school
at Cornell University. He is working
toward an MBA in the Cornell Johnson
Graduate School of Management and
an MS in healthcare leadership from
the Weill Cornell Graduate School of
Medical Sciences.

NADEAJA SHAHEED (BA) writes,
"Blessed to be working on campus in
the Office of the Provost and attend-
ing grad school in SOLES!"

SANDRINE URIAS (BA) is a stu-
dent in the Doctor of Physical Thera-
py program at the University of
South Florida.

[2015]
AMY (ROTHERMEL) ERICK (JD)
moved to Boise, Idaho, and was
hired as a deputy prosecutor in
Ada County.

JASON GUO (BAcc), '15 (BBA)
is with the California Foundation
Fund and its FutureBoss program.
He also writes that he has been
"investing heavily in Los Angeles
and Orange County residential real
estate among other investments."

PRITI PHUKAN (JD) joined Um-
berg Zipser in the intellectual
property practice group. Priti
concentrates her practice on patent
and trademark prosecution across
various technology industries,
including chemistry, life sciences,
diagnostics, medical devices and
mechanical engineering. She be-



CHRIS PARK

[l u m i n o s i t y]

HERE COMES THE SUN

Tyler Norris takes solar from campus to community

by Timothy McKernan

At some point as he was
juggling a full class load
at USD and working 30
hours a week as an analyst at
Apple, Tyler Norris '16 (BBA)
saw the light.

Or more precisely, the sun.
"I thought, 'This sucks,'" Norris
says of the grind. "I'd been learn-
ing about potential for solar pow-
er, so I quit my job and took a
leap. There was no safety net, but
what I was doing just wasn't what
I really wanted to do."

What he really wanted was to
"put the soul in solar" by harness-
ing the power of the sun for a
greater good. Norris enlisted his
dad, John, and his friend, John

Moran, to build a cart powered
exclusively by solar panels to
vend acai bowls. (For the uniniti-
ated, acai is a yogurt-and-fresh-
fruit thing; it has to be cold.)
Norris set up shop on campus
and Soulr was born.

It quickly became apparent that
his brainchild would be a hit.

The Soulr Cart was awarded
\$10,000 in the 2016 Social Innova-
tion Challenge; another \$10,000
came with winning the top spot
on the O Network show, *Quit Your
Day Job*. That attracted the atten-
tion of outside investors, which led
to a more ambitious business plan.

"Events need power for public
address systems and for band

instruments," Norris says.

"Construction, farming — so
many industries can benefit by
using clean, renewable energy."

The concept of using solar
platforms for the greater good
took on a new meaning after
Hurricane Maria devastated
Puerto Rico in 2017. Norris and
Eric Gersbacher '19 began talking
about getting social impact teams
on the ground in the region. They
partnered with the Global Resil-
ience Alliance and Yacht Aid
Global to deliver solar technology
and other supplies.

"They needed power," Norris
recalls. "Refrigeration for food,
medicine, water purification;

there was an all-out push to get
equipment on the ground. Pretty
soon we had 10,000 pounds of
equipment. Our team spent 10
days offloading it. It was amazing
to see how much that help was
needed and appreciated."

Norris developed his sense of
purpose growing up on Whidbey
Island in Washington's Puget
Sound. It was a bucolic communi-
ty, populated by bald eagles,
clams, crabs and "pretty much any
other type of wildlife you can
imagine," he says. "'Island time' is
something that reminds me to fol-
low God, to follow the universe."


Norris sought to create a similar
environment at USD.

"I started what I called the
Revive Tribe to help break the
social silos and create a new way
to connect," he says. "We'd gather
on the lawn and share ideas
about ways to generate impact."
He also offered his Soulr cart
business model to groups looking
to raise money.

"Most people would use tradi-
tional ways to raise money, like car
washes and bake sales," he says.
"But the solar cart is mobile, so you
can easily take it to where the
people are." In fact, USD's Auxiliary
Services department purchased a
Soulr cart that USD students can
check out and use to generate
revenue for a variety of causes.

Today, what began as a single
solar cart has taken on a much
bigger life of its own. The next
step is to create component and
kit-based off-grid solar platforms
that meet an even wider variety
of needs.

"We're doubling down on
social impact," Norris says.
"The millennial generation has
a huge opportunity to harness
technology to change paradigms.
Just about every facet of life can
be powered by solar energy.

"When I was at USD, we talked
a lot about how one idea can
change the world. To really change
the world will take a lot of ideas,
but I think this can, for sure, be
one of them." 



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gan her career as a chemist and molecular biologist, and then made the choice to start her career in patent law.

NICKI (SCHUESSLER) VELOZ (PhD) reports that she and Adrian Veloz were married in 2017 and their daughter, Ella, was born in 2018.

ALLYSON (MARIE) WARD (BS/BA) is a senior project engineer at General Atomics working on next-generation software to control multiple aircraft from a single controller.

[2016]
ALEC HARTMAN (BA) writes, "Receiving my master's degree from Boston College School of Theology and Ministry, the No. 6 school of theology in the world, No. 2 in the U.S. and No. 1 Catholic!"

JEREMY HUANG (BS/BA) has launched WorkWell, a collaborative coworking space in Orange County, California.

ARIANA MIDDLEMAN (BA) is a third-year student in San Diego State University's Doctor of Physical Therapy program. In the fall of 2018, she was going out on clinical rotations and treating patients.

VANESSA MONTGOMERY (Med) is an education specialist for students with mild to moderate disabilities at San Diego High. She created a special education transition program that helps students learn social skills and customer service by running a coffee shop on campus. She also created the first transition conference with a focus on giving the students the tools to find success after high school. Vanessa was awarded teacher of the year at her school last year.

MARIA YAKOVLEVA (BA) finished her Teach for America commitment as a special education teacher. She also has been working on a doctorate in clinical psychology at The Chicago School of Professional Psychology.

[2017]
HAYLEY BRUDISH (BA) earned a master's degree from the University of Chicago's Committee on International Relations and started a new position as a management analyst for Commonwealth Trading Partners. In this role, she supports program management

for law enforcement and criminal justice capacity building programs in West Africa and the United States.

MICHAEL BURRAFATO (BBA) writes, "Armed with my flag and a cape, I'm moving to NYC to take Wall Street by the horns, starting at Lazard, the French investment banking house."

KENNETH EHRLMAN (MS) recently started the Doctor of Public Administration program at California Baptist University.

FRANCISCO FAGOAGA (MS) is in supply chain finance at the Boeing Company. He recently joined the USD Alumni Board in Seattle and helps plan events.

JUHI ISRANI (MSHCI) is an informatics analyst at Gary and Mary West Health Institute with a wide portfolio of research-based projects in acute care and telemedicine. In addition, Juhi teaches a course, Database Management and Introduction to SQL, at the Hahn School of Nursing and Health Science.

CHRISTINE KIM (BBA) is moving from San Francisco to Singapore through her employer, Salesforce.

JIENNIE KIM (BA) is in her second year of graduate school at Tufts University, Boston School of Occupational Therapy, for a master's degree. She plans to become a pediatric occupational therapist.

CARLA KINNUNEN (BNS) is working in a research role at the University of California, San Francisco. She plans to return to school for physical therapy and has started the mandatory volunteer hours in PT prior to applying for schooling.

OWEN LEWIS (BA), '17 (BBA) is running political campaigns in the Bay Area, with "dreams of law school or moving up to Sacramento and working in the Capitol building."

MELISSA PADILLA (BA) writes, "After working as a deputy finance director for a local campaign, I have transitioned to the philanthropic sector as a member of the San Diego Grantmakers team. In my free time, I serve as the legislative research and advocacy coordinator for the Women's Equity Council of the United Nations Association of San Di-

ego. I am also currently gearing up for the LSAT to take on law school."

LAUREN RILEY (BA) started a master's program in integrative anatomical sciences at the University of Southern California.

EMMA VON TSCHARNER (BA) lived in Italy for the past year, where she did post-baccalaureate studies in Italian and art history, worked in a local theater in Florence and toured around Italy teaching English to children through theater. Emma is now at the University of Denver, where she is working on a master's degree in elementary education, a teaching credential and an aesthetics cognate. "I am very grateful for my years at USD!" she says.

[2018]
CAITLAN BERTRAM (BA) is working at CBS Corp. in Los Angeles as part of the page program.

HAZEL CLAROS (MA) is the assistant director of admissions and outreach for USD's School of Leadership and Education Sciences. In this role, she supervises the admissions and outreach team and supports recruitment efforts across all SOLES programs. An alumna herself, Hazel earned a master's degree in higher education leadership studies from SOLES. With more than five years of experience in admissions, outreach and recruitment, she says she is "passionate about helping others achieve their educational goals and strives to maintain equitable and inclusive practices in higher education."

VERONICA GROSSE (BA) reports that she is working on her doctorate.

JIMMY JOSEPH (MS) got a new job at Booz Allen Hamilton as a cybersecurity engineer.

ANDREA (MEDINA) MADELEINE (MA) is a program manager with the Stanford Ignite program at the Stanford University Graduate School of Business. The program combines current graduate students and entrepreneurs with innovators, scientists and engineers from leading companies to formulate, develop and commercialize their ideas.

DIANA ROLDAN (MAPJ) has been interested in jobs in food security, agriculture or as a victim advocate. "I started as a supervisor of a farm in

Escondido, California, whose owners are interested in growing their own natural products to promote food security and well-being," she says. "It is still in the planning stage. Meanwhile, I am expanding my work skills."

In Memoriam

BETTINA MARIAN BRACKA HALVORSEN '02 (MA) passed away in February 2018 after a brief struggle with glioblastoma. She was 55 years old. Bettina worked tirelessly to make a difference in women's health issues overseas. In her many roles, she secured funding and managed global project teams to implement crucial global health programs in Nicaragua, Guatemala, India, Ethiopia, Ghana and more. She also worked with UCSD's Institute for Global Conflict and Cooperation, and as a logistics analyst for General Dynamics. Bettina's most recent work was as director of foundation and institutional relations at Project Concern International. Her memory lives on in the heart of her husband, the lives she impacted through her personal and professional work, and all who loved her.

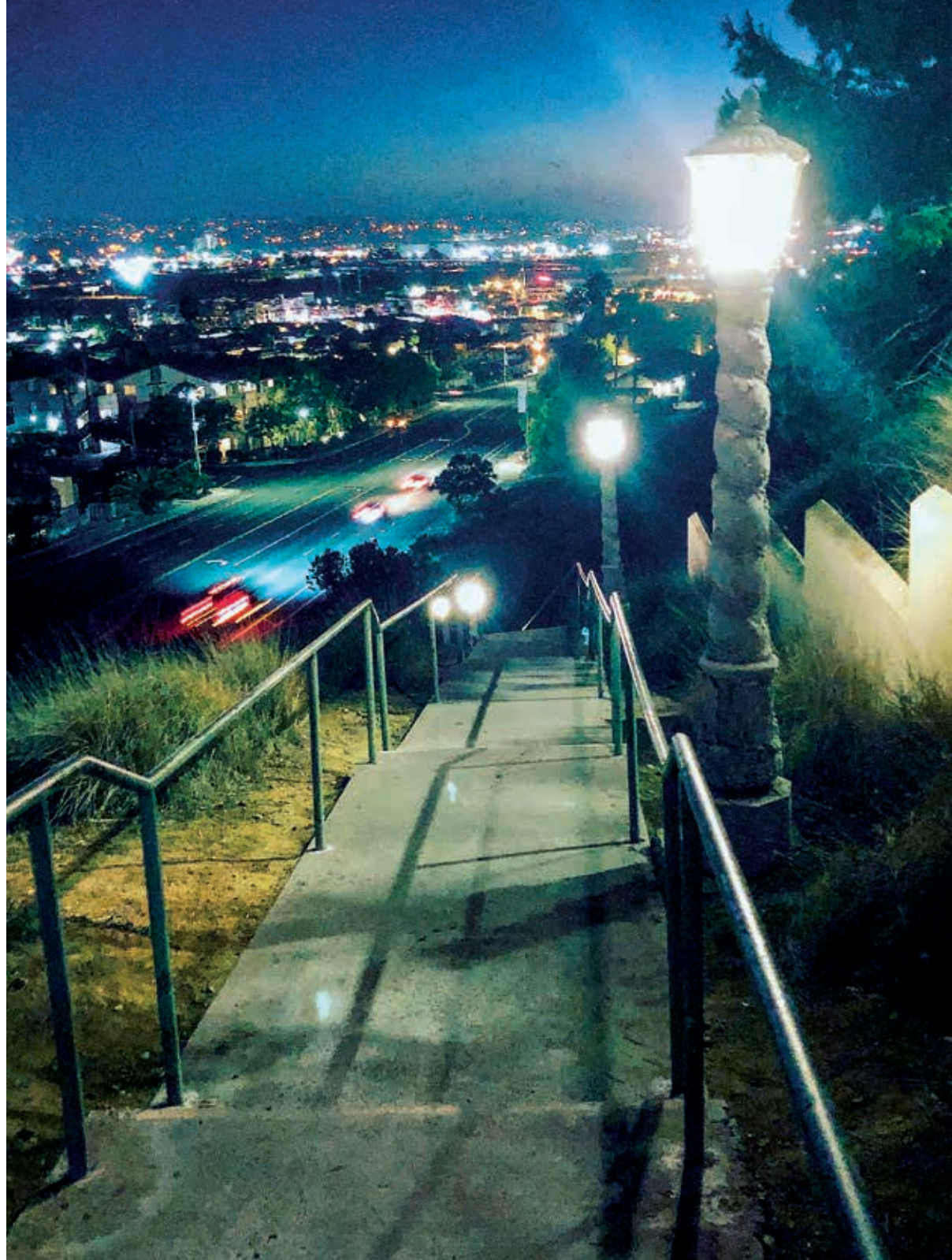
CARLOS ALBERTO RIVERA PEÑALOSA '86 (BA) passed away on March 10, 2018. He is survived by his wife, Myrna, two children, Yvanna '11 (BA) and David '19, father Ignacio, mother Nancy, three brothers, two sisters, two nephews and four nieces (one a USD alumna). For 33 years, he worked in the financial industry. Carlos traveled extensively with his family and enjoyed life to the fullest. The strong attendance at his funeral Mass was testament to the man he was: a generous and loving man dedicated to God, his family and friends. The music for his funeral Mass was performed by beloved family members and members of USD's Choral Scholars at The Immaculata, the magnificent church on the campus he cherished.

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BRADON JOHN

FIRST-YEAR LAW STUDENT BRANDON JOHN thinks about a lot of things on the stairway from campus to Linda Vista Road. “As I walk down the steps, I think about how I’m descending back into the real world. I also think about all of the things I accomplished and learned that day, but by the time I get to the bottom, I’m already thinking about the things I need to get done for tomorrow.” His stunning photo (above) was recently chosen as USD Student Photo of the Week.



ALLY RAMONA / IRELAND



BAILLY MOORE / NEW ZEALAND



WILLIAM CONNOR PARKS / BALI



EVAN ESCOBAR / AUSTRALIA



ELIZABETH RICKEY / ITALY



MELODY DAY / CZECH REPUBLIC



KAI HARPER / ITALY



SHERMEE RANDOLPH / ARGENTINA



LEEN AWAD / FRANCE

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March 21
Kyoto Prize
Symposium

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March 28
Burnham-Moores
Center for Real Estate
Conference

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April 11
Creative Collabora-
tions Undergraduate
Research Conference

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May 10
Engineering and
Computing Showcase

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May 18-26
Commencement
(Undergraduate and
Graduate)

sandiego.edu/commencement



July 13
Vintners Dinner

sandiego.edu/wineclassic



July 14
USD Wine Classic

sandiego.edu/wineclassic