WHEN NOTHING IS EASY
Sometimes doing things the hard way is the answer

From the age of 5, I devoured books like some kids overdose on Twizzlers and Twinkies. Apparently I aced the test they made us take in first grade, and was promptly labeled “gifted.” Some years, I was put in a class with other little precocious tykes, other years, they’d mix us in with the general population. The regular kids tended to resent our tendency to finish filling in the bubbles with our number-two pencils in record time, our resistance to allowing others to copy off our papers, our self-satisfied hand-raising before the teacher had even finished asking the question.

Who could blame them? We were doubtless insufferable little know-it-alls.

In time, we learned to dim our brightness to a tolerable level, figured out that comparing IQ scores was no way to make friends and even stopped showing off our vast vocabulary in mixed company. By middle school, most of us decided that avoiding social suicide was far preferable to getting straight A’s.

I coasted for years. Doing just enough to get by, opting out of trigonometry even though geometry had been surprisingly fun. I’d long since stopped reading a book when I walked down the school hallways, even if I was at the best part and couldn’t wait to find out what happened next. I learned how to be popular and forgot the joy of devouring knowledge for the sheer pleasure of it. In retrospect, it’s downright painful to think of the missed opportunities that were sacrificed in my quest to conform.

But hey, laziness, thy name is teenager.

My second semester of college changed everything. The smudged paper that listed my classes didn’t seem particularly promising: Economics 101, Astronomy, Critical Thinking, World Religions, Racquetball (a girl doesn’t live by books alone). In fact, the lineup was a little intimidating, especially after the last several years of academic avoidance. But required courses are just that, required, so I resisted the urge to swap out at least one dust-dry class and headed off to what sounded like the epitome of torture: Economics 101.

And it could have been, especially with my less-than-stellar attitude. But professor Jimenez got so excited by the subject matter that he was practically bouncing off the taupe walls. He railed and cajoled, told involving stories about currency, made us laugh about interest rates, got us doing math without realizing it, had us competing to be called on. It was thrilling, and utterly unexpected.

Heading to Astronomy class, I was still in a daze, wondering if I should seriously consider declaring myself an Economics major. But when the lights went out in the planetarium/classroom and the cosmos appeared, a tingle of pure pleasure swept through me and thoughts of anything but the universe were blocked out for the next 90 minutes. When I emerged, blinking, to the sunlit afternoon, I was intoxicated, elated, buzzing with possibility.

In the weeks to come, I found myself equally sparked by sojourns into Critical Thinking, forays into Buddhism, delving deeper into macroeconomics, opening my mind wider to encompass the universe itself. Even learning to slam a serve into a brick wall kept me on my toes.

I worked hard, and for the first time in a very long time, none of it was easy. I didn’t get an “A” without trying. In fact, a paper that would have surely been praised in high school now got returned with a big fat C+ scribbled in red ink. Standards were high, and we were expected to not just meet them, but to embrace them. Tough? Sure. That was the point. At the end of the semester, I ended up with two A’s and two B’s. (Racquetball was pass/fail. I passed.) It wasn’t perfect, but I’d done my best, I’d worked hard, and I was proud of myself. I felt like a grown-up, maybe for the first time.

In the pages to come, there are many examples of how academic rigor not only resonates but invigorates. From the ways that a solid college foundation can echo throughout a lifetime to the importance of inciting students to stretch out of their comfort zone to the ways that engaged professors got that way, and how they keep the spark alive.

It’s a lesson worth learning again: Doing things the hard way can be the smartest thing you’ve ever done. Trust me. I know.

— Julene Snyder, Editor
Pleased as Punch
Well, the article is SHOCKINGLY beautiful (“Hi Diddle Dee Dee,” Summer 2009).Honestly, just wonderful. You did a remarkable job on the piece in my opinion, and I am FLOORED that it is on the cover! I had no idea! I can’t tell you how much I like it and also appreciate it, and my MOTHER is going to FLIP! She’ll probably cry, actually. Thank you, oh so much.
— Jim Parsons ’01 (MFA)

Memories of Danny
Liz, Jackie and I were pleased to see the article regarding the Daniel L. Burkett III Memorial Scholarship (“Saving Grace,” Summer 2009). Indeed, our son Danny ’06 was well known for helping others, including his friends on a daily basis and others in need through his philanthropic work.

We want to thank all those who have contributed to perpetuating Danny’s memory and his legacy of giving. Last fall’s golf tournament helped in a major way towards achieving the goal of endowing a scholarship in his name. We are extremely proud of the young men who initiated the scholarship effort and who continue to work hard to make it a reality: Shaun Moothart ’06, Anthony Pavich ’06, Matt Pioli ’06 and Steve Ettlin ’06.

We look forward to this fall’s golf tournament and fulfilling the endowment.
— Daniel L. Burkett II

Cover to Cover
Thanks so much for the opportunity to write my story for USD Magazine (“Solving the Puzzle,” Summer 2009). I recently went straight from work to a dinner gala held by LEAD San Diego and did not know that the new issues had been arriving in people’s mailboxes throughout the day. When I got to the dinner, many USD alums and employees — including President Mary Lyons — said that they had already read the article and were pleased to see it in the magazine. It sounded like they all read the magazine from cover to cover as soon as they get it, even the president!
— Christopher Yanov
Executive Director, Reality Changers

Keep on Rocking
I read the editorial in the recent issue of USD Magazine (“Light My Fire,” Spring 2009) and wanted to write in with some thoughts.

I attended USD Law School from 1979-1981, and I can tell you that there was lots of great new music coming out during that time; it played a big role in getting us through law school. The “new” groups at the time included the Talking Heads, the Cars, Dire Straits and Elvis Costello.

Now — pushing 30 years down the road — I am still fueled by music. As an aside from my legal career, I have recently taken a participatory role in music production, as one of my daughters is pursuing a professional career in the music field. The industry is currently rather dysfunctional and is groping for a new model, yet music gets made in spite of all the turmoil.

So as a family, we have grabbed the bull by the horns and have self-produced some albums by the group White Roses, which feature my daughter, some of her classmates at the Berklee College of Music in Boston, and some other musicians. Our most recent CD (Spark the Chain) is a group of primarily acoustic songs, so not necessarily a real “rocker.” The biggest challenge these days is not making the music, but getting it out to the world. Those interested in hearing it should go to www.whiterosesrock.com.

Thanks for your time and consideration. And may you continue to rock on.
— Ron Rose ’81 (J.D.)

London, Redux
Thank you for sending me the copy of the USD Magazine with the story that included mention of the tour I led at Canterbury for students of your university (“London Calling,” Fall 2008). I also enjoyed the copy of the photo you sent that showed me addressing the students; thanks too for your generous comments about the tour. I am just pleased that you all enjoyed visiting our wonderful cathedral, and I hope that I may see you again, with another group, sometime in the future. I also enjoyed your magazine — you have done a good editorial job.
— Bill Charlton, Docent
Canterbury Cathedral

Write us...
We welcome letters to the editor about articles in the magazine. Letters may be edited for length and clarity, and must include a daytime phone number. Write: Editor, USD Magazine, 5998 Alcalá Park, San Diego, CA 92110. E-mail: letters@sandiego.edu.
22/ MOVING AT WARP SPEED
Through a series of fortuitous circumstances, Sarah Moga ’04 wound up in New York with the job of her dreams. As producer for The Early Show, she starts her day well before the crack of dawn and moves at a breakneck pace until dusk. Whether in story meetings, control rooms or locations all over the world, she’s in her element, multi-tasking with the ease and grace of someone who’s happiest when in motion.

6 / Meet the Beetles
When it comes to all things Coleoptera, assistant biology professor Geoff Morse is excited, enthusiastic and eager to share his love of research.

7 / Answered Prayers
Partial scholarships are the answer for many students who need to fill the gap between their resources and the cost of attending the program of their choice.

8 / A Noisy Sort of Symphony
Construction of USD’s new Student Life Pavilion requires a well-organized conductor. Project manager Andy Rogers ’02 is just the man for the job.
POINT OF VIEW
16 / That Eureka Moment
The first step toward becoming professor Mitch Malachowski was deciding what he truly cared about. Once he figured that out, the path before him was clear.

CLASS NOTES
28 / Getting Back to Basics
Nurse practitioner Elizabeth Olinger ’89 (MSN ’93) brings the first breeding pair of Eyjahunda sheepdogs into New Zealand.

30 / Just a Click Away
Nick Yorchak ’07 is ahead of the curve with a career that focuses on the new technology of search engine optimization.

36 / Boy Plus Dog Equals Love
Children’s book celebrates kindness; author Meggan Hill ’94 is the author of the charming Nico and Lola.

SPECIAL SECTION
32 / USD Faculty and Student Honors
The university is proud to congratulate faculty and students who earned special recognition in 2008-2009.
boat drops anchor near a patch of sandy shoreline. It’s a little windy, but there’s not a cloud in the sky.

Visitors to this mangrove wetland on the island of Coronado, in Mexico’s desert oasis of Bahia de Los Angeles, are sporting appropriate gear: floppy hats and sunglasses. A group gathers around Dylan Edwards, a director of research for the Ocean Discovery Institute’s Bahia program, eager to learn what participants have been up to for the last several weeks.

“We’re here to better understand the ecosystem,” Edwards explains. “It’s very important for us to do our research because Bahia de Los Angeles is not yet damaged.”

Edwards hands the reins of the discussion over to six Hoover High School students. They discuss the effects of biodiversity in the wetlands area; their short presentations display infectious enthusiasm for what they still hope to find in their research efforts. Two other student groups, dubbed “Pesca” and “Islands,” echo that attitude.

Pesca’s mission is to determine if sea turtles and fisheries can coexist. The Islands group, directed by USD marine science and environmental studies assistant professor Drew Talley, examines the marine ecosystem and its influence on island dynamics. Each project delivers its own unique educational angle, but the staff at the Mission Bay-based Ocean Discovery Institute (formerly Aquatic Adventures), keeps a collective eye on the big picture.

“It’s about transforming our students’ lives through science,”
work. They then spent three weeks finalizing their research before presenting it at The Neurosciences Institute.

The experience is so powerful that former Bahia students return for short visits. Marlem Rivera, a senior at Hoover, came to see her younger brother, Jorge, go through this year’s program. “Every year there’s something different,” Rivera says. “Without this program, I know I’d have been lost.”

Beyond the undeniably life-changing nature of the program, as a marine research destination, Bahia de Los Angeles is ideal. It has diverse terrain, rare sea birds, glow-in-the-dark scorpions and lush ocean life.

It’s a place where University of California, Davis, professor Gary Polis enjoyed spending time. An expert on Baja California scorpions, spiders and food webs, he worked extensively in the area, compiling nearly 20 years of research before a tragic accident claimed his life nearly a decade ago. Polis and eight others were returning from an island research trip when rough waves in the Sea of Cortez capsized their boat. Polis and four other scientists died. The accident was devastating, but it spurred others into action.

Talley, then a UC Davis associate ecologist, along with some of Polis’ postdoctoral researchers, including Gary Huxel, a survivor from the accident, stepped in to keep the project going.

“The process of discovery is a great joy,” Talley says. “I think scientists sometimes shy away from outreach and education because they view it as important but tangential to their academic endeavors. For me, nothing could be farther from the truth.”

“I never met Gary, but we all feel a connection to him because of the work he did,” Fisler says. “We talk about it every year here with our students. Being here means our students have the chance to follow in the footsteps of some great scientists.”

ODI executive director Shara Fisler says.

Fisler, an adjunct marine science and evolutionary biology professor at USD for nine years, started ODI in 1999. Staffed by several USD alumni, as well as Talley, ODI’s programs expose children living in low-income neighborhoods in San Diego’s City Heights to marine science education.

“We actually start engaging youth at preschool age to come to our habitat restoration projects,” Fisler says.

Part of ODI’s Ocean Leaders program, Bahia is geared toward high school students; 15 students from Hoover High attended this year. Students participated in activities and swim lessons in San Diego before heading to Mexico for five weeks of research.

**Course: The Problem of God**

**Instructor: Kathryn Valdivia**

**DESCRIPTION:** What is “reality”? Does “evil” exist? Can human beings identify omniscient truths? Pretty heavy stuff for a sunny summer morning.

**ANGST DU JOUR:** While existential uncertainty can be unnerving, the real cause of the jitters this morning is a looming exam tomorrow. Not to worry. The professor is reassuring: “I think you’ll all do pretty darn well. I’m going to make sure you’re prepared today.”

**BELIEVING IN BELIEF:** Everything is called into question, even the concept of “nothing.” In fact, in line with Plato’s assertion that all things in existence are good by virtue of existing, and Augustine’s posit that “evil” is therefore turning away from God, one bewildered student is compelled to ask, “So, nothing is evil?” Well, no, because “nothing” is both a noun and a concept. After further mental gymnastics, it’s no wonder another student agrees with the Prophet Isaiah, who said, “To come to any understanding at all, I have to believe in something.”

**A RAY OF HOPE:** There is consensus by a show of hands that all of these students believe evil exists, but find the notion that there is a grain of good in even the most corrupt beings comforting.

**BACK TO THE TEST:** Wistful glances at blue skies and golden light beckoning through large classroom windows become few and far between as discussion hones in on Dostoevsky, heartbreak and the human experience.

**AND, IN THE END:** One student needs a definitive answer. “Are you looking for right answers on the test?” “Yes,” the professor laughs. “There will definitely be right answers.”

— Stefanie Wray
MEET THE BEETLES

Delving into all things Coleoptera

by Kelly Knufken

The striking thing is the horn. It’s glossy and threatening and, whoa, is that fur on the underside? This is a beetle, but it’s a menacing specimen, and it’s under the purview of assistant biology professor Geoff Morse.

But his current work involves studying beetles at the other end of the size spectrum, creatures so small most of us wouldn’t even notice them. They’re tiny seed beetles, named for their diet and lair. Morse and the undergraduates he’s overseeing are looking at beetles as small as 2 millimeters long.

“They are rather tiny,” he says, understating it. “But they kill the offspring of trees, so they’re pretty powerful. It’s a pretty horrible relationship for the plant.”

Morse talks with ease and enthusiasm about beetles, chatting with students about this one that takes on the shape of the sunflower seeds it feeds on or that one that cuts its way out of a tough palm fruit seed. The interesting facts he sprinkles into conversation make you want to know more — much more — about these beetles.

He’s always been somewhat of a scientist, owing to his upbringing in the natural environs of Utah, where his scientist parents bought him his first microscope at age 6, sent him to science camps and let him explore the “phenomenal” natural history that was all around him.

“I think a lot about the things that people don’t notice, like the microscopic majority,” he says. “It opened my eyes to things that I was lucky to see. I wouldn’t trade it for anything. I love it. It is really exciting for me.”

The aforementioned menacing rhinoceros beetle — the one with the glossy, 10-centimeter horn that’s as long as its body — is part of the private beetle collection of David Rockefeller, which is curated by Morse. These are special because many were collected in the 1930s through 1960s in Brazil’s Atlantic lowland rainforest — now largely nonexistent — and many may now be extinct.

“Who knows how many have relatives still alive today?” Morse asks. “To think that they don’t, to me, says something about our stewardship of the planet and where we might be going wrong.”

His research — he’s collected just under 50,000 seed beetles in his career — concerns the diversity of insects that feed on plants. They make up about a quarter of all species found on land, and Morse aims to add to the knowledge about why they’re so prevalent.

This past summer and this fall, Morse and his students are studying the co-evolution between seed beetles and plants. Undergraduate research has played a huge role in Morse’s career, and he’s eager to pass on his enthusiasm. His first research job came during the summer between his freshman and sophomore years in college, when he spent his time researching, yes, seed beetles. “Hands-on experience is just so incredibly important,” he says.

He leads a visitor to an “animal care room,” in the basement of the Donald P. Shiley Center for Science and Technology that contains a refrigerator, some tables and several clear boxes filled with seeds and the tiny beetles that are his subject.

“Having access to this room makes doing my research possible,” he says. It was part of what impressed him about USD and its facilities for undergraduate
research. Doing the research makes him a better teacher, too, he says. The one-on-one interaction with faculty out of classroom setting is invaluable for learning science, Morse says. “You learn what success means and what failure means. To do something that no one’s ever done before, and if it doesn’t work it’s OK — those kind of experiences can’t be undervalued.”

**ANSWERED PRAYERS**

*Partial scholarships crucial for students*

*by Ryan T. Blystone*

The decision to become a nurse was easy. Figuring out how to make that dream a reality could have been grueling. While Michelle Chung, Emmalyn Siy and Erin Murphy each came to the Hahn School of Nursing and Health Science with different needs and expectations, they shared a common goal. And given the nationwide shortage of nursing professionals, their determination was not only admirable but practical. USD’s Master’s Entry Program in Nursing (MEPN) — an accelerated track for students with a bachelor’s degree in a different subject but who want to get into nursing — looked like a perfect fit. Just one problem: How to pay for it?

Chung and Siy, both with psychology degrees, took different approaches to the dilemma. Chung checked out loan options. Siy had little time to research, as she was working two jobs to support her parents. And Murphy, armed with an art school degree in motion picture and television, was frustrated by scholarship applications that went nowhere.

Enter Anita Hunter, USD’s director of master’s and international nursing programs, a professor and grant writer. In September 2008, Hunter secured $100,000 from the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation. Some of that funding enabled Chung and Siy to each receive a $10,000 RWJF New Careers in Nursing Scholarship.

“I was ecstatic,” Chung says. “I never thought, coming here, they would have somebody who would go out of their way to look for scholarships or grants and help the students. I feel indebted to USD. I want to give back when I graduate.”

Says Siy: “I was floored. I really was in desperate need of the money, and I think Dr. Hunter saw that I needed it. It meant a lot.”

The Danvera Foundation awarded Murphy a $5,000 scholarship in the spring. The foundation consistently supports USD’s nursing, science and English programs. “I was overwhelmed with joy,” Murphy says. “It was something I really needed. I’d spent so much time away from my studies applying for scholarships.”

Murphy attended USD’s annual spring scholarship luncheon, which pairs recipients with their donors, and thanked Danvera Foundation President Pat Morrin ’83 in person. The scholarship award has so inspired Murphy that she plans to give back to the university in a unique way. “I went to the Dominican Republic in January, and I got to help other people. I brought my video camera and shot 12 hours of documentary footage. I hope to put together a visual piece to promote nursing’s international programs to help them get funding.”

Hunter says securing financial aid for nursing students is critical. “The greatest reward is helping some really qualified applicants who otherwise would not be able to afford USD — to be able to come into our program.”

The MEPN students are beginning their second and final year in the program. Chung, Siy and Murphy are narrowing the path they’d each like to take in the nursing profession.

“The MEPN program opens doors,” Siy says. “You learn how to make connections, you learn how to talk to people and you learn essential skills for being a good nurse. I feel they’re preparing us very well to be good nurses, a good advanced nurse practitioner, nurse manager, flight nurse or any other kind of nurse.”

---

**GIFTS AT WORK**

**The School of Leadership and Education Sciences** received a bequest of $25,000 from the estate of Professor Emeritus Joseph Rost. The Dr. Joseph C. Rost Scholarship Fund will award scholarships to qualified students who seek to earn a degree through the SOLES curriculum.

**Steve ’86 (J.D.) and Lisa ’85 (J.D.) Altman** have provided the School of Law’s Center for Intellectual Property Law and Markets with a gift of $50,000. The gift will support the newly established center in its work in exploring current intellectual property policy issues. The center also will provide a forum where lawyers, clients, judges and policymakers can share ideas about IP doctrines and policies.

**The Todd and Mari Gutchow Foundation** provided scholarship support for school leaders from throughout San Diego County to participate in USD’s Educational Leadership Development Academy Summer Institute in July 2009. The theme of this year’s institute was “Leading Schools in a Flat World: Globalization and its Implications for Education.”

**Nadine Thomas ’58** will receive lifetime income due to a $10,000 gift annuity that was established by her aunt, Marie Weber. The annuity will pay a fixed income to Weber; upon Weber’s passing, income will be paid to Thomas. The gift will eventually support USD’s Department of Chemistry.

**The university recently received** a partial distribution of $250,000 from the estate of an anonymous friend of USD. It was designated in the donor’s living trust that the residual estate be divided equally among four charities; additional funds will be distributed during the 2009-2010 fiscal year.
Insistent beeping is interrupted by sustained clanging, then overshadowed by a loud “ker-thunk” before being drowned out by the shriek of power tools. Ladders and cords, tools and materials, stacks of finished walnut, pallets of tile are all abundantly scattered about. Everything smells, ever so faintly, of newness and metal. It’s a seeming chaotic jumble, a site where everything is happening everywhere at once. Loudly. But in fact, the frenetic, incredibly noisy scene, populated over the life of the project by hundreds of workers representing 35 trades, is the exact opposite of chaos. All of those disparate sounds are a symphony of sorts, a cacophony of sustained effort. Because this is exactly what a huge project looks and sounds like when it comes down to the wire, just a few weeks before USD’s Student Life Pavilion is scheduled to open.

“This is the fun time. This is what you like to see, when it really changes every single day,” says Andy Rogers ‘02. “This is when we have to have the most amount of tradesmen on site. We’re really at our peak of manpower right now.”

He’s in his element, gesturing towards key architectural features, leading the way up stairs and around workers, pointing with pride to intricate tile-work here, precast concrete there.

Rogers admits to enjoying being in the thick of the action on-site more than sitting at his desk. He’s got a lot on his plate: As general contractor Rudolph & Sletten’s project manager for the SLP, he and his team have been charged with keeping the 53,000-square-foot project on track.

Pretty big responsibility for a guy who originally came on board when he was a USD student by simply walking up to a trailer parked alongside the then-under-construction Donald P. Shiley Center for Science and Technology and knocking on the door.

“I’d previously worked as a laborer and loved construction,” he recalls, noting that his dad was in the business. After an attempt to get an internship at an investment firm didn’t pan out, he realized his heart wasn’t in it. “I wondered what I was going to do. I knew I didn’t want to wear a suit and tie every day.”

He kept on working throughout his senior year — moving into a position as a project engineer intern — while carrying a full load of classes. “I came on for a trial period at $10 an hour. I was basically a gopher, but they did a good job of training me.”

Rogers says that his double major — economics and urban design — was priceless. “My classes taught me how to learn, how to ask questions, how to work with people. That’s been invaluable.”

The company has had a hand in several big campus construction projects. In addition to the SLP and the science building, Rudolph and Sletten worked on the Joan B. Kroc Institute for Peace & Justice and the School of Leadership and Education Sciences building, Mother Rosalie Hill Hall.

“Did I expect I’d be on campus so much when I graduated? I hoped. I definitely hoped. Once I started working, I could see that USD was constantly building. The buildings are fun to do because they’re challenging, and the people are great.”

And he’ll get to remain a daily fixture around campus for at least a bit longer. Once the SLP opens for business, the next step is to renovate the Hahn University Center. Rogers will be smack in the middle, coordinating the project.

“This is my favorite time,” he reiterates. “Now, and the time right after this time, when we get to see if we’ve delivered exactly what the client was expecting. Meeting those expectations is very rewarding.”
A truly international at this point, “We have gone from local to another in 2010 in Mexico City and another in Japan. “October in Germany, another coming up in November in Japan.

“As the new president of USD’s National Alumni Board, she’s uniquely positioned to help reawaken that bond. She wants to remind alumni that USD is a dynamic campus that is always changing and growing, not least because of climbing school rankings and a growing international focus.

“The more accomplished the university becomes, the more valuable your diploma is,” says Bennett, a vice president and senior relationship manager with U.S. Bank.

She touts a recent alumni gathering in France, another coming up in October in Mexico City and another in November in Japan.

“We have gone from local to truly international at this point,” she says. “It’s very cool.”

USD is practically in her blood, with both of Bennett’s parents and four of her five siblings also having attended the university. They’re also founding members of The Immaculata. “I grew up at USD. I look at the pride, the traditions,” she reflects. “It’s that home that you can always go back to.”

Having received her education at the University of San Diego influences Bennett all the time.

“It’s an approach as to how you conduct yourself,” she says. “They encourage you to be entrepreneurial, investing in yourself and others.”

For many alumni, attending USD was the first major decision they made in their life. “Most folks choose the university; they don’t just happen to end up there. The private university experience is about more one-on-one attention,” she says. “It’s about adopting the values and traditions of a Catholic university.”

Bennett has been involved in the Alumni Board since 2003.

“I believe in the direction it’s going in, and I believe I can help make a difference.”

by Kelly Knufken

A sold-out crowd of more than 400 enjoyed tasting wines from more than 20 USD-affiliated wineries at USD’s first annual Wine Classic, which was held in late July. The event featured wines from vintners such as Charles Krug, Joseph Phelps and Caymus Vineyards. “We are extremely grateful to all the participating wineries and the tremendous turnout by USD alumni, staff and friends in the San Diego community,” said director of alumni relations Martin Kaplan. “It was a wonderful event, and we raised over $20,000 for the Alumni Endowed Scholarship Fund to support much-needed scholarships for USD students.”

New members of the USD National Alumni Board have been named. Joining the 25-member board are Bob O’Connell ’82, (’92 M.Ed.), Genevieve Knych-Rohan ’86, Noreen Ippolito ’90, Kelly Morrison-Pop ’96, Philip (Boo) Purcell ’00, Heather Manly ’02 (’05 M.Ed.), Sioma Waisburd ’03 and Rhett Buttle ’07. Josephine Bennett ’81 is the association’s new president (see adjacent story on this page).

The National Science Foundation recently awarded a grant of nearly $900,000 to USD. A collaborative effort between the College of Arts and Sciences and the School of Leadership and Education Sciences, the Robert Noyce Teacher Scholarship Program award is designed to encourage students majoring in mathematics or science to become high school teachers in underserved areas of San Diego and Southern California.

College of Arts and Sciences

Dean Mary Boyd is co-editor of a new book, Broadening Participation in Undergraduate Research: Fostering Excellence and Enhancing the Impact. At a National Press Club event in Washington, D.C., this summer, she took part in a panel discussion about the importance of broadening student’s involvement in research. Rewarding faculty who make the effort to include students in their research efforts is a win-win, says Boyd, who points out that students from her college have co-written articles in top-line journals, which acts as an incentive for professors to get behind such mentoring efforts.

Charles Pope will serve as interim director of USD’s Trans-Border Institute for the 2009-10 school year. David Shirk, TBI director since July 2003, is on sabbatical; he recently accepted a one-year fellowship to the Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars in Washington, D.C. He’ll be one of 24 fellows in residence; the class is comprised of scholars and practitioners from throughout the world who focus on national and world affairs. Shirk returns to USD and his TBI post in fall 2010.

Development: Creating Sustainable Justice is the theme of the keynote address of the 20th Annual Social Issues Conference, which will be held on campus from Oct. 1-8. Medical anthropologist and physician Paul Farmer will give the keynote address, which also kicks off the 2009-2010 Joan B. Kroc Distinguished Lecture Series. Farmer has dedicated his life to treating some of the world’s poorest populations and has helped raise the standard of health care in undeveloped areas of the world. His work is the subject of Tracy Kidder’s 2003 book, Mountains Beyond Mountains. To learn more go to www.sandiego.edu/csl.

New members of the USD National Alumni Board have been named. Joining the 25-member board are Bob O’Connell ’82, (’92 M.Ed.), Genevieve Knych-Rohan ’86, Noreen Ippolito ’90, Kelly Morrison-Pop ’96, Philip (Boo) Purcell ’00, Heather Manly ’02 (’05 M.Ed.), Sioma Waisburd ’03 and Rhett Buttle ’07. Josephine Bennett ’81 is the association’s new president (see adjacent story on this page).
Jennifer Petrie has a coaching résumé brimming with success. Her USD volleyball triumphs are on prominent display in her office: Hanging on the walls and perched on most available surfaces are plaques, photos and other tokens of glory representing West Coast Conference titles, coaching accolades and NCAA postseason appearances.

While the display evokes many fond memories, it also serves as the answer to any questions Petrie may have had when she was elevated from assistant to head coach, replacing Sue Snyder after the 1998 season.

“I don’t know if anyone is really ready for the first year as a head coach,” Petrie says. “I was eager and excited. I felt I’d been exposed to enough different coaching styles and enough different backgrounds as an assistant in different places that I was ready. But these were pretty big shoes for me to fill. I didn’t want to be the one to bring down the empire.”

The Toreros put that fear to rest quickly, compiling a 23-6 record and reaching the second round of
the NCAA tournament. Her head coaching career record is 192-74 overall, and Petrie has built upon the foundation set by USD’s only other volleyball coaches, Snyder and John Martin.

“Working with Jen has been a great experience,” associate head coach Brent Hilliard says. “Coming in to coach with her — when playing volleyball was most of my background in the sport, for the first time at the Division I level — well, I can’t imagine being in a better situation.”

Petrie’s best season was 2004. The team went 14-0 in conference play and reached the Sweet 16 in the postseason, earning a No. 11 national ranking by the American Volleyball Coaches Association, a school record.

Players Devon Forster, Jackie Bernardin, Lindsey Sherburne and Kristen Hurst received special recognition, and Petrie was named WCC Coach of the Year for the first time.

Another of the program’s memorable seasons took place in 2006 — without Petrie. She took a six-month leave to be with her family, following the birth of her second child, son Charles. Hilliard, serving as interim head coach, directed the team to another WCC title, another Sweet 16 appearance and he was named WCC Coach of the Year.

“I missed (coaching) a lot, but I could not have taken that time off without having Brent in place,” Petrie says.

In 2007, Hilliard returned as an assistant, Petrie resumed head coach duties and the team continued its winning ways. The program entered 2009 as a three-time defending WCC champion with a streak of eight consecutive NCAA postseason tournament appearances.

“Consistency is a rarity in athletics these days,” Hilliard says. “We’ve been coaches together for an eight-year period, and we’ve been on the same page. Knowing what the expectations are makes a difference.”

A club and college coach, respectively, aided in Petrie’s coaching development. A Mt. Carmel High School graduate, Petrie played club volleyball for current University of Nebraska coach John Cook, a 1979 USD alumnus. “He was a very good technical and goal-oriented coach; he taught me a lot about discipline and setting really high goals.”

At the College of William & Mary in Williamsburg, Va., Petrie played for Debbie Hill, who retired in 2007 after 30 years and more than 500 Wins. “Debbie was more nurturing. She made sure the team’s chemistry was good and everyone was on the same page.”

Petrie compliments both Cook and Hill for contributing to her coaching style. She says her ideal player comes from Cook: one that “really hates to lose; a true competitor.” Conversely, from Hill she got a different goal: “When my players leave USD after four years, I want them to still love playing the sport as much as when they arrived.”

She says several alumni have followed her advice and continue to play; some are now coaches. Many of her players believe Petrie’s best trait is how she handles life.

“Jen’s a great role model,” says senior outside hitter Amy Mahinlanali DeGroot. “Outside of volleyball, she has a great family and she balances her life really well. I think it’s very important for the players to see that volleyball isn’t everything. Jen takes good care of us. She’s a wonderful person to have in our lives on and off the court.”

That’s the kind of validation that makes Petrie know she’s on the right track. “I’m fair and I’m approachable. The girls feel comfortable discussing volleyball and school and more. There’s so much change that happens when the girls come here at 17 and leave at 21. I want to be sure they leave not just as better volleyball players, but as better people.”

[net gain]

A SENSE OF STABILITY

Men’s tennis coach builds on success

by Ryan T. Blystone

Brett Masi said he “couldn’t ask for a better week” when two coaching milestones were achieved within days of each other this spring.

He experienced euphoria when USC defeated Ohio State to capture the NCAA national championship men’s tennis team title on May 19. Masi, the top assistant coach to USC head coach Peter Smith since 2005, said the thrill of that victorious moment was one to savor.

“People just don’t know everything that goes into accomplishing something like that,” Masi says. “To win a national championship is truly a special feeling that goes throughout your body. All the work you put into it comes at you all at once when you win. It was worth all the effort.”

Two days later, Masi got another taste of bliss when USD hired him for his first collegiate head coach position. The 30-year-old from Riverside, Calif., accepted the chance to build a program that’s trying to move forward after the passing of longtime coach Tom Hagedorn, who lost his valiant 18-month battle with leukemia on March 21.

“I want to give a sense of stability,” Masi says. “I want to build on what Tom had here and keep the program going in the right direction.”

The Toreros have a young team, led by No. 1 singles player Dean Jackson, who earned Intercollegiate Tennis Association All-America recognition last season.

“[I look forward to coaching all of them],” Masi says. “Most of the players are freshmen and sophomores. I want to make them stronger and get them going. Dean (a junior) made it to the round of 16 in the NCAA, and I want to help him become the top-10 caliber player I think he is.”

The tennis season doesn’t officially start until early 2010, but the fall practice season enables Masi to assess the entire program. “The fall means a lot of good playing time on the court, more training and a chance to get to where this team wants to be.”

[Image of Brett Masi]
A first step toward becoming professor Mitch Malachowski

THAT EUREKA MOMENT

Figuring out what he wanted to do with his life was the first step toward becoming professor Mitch Malachowski.

At least I was always on time for my classes. I was confused as to why I was there, but at least I was always on time.

It was the spring of 1975, and I was a sophomore studying something or other at Rhode Island College. I was doing well, but I didn’t feel any compelling intellectual calling, and it bothered me. I knew that I loved to read, I was interested in science and I liked to solve puzzles, but I was clueless as to what to major in and what I wanted to do with my life.

Although I was comforted by the fact that many of my friends were in the same boat, I could hear the clock ticking. It was time to make some choices. But how?

I was playing on the basketball team and living in a rather dysfunctional dorm, so those situations were not helping me make sense out of my intellectual confusion. However, I was taking organic chemistry, and that is where my “eureka” moment happened.

I still vividly remember the tongue-lashing my professor, John Williams, gave me early in the semester. It wasn’t that I was doing poorly, but he could tell that I was not working to my potential. It was time to put forth a more intense effort. He asked me what I deeply cared about. What gave me pleasure? What consumed me?

My response was more of a blank stare than a thoughtful answer. He must have known that I was ready for some tough love: He rode me hard throughout the semester. It wasn’t that I was doing poorly, but he could tell that I was not working to my potential. It was time to put forth a more intense effort. He asked me what I deeply cared about. What gave me pleasure? What consumed me?

My response was more of a blank stare than a thoughtful answer. He must have known that I was ready for some tough love: He rode me hard throughout the semester. It wasn’t that I was doing poorly, but he could tell that I was not working to my potential. It was time to put forth a more intense effort. He asked me what I deeply cared about. What gave me pleasure? What consumed me?

My response was more of a blank stare than a thoughtful answer. He must have known that I was ready for some tough love: He rode me hard throughout the semester. It wasn’t that I was doing poorly, but he could tell that I was not working to my potential. It was time to put forth a more intense effort. He asked me what I deeply cared about. What gave me pleasure? What consumed me?

My response was more of a blank stare than a thoughtful answer. He must have known that I was ready for some tough love: He rode me hard throughout the semester. It wasn’t that I was doing poorly, but he could tell that I was not working to my potential. It was time to put forth a more intense effort. He asked me what I deeply cared about. What gave me pleasure? What consumed me?

My response was more of a blank stare than a thoughtful answer. He must have known that I was ready for some tough love: He rode me hard throughout the semester. It wasn’t that I was doing poorly, but he could tell that I was not working to my potential. It was time to put forth a more intense effort. He asked me what I deeply cared about. What gave me pleasure? What consumed me?

My response was more of a blank stare than a thoughtful answer. He must have known that I was ready for some tough love: He rode me hard throughout the semester. It wasn’t that I was doing poorly, but he could tell that I was not working to my potential. It was time to put forth a more intense effort. He asked me what I deeply cared about. What gave me pleasure? What consumed me?

My response was more of a blank stare than a thoughtful answer. He must have known that I was ready for some tough love: He rode me hard throughout the semester. It wasn’t that I was doing poorly, but he could tell that I was not working to my potential. It was time to put forth a more intense effort. He asked me what I deeply cared about. What gave me pleasure? What consumed me?

My response was more of a blank stare than a thoughtful answer. He must have known that I was ready for some tough love: He rode me hard throughout the semester. It wasn’t that I was doing poorly, but he could tell that I was not working to my potential. It was time to put forth a more intense effort. He asked me what I deeply cared about. What gave me pleasure? What consumed me?

My response was more of a blank stare than a thoughtful answer. He must have known that I was ready for some tough love: He rode me hard throughout the semester. It wasn’t that I was doing poorly, but he could tell that I was not working to my potential. It was time to put forth a more intense effort. He asked me what I deeply cared about. What gave me pleasure? What consumed me?

My response was more of a blank stare than a thoughtful answer. He must have known that I was ready for some tough love: He rode me hard throughout the semester. It wasn’t that I was doing poorly, but he could tell that I was not working to my potential. It was time to put forth a more intense effort. He asked me what I deeply cared about. What gave me pleasure? What consumed me?

My response was more of a blank stare than a thoughtful answer. He must have known that I was ready for some tough love: He rode me hard throughout the semester. It wasn’t that I was doing poorly, but he could tell that I was not working to my potential. It was time to put forth a more intense effort. He asked me what I deeply cared about. What gave me pleasure? What consumed me?

My response was more of a blank stare than a thoughtful answer. He must have known that I was ready for some tough love: He rode me hard throughout the semester. It wasn’t that I was doing poorly, but he could tell that I was not working to my potential. It was time to put forth a more intense effort. He asked me what I deeply cared about. What gave me pleasure? What consumed me?

My response was more of a blank stare than a thoughtful answer. He must have known that I was ready for some tough love: He rode me hard throughout the semester. It wasn’t that I was doing poorly, but he could tell that I was not working to my potential. It was time to put forth a more intense effort. He asked me what I deeply cared about. What gave me pleasure? What consumed me?

My response was more of a blank stare than a thoughtful answer. He must have known that I was ready for some tough love: He rode me hard throughout the semester. It wasn’t that I was doing poorly, but he could tell that I was not working to my potential. It was time to put forth a more intense effort. He asked me what I deeply cared about. What gave me pleasure? What consumed me?

My response was more of a blank stare than a thoughtful answer. He must have known that I was ready for some tough love: He rode me hard throughout the semester. It wasn’t that I was doing poorly, but he could tell that I was not working to my potential. It was time to put forth a more intense effort. He asked me what I deeply cared about. What gave me pleasure? What consumed me?

My response was more of a blank stare than a thoughtful answer. He must have known that I was ready for some tough love: He rode me hard throughout the semester. It wasn’t that I was doing poorly, but he could tell that I was not working to my potential. It was time to put forth a more intense effort. He asked me what I deeply cared about. What gave me pleasure? What consumed me?

My response was more of a blank stare than a thoughtful answer. He must have known that I was ready for some tough love: He rode me hard throughout the semester. It wasn’t that I was doing poorly, but he could tell that I was not working to my potential. It was time to put forth a more intense effort. He asked me what I deeply cared about. What gave me pleasure? What consumed me?

My response was more of a blank stare than a thoughtful answer. He must have known that I was ready for some tough love: He rode me hard throughout the semester. It wasn’t that I was doing poorly, but he could tell that I was not working to my potential. It was time to put forth a more intense effort. He asked me what I deeply cared about. What gave me pleasure? What consumed me?

My response was more of a blank stare than a thoughtful answer. He must have known that I was ready for some tough love: He rode me hard throughout the semester. It wasn’t that I was doing poorly, but he could tell that I was not working to my potential. It was time to put forth a more intense effort. He asked me what I deeply cared about. What gave me pleasure? What consumed me?

My response was more of a blank stare than a thoughtful answer. He must have known that I was ready for some tough love: He rode me hard throughout the semester. It wasn’t that I was doing poorly, but he could tell that I was not working to my potential. It was time to put forth a more intense effort. He asked me what I deeply cared about. What gave me pleasure? What consumed me?

My response was more of a blank stare than a thoughtful answer. He must have known that I was ready for some tough love: He rode me hard throughout the semester. It wasn’t that I was doing poorly, but he could tell that I was not working to my potential. It was time to put forth a more intense effort. He asked me what I deeply cared about. What gave me pleasure? What consumed me?
Pure joy comes in many different flavors, but the elation of using every tool at your disposal is among the most delicious. Striving for the highest pinnacle that your brain can reach is exhilarating. When you’re working at the top of your game, reveling in the joy of firing on all cylinders, in perfect synchronicity, there’s no thrill quite like it.

And at its best, at its truest, that is precisely what higher education is for.

Sure, some might say that seeking out teachers and mentors who demand the highest standards is a foolish sacrifice. After all, who goes out of their way to work harder than they have to? But without academic rigor, what’s the point of going to college at all? It’s all about that hum of synapses sparking, of connections being made, of ideas sparking one after another after another.

Each of the six USD alumni you’ll meet in these pages know all about the elation of pushing past their limits; not one of them ever considered “good enough” an option. It’s inspiring to see how these real-life examples have played out in the years since graduation. When your education is based on stretching to the utmost, the journey from there feels a lot like flying.

Stretch your wings and come along.
Sometimes taking a phone call can change your life
Juan Alfonso was in the middle of a meeting inside the Manhattan offices of the Ogilvy & Mather advertising agency when his cell phone hummed to life. At first, Alfonso ignored the call. Then the phone began buzzing again. Same caller, same result. Moments later, bzzzz bzzzz. Finally, Alfonso relented.

“You know that friend who always calls and says ‘I have the perfect job for you’?” Alfonso says. “It was that guy. So my friend says ‘I have the perfect job for you and I’m thinking. ‘You got me out of a meeting for this?’”

Of course, this wasn’t just any job opportunity. Alfonso listened to the details with increasing curiosity. The company was ESPN. It was an international marketing position specializing in Latin America. The job called for someone with an MBA and 10 years of experience who was passionate about sports and who’d previously worked on male-oriented marketing campaigns. Oh, and they needed to be fluent in Spanish and Portuguese.

“I was like, ‘Check, check, check,’” Alfonso laughs. “‘That sounds like me.’”

That was back in 2004. Five years later, Alfonso is the vice president of marketing and program development for ESPN International, responsible for ensuring that the multimedia juggernaut lives up to its slogan as “the worldwide leader in sports.”

In fact, he is uniquely qualified for the position. Alfonso’s parents hail from Argentina, and he spent the first eight years of his life in Sao Paulo, Brazil. His family relocated to Quito, Ecuador — following his father’s job as an auditor for PricewaterhouseCoopers — before moving to Los Angeles when Alfonso was 14.

“After all of that moving you can pretty much survive anything,” Alfonso chuckles.

He quickly developed an affinity for Southern California; when his family returned to Brazil, Alfonso decided to stay. He attended St. Francis High School near Pasadena, and when it came time to decide on a college, the University of San Diego was an easy choice.

“There are so many things that I loved about it,” says Alfonso, who earned a BBA from USD in 1994 and an MBA in 1995. “It has this great mix of physical beauty and values. You’re there and gone in the blink of an eye, and it isn’t until you look back that it really hits you how amazing the place is.”

Of course it didn’t hurt that Alfonso met his future wife, Michelle (Watson) ’94 at USD. But he so relished his academic experience that he can still rattle off a list of business classes (finance, negotiation, operations, advertising) that have an impact on his professional life to this day.

“The hardest thing about my job is that so many things hit you at one time and you have to organize everything in your head quickly and efficiently,” Alfonso says. “I think that’s where USD really helped me. I had a lot of professors that affected me profoundly as far as the way I think, the way I organize my thoughts, the way I view the world and how I’m systematic in my approach to solving problems.”

Alfonso, who served as president of the International Student Organization at USD, specifically recalls an operations class taught by professor Jean-Pierre Amor as “one of the hardest but most rewarding classes” and an advertising course taught by professor David Light as the “spark that maybe I could do this sort of thing for a living.”

Upon graduating from the School of Business Administration, Alfonso decided to work in the international trade arena, as his tenure at USD had kindled an interest in imports and exports. But he experienced a rude awakening after moving to San Francisco to work for a company that imported flowers and vegetables.

“I hated it,” Alfonso says. “I was working on straight commission, and it was pretty cut-throat. If you sell, great. If you don’t, it’s good-night.”

A friend who worked at a San Francisco advertising company invited Alfonso to visit his office, and when he saw the casual atmosphere — “People brought their dogs to work and everybody was wearing shorts and flip-flops,” he laughs — Alfonso was hooked. That eventually led to positions at venerable agencies like Hal Riney & Partners and Ogilvy & Mather working on campaigns for brands like Saturn and Miller Lite. Then came the call.

One of the first major projects Alfonso became involved with after arriving at ESPN’s New York offices was the launch of ESPN Deportes, a multimedia blitz catering to the national Hispanic community.

“That’s one of the things I’m most proud of,” Alfonso says. “That was built from scratch, and it went from zero subscribers to about 4.5 million in five years.”

Alfonso ascended the ranks of ESPN International and now oversees a vast network of efforts aimed at expanding the company’s brand — including television, radio, print, Internet and mobile applications — across the globe. That also means catering to markets where, say, jai alai is more popular than the NFL.

“The channel you see here with Chris Berman or College GameDay isn’t the same channel you would see in Brazil,” Alfonso says. “I personally deal with just an incredible range of sports, everything from cricket in India to baseball in the Dominican Republic to soccer in Argentina to rugby in the U.K.”

Alfonso regularly travels to South America and has visited everywhere from Austria to India — with upcoming stops ranging from Singapore to South Africa — in order to refine and expand ESPN’s international operations. And while he’s devoted to meeting the interests of a specific audience, that doesn’t mean he always shares their same passions.

“Cricket is still baffling to me. I watch a cricket match and I have a big question mark over my head,” Alfonso laughs. “But the thing I’ve learned is that for a sport to make it abroad — whether it’s, say, soccer in the U.S. or baseball in Europe — people need to have a basic understanding of the game and they have to have something to care about, some emotional attachment or storyline.”

There was no greater reminder of the emotions evoked by sport than when Alfonso watched giddily as the USD men’s basketball team stormed into the 2008 NCAA Tournament and scored at the buzzer to upset the University of Connecticut.

“When we hit that last-second shot against UConn …” Alfonso says, pausing to savor the memory, “My scream reverberated throughout the office. That was a sweet day for me.”

In fact, Alfonso — now a father of two — says he savors pretty much every day since he left that meeting in 2004 to answer his phone.

“I thought I was going to become cynical and that this would become just a job, and it hasn’t,” Alfonso says. “I feel incredibly blessed and fortunate to essentially have a hobby that I get paid to do.”
Learning how to hold your own with the big boys
Cmdr. Terrance Hammond, USN, was confident that he could power through a doctorate in two years. It took him seven.

Of course, being deployed to Kuwait two years into the program put a bit of a crimp into things. In the end, the journey that led to earning his doctorate in education in 2006 was not only worthwhile, but full of surprises: “Terry Monroe taught a course in leadership and authority.” He laughs. “Somehow, I didn’t expect to learn leadership from a nun.”

Hammond is a genial man in immaculate khaki, simultaneously relaxed and military-crisp. He wears his education gracefully, relying on an informal style and a supportive manner to make his points. “SOLES was a great investment,” he says, hands underscoring each word as he talks. “The admissions people told me, ‘The doctorate won’t make you any smarter, but it will expose you to more.’” A hand comes down on the tabletop. “They were right.”

This particular journey started in 1999 when he picked up a newspaper on the Coronado ferry. A graduate of Annapolis and the Naval Postgraduate School in Monterey, Hammond had been thinking about retirement. The country was at peace, the Navy was downsizing and Hammond saw his career options narrowing. But that day, an ad caught his eye. “Get your doctorate in leadership studies,” it said. Hammond was immediately interested.

USD’s School of Leadership and Education Sciences admissions office referred him to several other Naval officers at San Diego’s North Island Naval Air Station (where Hammond was working) who were well into the program. They praised the high quality of the instruction and talked about how applicable their classroom work was to the challenges they faced in their jobs.

Hammond liked what he heard. This was graduate education designed for working professionals, a chance for real-world learning that he could put to work right away. “The Navy really values leadership skills. I was on board.”

Hammond got started the next semester. As he got to know his cohort — the group of 10 school administrators and 10 military officers with whom he started the program — it became clear that they shared the same concerns, even though they came from two profoundly different cultures. “The school people worked on the same kinds of problems that I did, and they’d come up with some solutions that worked. That helped me see that good ideas and good practices can come from places I hadn’t expected,” he says.

As executive officer of the Navy’s aircraft maintenance command, Hammond supervises a work force on both coasts, as well as in Hawaii, Okinawa and Japan. A large part of his job is human resources: performance and discipline issues, hiring, promotion and equal opportunity. He credits his coursework for providing him with a solid grounding in HR skills.

Working with people from differing professional cultures has become an essential skill over the course of Hammond’s career, as the armed services increasingly share assignments. He walks a visitor around a hangar-size building, one of several where his technical staff works. Civil service employees and civilian contractors join forces with officers and enlisted personnel from both the Marines and the Navy. “Each one of those groups looks at things a little differently. At SOLES, I learned that a good leader needs to promote good ideas, no matter who’s bringing them.”

The doctoral program provided access to state-of-the-art research and analytic tools, powerful software for statistical analysis and cutting-edge computer labs, in addition to knowledgeable staff support. He especially remembers the help he got from research librarian Karen Sharp. “We had some pretty strange requests — articles from journals I’d never heard of, data we weren’t even sure existed. No matter what I needed to know, she’d know where I should look.”

Hammond ranks those experiences he hadn’t expected as some of the most valuable parts of his education, such as realizing that nuns could actually be empowered leaders with valuable knowledge to impart. He vividly recalls Monroe’s experiential workshops that placed students in ambiguous situations: “We came into the room, and the chairs were arranged in a spiral. Everyone had to figure out where they should sit.” He grins, caricaturing his thought process: “Let’s see. Where do I think I fit? Where do other people think I should sit?”

In Monroe’s workshops, students got to hear from others exactly where they came across. That feedback wasn’t always comfortable, like the day a woman in his class told him that because he was a black man, she felt threatened. “If that’s how I seemed to her, I’d better know it, because it affects how she and I will get along.” The discipline to hear that kind of reaction helped him come to a better understanding of himself. “Paying attention makes me a more effective leader. I still remember those workshops; I draw on what I learned there every day.”

When he was unexpectedly deployed to Kuwait, Hammond didn’t want to lose his momentum, so he continued his studies, taking two courses online. Distance learning was still a relatively new concept, the software for online coursework not yet developed, but the SOLES faculty welcomed the challenge. When he finished his doctorate, Hammond was assigned to the Pentagon’s Office of the Deputy Assistant Secretary of the Navy for Expeditionary Warfare. “The doctorate opened a huge door,” Hammond says. “I know I wouldn’t have gone there without it.” He credits his studies with helping him understand what he saw at the Pentagon, the processes and practices by which the military works. “I’d learned critical thinking skills,” Hammond says. “Even more, I learned that I knew a lot. I could sit at the table with the big boys and hold my own.”

The Navy transfers its people frequently, and after his two-year tour at the Pentagon, Hammond was assigned to the Naval Air Technical Data and Engineering Service Command at North Island as executive officer. Next year he’ll become commanding officer. After that, he’ll be up for another posting. He’s already pondering the possibilities.

“That’s something else that SOLES taught me. I think a lot more widely, and I’m more likely to look at all kinds of options, like an embassy posting; I speak Portuguese. It’s made me think more about what I’ll do after I retire, like going into the Senior Executive Service (the highest echelon of government jobs), or maybe university administration. SOLES also got me in the habit of learning. I’m working on a master’s degree now in foreign relations from the Naval War College.”

Now that he’s back in San Diego, Hammond has reconnected with USD. “I’m working with the Naval ROTC program on campus. I also want to connect with the civilian community, and the university’s a great way to do that.” When he looks back, that trip on the ferry was the kickoff for a whole new way of life.

“It turned out to be a great investment and a great ride. I’m still earning dividends.”
Empowerment for women in Nepal lies in education
Nepal is all about contrasts. Nestled along the greatest heights of the Himalaya, the country’s jagged, snow-covered peaks loom above the muggy verdant villages of the plains far below. The birth country of Buddha has been torn by conquest and consolidation, has sired both enlightenment and struggle, been home to democracy, uprising, insurgency, disillusionment and, against all odds, hope.

Like Mount Everest and Buddha himself, Nepal commands awe and respect, much like Sangita Nirola.

“I love my country, I’m a very patriotic person,” Nirola says. Her dark brown eyes never seem to blink when she speaks of her quest to empower Nepalese women. The freshly minted graduate of USD’s Joan B. Kroc School of Peace Studies master’s program views education as the key to unlocking her wildest dreams. And she’s not afraid to aspire to great heights as a political leader, setting her sights as high as becoming Nepal’s prime minister.

“You can have the dream, but you need the intermediary steps. Sangita can do it,” says Dee Aker, deputy director of the Joan B. Kroc Institute for Peace & Justice. “She’s got a much broader perspective, now (that she’s earned her master’s). Her heart has always been in the right place, and so have her skills, talents and intelligence.”

Nirola says it’s all about having the tools you need: “Education is the key to success. Without education you can’t do anything.”

She’s been one of the lucky ones; her father supported her education from a young age. She had early aspirations of being a doctor, but wound up focusing on geology instead. After obtaining a bachelor’s degree in science from Nepal’s Tribhuvan University in 1985, she married and started a family. She focused on her two children for seven years, then felt a renewed determination to make a larger contribution. “I wanted to grow intellectually. I wanted to do purposeful work.”

Nirola taught science for a year, which helped her realize how much she enjoyed working with younger children. “The experience motivated me to start my own school,” she recalls. She ran a pre-primary school for five years. “It was very successful. I came up with different ideas. I treated the children as they are in the family and not like students. We gave them more care.”

When her husband was accepted into a graduate leadership program at Nebraska’s Bellevue University in 1996, she placed the school in the care of friends, and the family came to the United States. After returning to Nepal in 1998, she wound up working as an assistant manager for a five-star hotel property. Then she was passed over for a promotion.

“I was discriminated against,” she recalls. “I was supposed to get a promotion to manager, but the top-level management brought in another guy. I felt if a woman like me who is educated, born in the city and knows these facilities can face discrimination, what would be the situation for other women in my country?”

It struck such a chord with Nirola that she resigned the same day. She subsequently created a nonprofit organization, Swati, in 2002. Named for a goddess, it was dedicated to empowering all women of Nepal. Swati promotes women’s empowerment via advocacy, awareness and training, focusing on the underprivileged and dealing with issues stemming from a lack of economic independence, such as early marriage, domestic violence, human trafficking and sexual exploitation.

Teaching useful skills that help these women gain access to a better life is key: Offering training on everything from driving cars to making handicrafts, improving public speaking skills to becoming a beautician, pragmatism is the order of the day. Swati provides loans and helps them market their products and build a network among women entrepreneurs. “I make this way, Swati empowers women with knowledge and skill,” she says.

Aker has seen Nirola’s work firsthand. Nirola attended one of Aker’s peace-building workshops in Nepal a few years ago and brought two women who had been affected by conflict and had been on opposite sides in their country. “Sangita puts them in programs so they can learn skills. She’s making them independent, giving the victims a possible way out,” Aker says. “Their relationship became so profound that they really moved everyone at the workshop because they could both speak, not about the things that tore them or their families apart, but what was bringing them together”

Swati’s success hasn’t held Nirola back from her own educational goals. She completed an online management program through London’s Open University, and thanks to financial assistance from a Mahatma Gandhi Fellowship and Jean Gilligan Scholarship — both of which assist graduate students entering the Kroc School of Peace Studies’ master’s program — she arrived at USD in August 2008. Nirola’s actual experience of running a nongovernmental organization brought her instant credibility to classroom discussions, and her friendly demeanor and caring nature made her a favorite among classmates.

“Sangita is a genuinely caring and loving person,” says Tanya Susoev, who was in the master’s program and works in USD’s Center for Awareness, Service and Action. “Throughout the year she made an honest effort to reach out to each of us, wanting to know more about who we were while sharing her life, family and culture.”

Education, as Nirola says, is key. But how can one measure its success? “A widowed mother of two came to me. We got her in the driver’s training program. I heard about an opening and we sent her to take a test. She passed it and got a very good job. She came back to me, crying, and she hugged me. ‘You have done so much for me. Now I can educate my children, I can bring them to Kathmandu, and have a good life.’ It’s an amazing feeling to be in a position to change someone’s life.”

But for women to take spots at the table in Nepalese politics, affirmative action is necessary. An interim constitution drawn up by an interim parliament in 2007 required females to represent at least 33 percent of a party’s candidates. Nirola — who explored the formation of a women’s political party, only to be told by government officials that she couldn’t do it without some male representation — has turned her attention to educating Nepal’s youth about the political process.

It was the 2008 U.S. presidential election that opened her eyes to the potential in her country. “I was really thrilled by Obama’s victory,” Nirola says. “I was watching it at the university and I cried. It was the victory of a real leader. It gives you the notion that you can really bring change. Youth need to be politically aware. We need to let them know their political rights and what’s happening in our country. We need an emerging, dynamic leader who works for the entire country. For that, we have to educate our youth.”

Nirola is more than ready to be the catalyst. Just stand back and give her room.
Maintaining a breakneck pace is right in her comfort zone.
When asked to pick a favorite, it's impossible to decide. Was it hero Capt. Sullenberger? ("So nice, so humble.") But then again, Prince Harry's polo match was awfully cool. ("Really exciting, plus I met Madonna.") Oh, and just the night before, there was the dinner with Top Chef honcho Tom Colicchio at his Manhattan eatery, Craftsteak. ("Absolutely delicious.") But the truth is, when your career is centered on newsmakers, celebrities and politicians, it's a bit unfair to designate one as most memorable.

At 27 years old, Sarah Moga is on an upward trajectory. The Manhattan-based producer for The Early Show tends to walk swiftly, pause briefly, keep moving — an ultra-efficient powerhouse. "When it comes to my job in the control room, only three people here know how to do it," she explains, heels tapping at hyper-speed down the corridors of CBS headquarters on West 57th Street. "It's the fastest paced of all the jobs I do; after doing that, everything else feels slow."

That said, she's more than comfortable stepping in as senior producer when asked. "You're not dealing with small decisions, that's about big picture stuff." But it's crucial to have a broader sense of what it takes to put the show on the air every morning.

"There are a few of us who switch around," Moga explains. A brilliant smile flashes, intensity radiates from blue-green eyes. "I can be a broadcast producer in the morning, then move up quickly to a more senior role. It's important to know how to do all of the jobs. You don't want to be ignorant that booking (a guest) takes a lot of work. You've got to know what it's like to be out there, to be at a plane crash, to need to get something to put on the air."

She pauses for a rare moment, and then continues. "The schedule can be really hard. Interviews fall through; you're always checking your phone. You've got to be able to figure out what's going on. When you're dealing with people in a crisis, you've just got to be sincere. Sometimes they don't want to talk, and it's disappointing when you can't get what's best for the show. Some people shut down, some people feel harassed."

As goal-driven as she is now, it's a bit surprising that the English/Spanish double major didn't have a clue where she'd wind up when she graduated from USD in 2004. "I never took a communications course," she confesses with a laugh, "though I did work as arts and culture editor for The Vista."

An internship at a local station piqued her interest in television during senior year; nonetheless, she wound up returning to her hometown to pursue a graduate degree in Latin American studies at the University of Chicago.

After a stint working for then-Sen. Obama's press secretary as a grad student, Moga gravitated back toward TV news. Sheer persistence was a major factor in helping her to break into the notoriously tough field. "It was really hard," she recalls. "To get hired on as a freelancer, I called the assistant news director at WGN-TV in Chicago a million times. I needed to make him meet me." When the station had cutbacks and quit using outside workers, Fox Chicago News, a local affiliate, picked her up as a contractor. "I worked really hard until they offered me a full-time job," she says. "It was a bad schedule; they'd call you at 11 p.m. and want you to work in two hours."

A quick study, Moga learned to be the person that always comes through in a pinch. "You have to be the one they can count on," she says. "That's what it's all about." Through a series of fortuitous circumstances, she wound up in New York taking a meeting in the car of The Early Show's executive producer at the time, Shelley Ross, on her way home from work. When they arrived at her apartment, Ross had heard enough. "She said, 'I love you, when can you move?'"

Moga shakes her head, incredulous. "They needed a good control room producer. I knew how to write, but I had to learn how to produce. I still can't believe how much more I know now than I knew then. I've worked with two incredible executive producers since Shelley, Rick Kaplan and Zev Shalev. Each of them taught me new perspective and how to make better TV."

The studios she works in can be over-the-top with information overload. She stops by the evening newsroom — a familiar-seeming place where Katie Couric takes center stage five nights a week — and points out the evening news producers, the foreign desk, the national desk. At the flick of a switch, remote footage of video feeds from all over the world can be called up, as needed. "When you talk to the camera talent, you're right there, in their ear," Moga explains.

Just now, it's the beginning of hour two of The Early Show, and the control room at the main CBS studio in the General Motors building at 59th Street and Fifth Avenue is dim but for the flickering light of a wall full of tiny video monitors. An occasional murmur breaks the near silence: "Stand by." "Talk him down." "We're killing the car chat." On this particular day, Amanda Holden of Britain's Got Talent is guest host, accompanied by show regulars Harry Smith and Dave Price. A food segment about pluots (a hybrid fruit that's part plum and part apricot) has just aired. Later, the crew will get a taste.

Moving on. Now, at 8:13:08 a.m. on a Thursday, all is well. "It's always intense at 7 a.m. when it's all news, but now we've moved on to chat, so no one's really stressed." Even in heels, Moga is sure-footed as she makes her way through the corridors, in spite of the cords that snake treacherously across the floor. She makes time to stop and exchange a friendly word with the make-up guy, banter with a cameraman and shoot the breeze with a fellow producer outside the bathroom. A moment later, she's in another studio, perching on a riser just off camera, while the anchors wait for their cue to resume their banter after the commercial break ends.

The hours can be long — 14-hour days aren't uncommon. "It can be hard, because most of my friends have normal jobs," Moga says. "Many times my friends are just coming home when I'm leaving for work." She brightens, her face lighting up like a spring flower. "Still, there's so much fun stuff, and five years from now, well, if I stay in news, I want to be an executive producer. That would be the goal." She's relaxed, in her element. Of course she doesn't know just now that in a few hours she'll be on a plane, headed for Argentina, in search of details about a story that's been dominating the headlines for days. The stage director raises one hand. "Quiet please! We're going to work!"

Sarah Moga leans forward. She's ready.
Dedication to critical care keeps him motivated
[peripatetic] It was a quiet lunchtime shift at Naval Medical Center San Diego. Then a patient went into cardiac arrest, his heart at a standstill. John Whitcomb was one of two nurses on duty. He had just minutes to literally bring this patient back to life.

Fortunately for the critical patient, Whitcomb ’05 (Ph.D.) thrives under pressure. He defibrillated him twice and got his heart rhythm back before the swift response team could even answer the code he had called. The next morning, Whitcomb watched his patient enjoy breakfast with his daughter and wondered how he’d wind up responding during his recovery.

“What do people do after they have a life-changing event like that?” Whitcomb asks. “Some are afraid to leave their home for fear it’s going to happen again. Others will go out and live life to the fullest.” It was an “aha” moment that led him to explore the question of how patients react after such an event, and ultimately, to pursue answers through his Ph.D. research at the Hahn School of Nursing and Health Science.

At the Naval Medical Center, cardiac arrest survivors weren’t referred to cardiac rehabilitation, although myocardial infarction — or heart attack — patients were. In his study, Whitcomb’s participants answered questions about their physical and mental health, symptom distress, cognitive performance, daily functioning and life changes, and they wore pedometers to measure their movements.

“Cardiac arrest survivors suffered from symptom distress, were on a lot of meds, wanted a support group but didn’t know where to go, and were fearful of doing anything too strenuous,” he says. “It really opened my eyes that this is a unique group that we need to pay more attention to.”

For Whitcomb, this foray into nursing research was another advancement in a career that began in 1983 as an 18-year-old hospital corpsman at a Navy intensive care unit. Despite initial jitters — being in the ICU “certainly was an eye-opener,” he says — the work resonated with him, and he was inspired by his nursing colleagues.

“I saw what the nurses were doing, and the more I got involved, the more they taught me,” recalls Whitcomb, who had planned to become a paramedic if he hadn’t joined the Navy. “They were great mentors who helped shape my path. I wanted to be able to do more with the patients, and they encouraged me to go back to school.”

He went on to earn a bachelor’s, a master’s and a Ph.D. in nursing. Along the way, he’s worked at all of the Navy’s largest command hospitals, including Portsmouth, Va., Bethesda, Md., and San Diego. He also served in Iraq as a medical battalion director with the first wave of military that entered Baghdad through Operation Iraqi Freedom in April 2003.

“I have a passion for critical care,” says Whitcomb, who has been awarded an impressive collection of Navy honors over the years, including three Commendation Medals, two Achievement Medals, a Humanitarian Service Medal and a National Defense Service Medal.

Today, he’s a commander and one of just nine Ph.D.-prepared nurses in the Navy. And of those, he’s one of only five nurse scientists involved in active research, a select position that has enabled Whitcomb to reach beyond nursing and collaborate with co-workers in other medical disciplines. He also oversees all 600 critical care nurses in the Navy, serves as the national faculty — a dean of sorts — for the Navy’s Advanced Cardiac Life Support education program, and reviews an average of 100 scientific manuscripts, abstracts and presentations from colleagues annually.

Recognized as an expert in the civilian world, Whitcomb is on the board of directors for the American Association of Critical Care Nurses and for AACN Certification Corp., which develops and administers certification exams for specialties within critical care. As a consultant for the Society of Critical Care Medicine, he is qualified to teach the group’s two-day Fundamental Critical Care Support course for physicians, nurses and others involved in critical care.

While he credits his nursing mentors for his early achievements, Whitcomb attributes his accomplishments to his experiences at USD:

“I wouldn’t be where I am today, in the positions I’ve been afforded, if it hadn’t been for USD and the way they prepare you for after school,” he says. “Dr. Hunter, Dr. Roth, Dr. Georges, Dr. Mueller, Dr. Orsi, all of these people had influence on what I was going to do with my degree once I graduated. There was always real application, prepping you to think critically, to analyze, to be a leader. They would say, ‘You don’t have to change the world with your work now, but you are going to build upon it once you leave here.’”

Whitcomb has done just that, first by presenting his research around the world — from Belfast, Northern Ireland, to Honolulu, Hawaii, to Okinawa, Japan — and second by expanding on his cardiac arrest research at Naval Medical Center Portsmouth. He reviewed three years of resuscitation outcomes for cardiac arrest patients at the hospital and then recommended improvements, such as adding automatic external defibrillators to the surgery floors and implementing a national-standard documentation format. A team is evaluating these changes now to determine their effect on current outcomes.

However, Whitcomb will have to review those results from 450 miles away. Just now, he’s in the midst of a major transition, retiring from the Navy after 26 years and joining Clemson University in South Carolina as a professor in their school of nursing. John, his wife, Kathy, and their daughter, Krista, are settling into their new home this fall. Kathy retired from the Navy two years ago as a commander and women’s health nurse practitioner. Whitcomb also has two sons: John, 24, and Ben, 21, who are both serving in Iraq with the Army.

At Clemson, he will be working with undergraduate, graduate and Ph.D. students, and he is looking forward to the prospects his new career holds. He’s hoping to find ways to contribute to the medical and educational community in the area, much as he has at Naval Medical Center Portsmouth as a member of the institutional review board and chairman of the ethics committee. He’s already meeting with officials to discuss such possibilities as sitting on a clinical studies institutional review board for the state of South Carolina, staying engaged in ethics with the Navy and giving some lectures in ethics at the university.

His new position at Clemson brings Whitcomb full circle, back to the state where he worked in his first ICU as a neophyte hospital corpsman in Charleston, S.C. The connections don’t end there.

As he closes down his office in Virginia, he jokes that this major change is really quite familiar: “I told my wife it’s not really retiring after 26 years; it’s just like another move. I get 30 days’ vacation and we’re starting up again.”
Tenacity, truth, justice and taking a stand for victims
[crime fighter] It's early Friday evening, but Michelle Paradise still has serious work to do. Typically that would entail sifting through a mountain of evidence, court documents and witness testimony. But the task presently before the Riverside County senior deputy district attorney bears particular urgency.

"My daughter has a dance recital tonight," Paradise laughs. "I have to get home and curl her hair."

The apple-pie geniality of Paradise ’94 (J.D. ’97), a 43-year-old mother of two, stands in contrast to the legal tenacity that earned her a "Bulldog Award" in 2005 from the Riverside D.A.’s office for her tireless resolve as a prosecutor. But, in fact, it’s the absence of domestic tranquility — both in her own upbringing and in the lives of the victims she represents — that largely fuels her determination in the courtroom.

"I’ve always known I wanted to be a lawyer ever since I was a kid," Paradise says. "At 8 or 9 years old, I don’t know that I understood the distinctions between the different types of law, I just knew it was a profession where I could take care of myself and have a sense of power over my life."

Paradise spent most of her childhood living in a small Illinois farm community where she was raised in a tumultuous home environment rife with violence and substance abuse.

"As soon as I turned 18, I took $200 and a suitcase and flew to California and never looked back," Paradise says. "I left Illinois without really having a plan; I was just getting away from a very abusive and unhealthy environment."

Paradise lived with a friend in Riverside for a few weeks before setting out on her own. She enrolled at Riverside Community College and earned an associate’s degree in administration of justice while garnering local and national honors as a member of the debate team. She simultaneously worked two security jobs to make ends meet, one as a "loss prevention" employee busting shoplifters at a Robinson’s department store and the other as a dispatcher at an amusement park.

"I just kind of fell into that field when I came to California," Paradise says. "It just felt right, knowing that I wanted to be nothing like my own family and instead be on the pro-law side of things."

By age 22, Paradise had assumed legal custody of her 12-year-old sister and accepted a scholarship to study at USD while also working full-time as a 911 dispatcher for the Riverside Police Department. She commuted to USD and attended classes twice a week — from dusk until dawn — using her rare idle time to study in the cafeteria or catch a quick nap in a quiet corner of the library.

While her undergraduate tenure was far from typical, Paradise credits USD professors like Larry Williamson and his communication studies class for helping her bridge the gap between her own experiences and those of others.

"I’ve always been what I would describe as a free spirit, and Dr. Williamson was a little bit of a free spirit too so I could relate to him," Paradise says. "He could connect to all different types of people, and I think he really taught me how to relate to others on a personal as well as professional level."

After graduating summa cum laude in 1994 with a degree in communication studies, Paradise went on to USD’s School of Law and became a member of the national mock trial team. By then she had quit her full-time job, moved to San Diego and enveloped herself in a slightly more traditional scholastic life, even managing to spend six months in Oxford, England, as part of a USD study abroad program, an experience she calls "one of the best opportunities of my life."

Paradise says she learned how to become an effective trial attorney under the tutelage of USD mock trial professor Richard "Corky" Wharton, who hammered home the fundamentals of court procedures and the etiquette of courtroom presentation.

"I remember Corky saying that the table you sit at should be clean and organized, not messy and chaotic, because that’s how you’ll be viewed," Paradise says. "To this day, I make sure everything has its place on the table. There are a lot of those little nuances that I still use."

After graduating, Paradise joined the Riverside D.A.’s office and soon developed an affinity for trying cases involving domestic violence and child abuse, drawing valuable insights from her USD education as her experience as a 911 dispatcher and her own turbulent childhood. And while she now mostly handles homicide and death penalty cases, Paradise is still passionate about prosecuting crimes against children.

"I can’t tell you the countless times where nobody was representing the victim but the prosecution," Paradise says. "You may be the only voice for the victim because the only other person is the defendant. Winning those cases is very rewarding because without a victory it’s as if that child will never get justice in any shape or form."

Not that Paradise knows much about losing. After more than a decade as a prosecutor, her record is virtually spotless: She has never failed to secure a guilty verdict. "I’ve never lost a case by that standard," Paradise says. "But there are cases where I feel a personal loss, when someone is found guilty on one charge but not guilty on another, or they plead to a lesser charge. People congratulate you but it’s hard to thank them because you feel like in those instances justice hasn’t been completely done."

In early 2006, Paradise was featured on Dateline NBC’s controversial “To Catch a Predator” investigative series aimed at ensnaring suspected sexual predators. She was the trial team leader for the Riverside D.A.’s sexual assault unit at the time and helped coordinate the undercover sting operation, which eventually led to 51 arrests.

"It was a very educational and insightful experience for me," Paradise says. "We had no idea we would get that many arrests. It was amazing even to me to see just how many people came out of the woodwork to get at these children."

After the Dateline NBC episode aired, she was invited to lecture at various conferences and school assemblies. In addition, her caseload — nine jury trials leading to nine convictions and eight life sentences in 2006 alone — earned her accolades as both the Riverside County and the California District Attorneys Association “Prosecutor of the Year.” And while those honors illustrate her phenomenal rise to legal prominence, Paradise is reticent about receiving such laudatory acknowledgements.

"It’s nice to be recognized, but I look at it like I’m just doing my job as much as any prosecutor," she says. "It’s very flattering, but at the same time it’s like, ‘Why me over anyone else?” I hold myself to the highest standards, and I like to believe that all other prosecutors do the same because people look to us to represent truth and justice.”
Nurse brings first pair of Eyjahunda sheepdogs into New Zealand

by Kelly Knufken

A n animal rights activist for years, Elizabeth Olinger never thought she would become a dog breeder.

But circumstances led her to import the first breeding pair of Eyjahunda Icelandic sheepdogs into New Zealand. In the case of this particular type of dog, it’s all about conservation of a breed that was nearly extinct in the 1960s.

“I was able to have a wonderful dog, and I was able to participate in its conservation, which I felt was a good cause,” she says. “It would be a real tragedy if they were lost from the world.”

Olinger ’89 (MSN ’93) is one of just over 50 nurse practitioners in the country of New Zealand, where she moved from California in 2008, and is helping to promote the burgeoning specialty there.

In a way, this new beginning in New Zealand helps Olinger get back to her roots.

“I grew up in England, and I had been wanting to get back to the green countryside and the slower place of life,” she says. “England is not the place I left. We thought about New Zealand, and it turned out to be the right place.”

She and her teenage daughter live in Hawkes Bay, kind of a “Napa on the sea,” with “lovely restaurants and wineries and countryside.” Each day, she rises with the sun, feeds her horses, dogs and cats, and drives the 45 minutes to work.

She is an educator, lecturing and teaching graduate students advanced assessment and diagnostic reasoning at Eastern Institute of Technology Hawkes Bay, but also sees patients twice a week.

USD uniquely prepared her for this role, giving her a taste for continual learning and an appreciation for the rigors of academics.

“I think USD had very high academic standards,” Olinger says. “The students were really enthusiastic compared to what I’ve seen since then. I think we were encouraged to be individually motivated learners. It really established a lifelong educational habit.”

As she settles into her teaching role after years as a nurse practitioner in the United States, she also is seeing the value of the “solid theoretical foundation” she received at USD.

“I think it’s given me a great framework for how nursing education should be taught. And it’s given me a great appreciation for why it’s done that way.” She also plans to pursue her doctorate.

This nurse, who has fostered hundreds of cats, hedgehogs, birds, possums and other injured animals, now aims to shore up the numbers of Eyjahunda sheepdogs while helping to introduce them to a country that puts its dogs to work.

“I think it’s very exciting to introduce a new breed to a country like New Zealand, especially because they’re a working dog,” she says. “The topography of New Zealand is very much like Iceland.”

Olinger’s work in animal rights over the years — working against cruelty and experiments — cemented her belief that people should not buy animals that were bred and shouldn’t encourage the breeding or the mistreatment that sometimes accompanies the practice. But when she learned that this breed’s numbers had fallen to just nine animals in the 1960s, she reconsidered.

With the limited gene pool, breeding guidelines for the 4,000 Eyjahunda Icelandic sheepdogs now in the world are very strict to avoid bringing in any defective genes and minimize inbreeding.

Olinger aims for her pair — Gala and Thorri — to be part of a worldwide movement to re-establish the breed.

She became acquainted with the Icelandic sheepdogs on a pair of trips she took to Iceland with her daughter, when they would spend eight hours a day in the saddle for eight or nine days at a time.

“They were just the sweetest dogs. They would run with us for hours and swim across rivers to meet us. They’re very intelligent; they’re a working dog that wants to be with you all the time,” she enthuses.

You don’t have to see her face-to-face to tell that Olinger lights up when she talks about the dogs. She calls them clean, gentle and loving, and even touts their “sense of humor.”

“They actually smile,” she says. “Their little faces go up at the corners.”

Olinger’s zeal for animals actually intersects with her passion for advanced-practice nursing.

“I think I do use animals and the joy that animals can bring in my practice where it’s appropriate,” she says. “Sometimes people’s (need to care for their) animals have stopped them seeking treatment, and there have been times when I’ve taken animals in until a family member can come. I think that’s a commonality among people who love animals, that the welfare of our animals is as important as our own health.”

Photo: Richard Wood
Curso de la semana

Envolviendo trabajar en la estrategia de sitio web, SEO, pago por clic, publicidad en redes sociales, relaciones públicas en línea, construcción de enlaces, análisis de sitios web, blogging y diseño y desarrollo de sitios web inteligentes y amigables con motores de búsqueda.

Mientras que Yorchak tiene aspiraciones de expandirse a su propio negocio SEO un día, para el momento se siente feliz de estar adelante del camino y trabajando en un campo que espera que también se convierta en una opción popular de carrera para la próxima ola de graduados tecnológicamente versados.

"Lo bueno de eso es que es una industria en crecimiento y no hay suficientes personas para hacerlo," dice Yorchak. "Cuando terminé la escuela, tuve un trabajo cuatro días después. Y tengo amigos que han graduado y todavía están buscando."
1970s

[1974] BARBARA (ALLGOOD) BERRY (BSN) was the president of the Maricopa Medical Society in 2006. Barbara has been semiretired for one year and is doing more volunteering, including serving on the board for the Phoenix Rescue Mission.

1978

BARBARA KENDALL (BSN) has been volunteering as a class reader at an elementary school for the past five years and says it “has been a great joy.” Barbara has attended the U.S. Navy Nurse Corps convention every other year in Williamsburg, San Antonio and, in 2008, the 100th anniversary of the Navy Nurse Corps in Arlington, Va.

1980s

[1980] CHARLIE HOGQUIST (B.A., J.D. ’81) retired from the San Diego Police Department after a 28-year career and is now the police chief for the San Diego Community College District. Charlie joined the police department after completing his first year of law school and attended the police academy while doing his second-year course work.

[1982] MELINDA KINCADE (BSN) received her MSN degree in 1989 at California State University, Los Angeles. Melinda has worked for the Veterans Affairs Medical Center in Los Angeles and now in Memphis for the last 23 years.

BARBARA TRENT (MSN, Ed.D. ’93) has been a nursing supervisor at Palomar Pomerado Health System for the past 20 years. Barbara has taught at the University of Phoenix for 12 years and has done research and statistics in the doctoral program and chair dissertation research for 23 years. Barbara has been a peer reviewer for the Journal of Nursing Scholarship the past five years. She also cares for her 102-year-old mother, who is in great health — physically and mentally. “We enjoy each other very much and go out shopping at least once a week,” she says.

[1984] DAVID DEPOLO (J.D.) is a shareholder and a founding member of the Donnelly, Nelson, Depolo and Murray law firm, which specializes in medical malpractice defense and employment litigation. David was elected to the American Board of Trial Advocates in 2005 and has been certified by the National Board of Trial Advocacy in civil trial advocacy since 2004. He was named a Super Lawyer, recognized as one of the top attorneys in Northern California, in 2006, 2007 and 2008. He is a board member of Family Aid for Catholic Education. David and his wife, Catherine, have been married for 15 years and they have three children, ages 15 to 9.

[1985] DEBRA CARRILLO (J.D.) was installed as judge of the Superior Court of Orange County, Calif., on Jan. 23, 2009.

[1987] DEBRA PALMER (MSN) is in the inaugural doctor of nursing practice class at USD and is scheduled to graduate in May 2010. She works at Kaiser Permanente and is participating in the Raymond Kay Community Clinic Fellowship. She is on loan from Kaiser to the Neighborhood Health Community Clinic as part of a public service project through Kaiser.

[1988] THOMAS OERTEL (MSN) is completing a doctor of nursing practice degree from Case Western Reserve University in Cleveland. Tom is also a professor of nursing education at Grossmont College in El Cajon. He and Susan ’85, his wife of 20 years, and their two children live near Poway.


LYNNE (SEIBEL) WHITLOCK (BSN) graduated with an MPA from Troy State University and was a healing touch practitioner’s apprentice. She recently performed mission work in Tanzania. Lynne, who remarried five years ago, has two adult children, ages 28 and 25. Lynne’s son is a mechanical engineer and her daughter is in college studying to become a special education teacher. “I’d love to hear from my classmates from the Hahn School of Nursing,” Lynne says.

[1990] KELLY SALE (BSN) is the nursing education specialist for Palomar Medical Center’s emergency department.

1990s

[1990] SETH LEYTON (BBA) left Granite Financial Group in 2005 to launch Viewpoint Securities. San Diego’s first brokerage firm dedicated solely to the needs of professional money managers and hedge funds. The business’ professionals have a combined 75-plus years of industry experience.

KELLY (ENGLAND) McELWAIN (B.A.) and her family moved from rural Pennsylvania to just outside Columbia, S.C., in July 2008 through a transfer with her husband’s company. “We love it here!” Kelly says. “Besides the fantastic weather, we enjoy year-round outdoor activities, day trips to the beach — a must for a San Diego girl — and Southern charm and hospitality.” Kelly and Doug promised their daughters, Taylor Anne (4 ½) and Kate (3), a puppy after the move, so now they have an enormous black Lab named Roxy. Kelly is home with the kids and the puppy, but she looks forward to going back to teaching gifted kids in the next few years.

CYNTHIA (KOVOL) NICHOLSON (BBA) and her husband, Jed ’97 (J.D.), of Templeton, Calif., announce the birth of their daughter, Katherine “Kate” Jane, on July 11, 2008. Kate joins sister Karen Jane (8) and brother John Frederick (4 ½). Jed is a partner at Adamski, Moroski, Madden and Green LLP in Paso Robles, Calif. Cynthia is a property manager and enjoys volunteering at school and hanging out with her family and friends.

[1991] DEBRA LEARMOUTH (MSN), after many years in community and homeless health, says, “I have moved to a college health position at University of New Hampshire and I’m loving it!”

VERONICA (LUGO) McKNIGHT (B.A.) and her husband, James, welcomed their daughter, Amelia Lynn, on April 16, 2009. Amelia joins brother, Joel Samuel, 2.

[1992] WES HILL (B.A.) lives in Chico, Calif., with Jeanna, his wife of 15 years, and their three children, ages 4, 7 and 9. Wes has been in the apartment investment business since 1992 and he brokers, sells and owns apartment buildings in California, Oregon and Washington. Wes and Jeanna are involved in leadership at Bidwell Presbyterian Church in Chico and recently visited USD with their 9-year-old son while in town to help with his fourth-grade mission project.


[1997] HEIDI VAUGHT KLIPPEL (B.A.) has her own estate planning law practice in La Jolla. She was named among the Top 25 San Diego estate planning attorneys in San Diego Magazine. Heidi and her husband, Eric, have two children and live in Mount Helix.

[1998] JOANNA BRUSO (B.A.) and her husband, Paul Bruso ’96, welcomed their third child, Timothy John, on March 24, 2009, in San Francisco. Timothy was welcomed home by his older brothers, Patrick (4) and Matthew (2).

RICHARD KOENIG (BBA) married his wife, Elisa, on July 5, 2003, at The Immaculata. Their first child, Avery, was born on April 29, 2007. Richard has been working for the Orange County Sheriff’s Department for the past 11 years and currently holds the rank of investigator.

LISA STEPHENS (MSN) retired from the U.S. Navy in 2005. Lisa and her daughter, Hannah, have returned to live in the Pacific Northwest. Lisa is a nurse practitioner at the naval hospital in Bremerton, Wash., and Hannah, 13, attends junior high in Silverdale, Wash. Divorced in 2008, her ex-husband, Doug, remains in Maryland.
USD Faculty and Student Honors 2008-2009

The University of San Diego is proud to congratulate those faculty and students who have earned national, international and university recognition during the past academic year.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>COLLEGE OF ARTS AND SCIENCES</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| Faculty Awards | American Association for the Advancement of Science Pacific Division President Anne Sturz, Professor of Marine Science and Environmental Studies Associate Dean, College of Arts and Sciences American Psychiatric Association Division 52, International Psychology Outstanding and Unusual Contributions to the Science and Profession of Psychology Kenneth Keith, Professor of Psychology California Campus Compact Carnegie Faculty Fellowship for Political Engagement Sandra Spoguas-Emch, Professor of Psychology Canadian Center for Architecture Visiting Scholar Can Bisel, Associate Professor of Art Catholic Press Association 2008 First Place Award (Reference Works Category) Orlando Espin, Professor of Theology and Religious Studies Catholic Press Association Honorable Mention in Gender Issues Maria Pilar Aquino, Professor of Theology and Religious Studies Louise Comfort Tiffany Foundation Louise Comfort Tiffany Foundation Award Allison Wiese, Assistant Professor of Art National Endowment of the Humanities National Council for Eurasian and East European Research Competition Award Juliana Maxim, Assistant Professor of Art Pizzicato, Luxembourg The Supersonic Award Marianne Pflau, Professor of Music University of San Diego Davies Award for Teaching Excellence J. Michael Williams, Associate Professor of Political Science and International Relations University of San Diego Patrick F. Drinan Award for Distinguished Service Eren Branch, Associate Professor of English University of San Diego Steber Professor Maria Pilar Aquino, Professor of Theology and Religious Studies University of San Diego University Professor Iris Engstrand, Professor of History University of San Diego University Professor Lukasz Pruski, Professor of Mathematics and Computer Science Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars Woodrow Wilson Scholar David Shirk, Associate Professor of Political Science and International Relations Student Awards Consortium for Mathematics and Its Applications Mathematical Contest in Modeling Team Honorable Mention Deep Bedi ‘11 Alex Bitsinis ‘12 Jessica Buckley ‘12 James Gill ‘11 Charlotte May ‘10 Kimberly Roe ‘10 Fulbright Scholar Pauline Gonzales ‘08 Valedictorian Boyan L. Kelcher 09

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>UNIVERSITY OF SAN DIEGO</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| Honor Council | Academic Integrity Award Linda L. Barkacs, Assistant Professor of Business Law University of San Diego Outstanding Undergraduate Business Educator Linda L. Barkacs, Assistant Professor of Business Law University of San Diego 2008 Professor of the Year, SBA Linda L. Barkacs, Assistant Professor of Business Law University of San Diego University Professor of the Year Dennis Zocco, Professor of Finance University of San Diego: 2007 IMBA Cohort Outstanding Professor Denise Dimon, Professor of Economics University of San Diego Women’s Center Woman of Impact Denise Dimon, Professor of Economics University of San Diego Innovative Undergraduate Business Educator Phillip Hunsaker, Professor of Management University of San Diego 2009 MBA Professor of Impact Award Carsten Zimmermann, Assistant Professor of Accounting University of San Diego 2007 MBA Cohort Outstanding Professor Tom Dalton, Professor of Accounting University of San Diego Outstanding Undergraduate Business Educator Jim Smith, Professor of Accounting University of San Diego 2008 Outstanding Undergraduate Business Educator Steve Conroy, Associate Professor of Economics University of San Diego Steber Professor Gene Rathwohl, Professor of Information Systems University of San Diego University Professor Loren Margheiran, Professor of Accounting World Trade Center San Diego Board Member Denise Dimon, Professor of Economics Student Awards | University of San Diego Outstanding Student Scholarship Award | Business Economics Gabriel Nakashima, ‘09 Economics James Nelson ‘09

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>SCHOOL OF LEADERSHIP AND EDUCATION SCIENCES</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| Faculty Awards | American Educational Research Association Chair, International Committee, Division A Paula Cordeiro, Dean American Educational Research Association Program Chair, Special Interest Group on Educational Change Lee Hubbard, Professor of Education and Leadership Studies American Humanities Incorporated Cohen Research Award Teresa VanNim, Director American Society for Public Administration Executive Committee, Complexity and Network Studies Special Interest Group George Reed, Associate Professor of Leadership Studies Association of Teacher Educators Vice-President Reyes Quezada, Professor of Education Association of the United States Army National Advisory Board George Reed, Associate Professor of Leadership Studies California Commission on Teacher Credentials, Committee on Accreditation Appointed Member Reyes Quezada, Professor of Education California Council on Teacher Education Immediate Past President Reyes Quezada, Professor of Education California Council on Teacher Education, Quality Education Partnership Program SOLES/San Diego Unified School District Induction Masters Partnership Nona Conner, Program Specialist, Learning and Teaching California Council on Teacher Education, Quality Education Partnership Program SOLES/San Diego Unified School District Induction Masters Partnership C. Bobbi Hansen, Associate Professor of Education California Council on Teacher Education, Quality Education Partnership Program SOLES/San Diego Unified School District Induction Masters Partnership Miam True, Special Project Manager, Learning and Teaching (2008-2009 with San Diego Unified)
LISA-KAY (STONE) PIEROTTI and her family live in Los Angeles.

KELLY (CHANG) RICKERT (J.D.) and her husband, Christopher, were married on June 7, 2008, at St. Pius X Catholic Church in Dallas. She is the co-owner of an event production company called YourBASH! (www.your-bash.com). She enjoys producing all types of events, although her specialty events are entertainment, corporate, charity and lifestyle events such as weddings and fashion shows. Her business partner, Brian Worley, recently hosted a show on E! TV called “Party Monsters Cabo.”

KELLY (CHANG) RICKERT (J.D.) and her husband, Christopher, were married on June 7, 2008, at St. Pius X Catholic Church in Dallas. She is the co-owner of an event production company called YourBASH! (www.your-bash.com). She enjoys producing all types of events, although her specialty events are entertainment, corporate, charity and lifestyle events such as weddings and fashion shows. Her business partner, Brian Worley, recently hosted a show on E! TV called “Party Monsters Cabo.” Jaime and her husband, Jason, live in Santa Monica, Calif.

JAIME (KRUPNICK) GEFFEN (B.A.) is the co-owner of an event production company called YourBASH! (www.your-bash.com). She enjoys producing all types of events, although her specialty events are entertainment, corporate, charity and lifestyle events such as weddings and fashion shows. Her business partner, Brian Worley, recently hosted a show on E! TV called “Party Monsters Cabo.”

JAIME (KRUPNICK) GEFFEN (B.A.) and the Lakewood area of Dallas.

EMILY (STEVENSON) ZIEROLF (B.A., M.A. ’08) and her husband, Ryan, on Jan. 5, 2009. He weighed 10 pounds, 4 ounces, and was 22 inches long. “Our lives have completely changed and we are enjoying every minute of it,” Emily says.

CYRTHY (WESTIN) CRIST (BSN, MSN ’02) enrolled in the doctor of nursing practice program at USD and is scheduled to complete the program in May 2010.

RYAN LITRICH (BBA) was hired in March 2009 as a senior broker with Lee & Associates of North San Diego County, one of the largest national commercial real estate providers with regional expertise. Ryan works in the Carlsbad office and specializes in retail investment sales and leasing. He was previously vice president of the San Diego office of Sperry Van Ness, where he handled sales and leasing of rental property. He earned the Achiever’s Award in 2006 and 2007 and was selected the firm’s Rookie of the Year in 2004. Ryan is a member of the International Council of Shopping Centers.


KORIE (NORRIS) NORTON (B.A.) lives in Carlsbad with Leo, her husband of five years, and their two sons, Luke, 2, and Logan, born on Jan. 9, 2009. Korie enjoys staying home with them and planning weddings in her spare time.

ALLISON (COFFMAN) REZA (B.A.) became a California licensed marriage and family therapist in December 2008. She and her husband, Marcos, welcomed a baby girl, Audrey Marie, on April 7, 2009. Audrey weighed 7 pounds, 15 ounces.

LAUREN (DICIANNI) SERVINO (B.A.) and her husband, Kevin ’04, say they were blessed with a “second little miracle,” a son, Carter, born Jan. 27, 2009. Even though he was born three weeks early, Carter weighed a healthy 7 pounds, 1 ounce, at birth and was 19½ inches long. “By God’s grace, mom, dad and baby are all well, and son Ashton, who will be 3 years old in September 2009, is having fun being a big brother,” Lauren says. The family continues to enjoy life in the Portland, Ore. metro area, where they’ve lived for the past two years.

LAUREN (DICIANNI) SERVINO (B.A.) and her husband, Kevin ’04, say they were blessed with a “second little miracle,” a son, Carter, born Jan. 27, 2009. Even though he was born three weeks early, Carter weighed a healthy 7 pounds, 1 ounce, at birth and was 19½ inches long. “By God’s grace, mom, dad and baby are all well, and son Ashton, who will be 3 years old in September 2009, is having fun being a big brother,” Lauren says. The family continues to enjoy life in the Portland, Ore. metro area, where they’ve lived for the past two years.

JENNIFER BART (B.A.) is in her first year of graduate school at the University of Saint Augustine in San Marcos, Calif. She is working on her doctorate in physical therapy and expects to graduate in 2010.

CHAD BEVILLE (BBA) co-founded a consulting firm in the shipping industry with a fellow co-worker from DHL Express. “We help California businesses save money on their overnight shipping with FedEx, UPS and DHL,” Chad says. He adds that the company is working with USD to help reduce its shipping expenses with FedEx and UPS. The company’s Web site is www.competeconsulting-group.com.

JENNIFER SAMSON CARTER (M.Ed.) has been teaching in the Lake County, Ill., area for three years. In 2008, Jennifer was recognized for “continued excellent effort in service to the students” by her district and was presented with a certificate of appreciation. “I am and have been teaching students with emotional/behavior disorders since moving back to Illinois,” Jennifer says. “I love my job and am totally grateful to the professors at USD for teaching me the value of community in the classroom and, at the same time, respecting students’ individuality.” Jennifer says she is happily married “to the man of my dreams” and is blessed to be a mother of a beautiful daughter.
Founders’ Gala

SUPPORTING STUDENT SCHOLARS

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 14, 2009
Hahn University Center
University of San Diego

60TH ANNIVERSARY
A DIAMOND CELEBRATION

Join University of San Diego alumni, parents, trustees and friends in the spirit of philanthropy. The formal evening will include fine wine, a tastings menu, music and entertainment, and silent and live auctions featuring exclusive one-of-a-kind USD experiences.

All proceeds support USD student scholarships.

For more information, call (619) 260-7478 or go online to www.sandiego.edu/sixty
BOY PLUS DOG EQUALS LOVE
Children’s book celebrates the canine connection

by Julene Snyder

An adorable black pug, an impossibly photogenic 3-year-old and a gentle story about kindness populate the pages of Nico and Lola, a new children’s book written by Meggan Hill ’94.

When Aunt Sue has to go out of town, she asks Nico if he would be so kind as to take care of her dog. Of course he agrees in a heartbeat, but wonders, “How will I be so kind?”

“We wanted to do a book that had some meaning to it,” says Hill, who explains that the pug in Nico and Lola belongs to the book’s photographer, Susan Granunke. “I wanted it to be a book that would strike a chord not just with children, but with parents, grandparents, teachers, for readers across the board.”

Hill manages a horse farm, Kickapoo Farms, in Barrington, Ill. When it came to books for her son, she saw a need and decided to fill it. “I noticed that he gravitated toward photographic picture books, and that the ones that were out there were either board books for babies or were educational. I wanted to do a fictional storybook that would be photographed.”

Once she’d written the story — which explores the ways that Nico exemplifies kindness to his four-legged buddy — thousands of photographs had to be sifted through to choose just the right ones. Clearly the collaborative process between writer and photographer has paid off: The book recently took first prize in the category of children’s books at the 2009 New York Book Festival.

As for Nico, at the ripe old age of “almost 4,” he’s enjoying the modest acclaim that comes with being on the cover of a book. “He thinks it’s fun,” Hill says with a laugh. “One of the first places I read it was to his preschool class, and he’d heard so many different versions of it that he was ending the sentences for me.”

For more information about Nico and Lola, go to www.nicoandlola.com.
SUSAN M. GRAUNKE (B.B.A.) was married to Michael Cuevas on Dec. 20, 2008. They both teach at USD with a J.D. and is a department chair in the School of Law.


MICHAEL CUEVAS (B.B.A.) is in the W.P. Carey MBA online program at Arizona State University and he plans to graduate in spring 2010. Michael has worked at Intel since graduating from USD.

ANJANA DALAL (M.S.N.) earned her post-master’s certification as a family nurse practitioner from the University of California, Irvine, and has accepted a position with WellSpan Health in York, Pa.

KRISTA DUPPS (J.D.) enjoys her work as a trust and estates attorney in Coronado. Krista and her husband, Robert, are proud parents of Kaitlyn, their 1-year-old daughter.

MONICA DURAN (B.A.) welcomed a baby girl, Sophia Renae, on March 2, 2009.

COLLEEN (D’ONOFRIO) ESKRIDGE (B.A.) has been married for three years to her husband, Chris, who is an agent for the Criminal Investigation Division of the Marine Corps. Colleen says Chris expects to be transferred to Kaneohe Bay, Hawaii, this year. “Our daughter, Aurora, will get to celebrate her second birthday on a Hawaiian beach instead of the desert,” Colleen says. “We are very excited.”

SCOTT FORD (B.A.) graduated from the University of San Francisco School of Law with a J.D. and is a deputy district attorney in the Bay Area.

ROBERT HAMPTON (M.Ed.) has been teaching at Balboa Elementary since receiving his master’s degree. Robert teaches fifth grade and is involved with school budget decisions.

EMIDIA (SILVA) LUCHESE (LL.M.) was married on Sept. 20, 2008. Emidia is an operations regional manager for Esquire Solutions, which provides litigation support nationwide to the litigation community.

VALERIE (LUMPKIN) LYNCH (M.A.) was licensed in November 2008 and started a new care advocate position with United Behavioral Health.

ANNE MAGILL-COLLINS (B.A.) lives the seasonal lifestyle and enjoys it immensely. “In the winters, I work with the youth on the Winter Park snowboard team. We learn new tricks while shredding the slopes,” Anne says. “As the snow melts, I head to the Colorado River through the Grand Canyon. I work as a rafting guide on 12-day trips full of fun whitewater, amazing hikes and gourmet food.” In the fall, Anne travels abroad to experience new adventures.

THOMAS MANTIONE (B.Acc.) traveled through Ireland for two weeks with USD alumni Adam Cramer and Jeff Hamm.

FRANCES MARSHALL (J.D.) is a vice president and senior trust officer for U.S. Trust Bank of America Private Wealth Management in Century City, Calif.

JESSICA MILBourn (B.A.) married Christopher Reed ’05 in San Clemente, Calif., on Sept. 6, 2008. Jessica and Christopher live on the island of Maui, Hawaii.

JACLYN MURRAY (B.A.) spent her last academic semester at USD in Washington, D.C., as an intern with the Washington Center program and hasn’t left. “I initially worked for a nonprofit think tank and then for a small telecommunications law firm while returning to get my master of public administration degree at American University,” Jaclyn recently landed a position as a legislative assistant for the congressman from her home district in California. “I will be advancing his legislative agenda on water, natural resources, public lands and energy issues, which I am very passionate about,” Jaclyn says.

“Working on Capitol Hill represents a very exciting opportunity for me and I am happy that USD brought me to Washington, D.C., more than four years ago as an ambitious political science undergrad.”

CHRISTOPHER ODNE (J.D.) and Jill Tomamichel ’02 were married on June 28, 2008, in Carmel, Calif. Several Toreros were in attendance. Christopher and Jill now live in Concord, Calif., where Chris practices law and Jill is completing her master’s degree in counseling at St. Mary’s College.

TARA O’LEARY (B.A.) married Curtis Lindley on Oct. 4, 2008, in Sonoma Valley. Tara is preparing to attend graduate school in 2010 to earn a doctorate in physical therapy.

JAKE PELLETIER (B.B.A) is the head of European retail operations for American Apparel and also works on international supply chain logistics, overseeing distribution to 19 countries worldwide. While in school in 2004, Jake started as a part-time sales associate at the 21st store in Hillcrest. “We now have 265 stores worldwide,” Jake says. “I’ve been involved in the growth and success of the company to date. I get to travel to Europe two to three times a year. It’s pretty cool.” Jake says that given the current socioeconomic climate, he feels lucky to have not just a job, but also a job he loves. “I use many of the concepts and theories that I learned at USD daily. I’m very thankful for having had the opportunity to study there. The more I see, the more I realize how lucky I was.”

SCOTT POELMAN (LL.M.) and his wife, Heidi, welcomed a daughter, Ella Noel, on Feb. 19, 2008.

CAROLLEE PYFER (M.Ed.) teaches elective courses focusing on leadership, social accountability, tolerance and community involvement at McCaskey East High School in Lancaster, Pa.

MARCIE SCOTT (B.A.) welcomed a son, Preston James, on Oct. 13, 2008. “A true blessing to our family,” Marcie says.

JAYNE SMITH (M.A.) started Cre8UrLife, a counseling practice geared toward helping individuals answer the question, “What should I do with my life?” Jayne also began teaching at USD and is the counseling coordinator at Urban Corps to ensure the partnership with USD continues to thrive. Jayne voluntarily advises a local undergraduate group who traveled to Arizona in March 2009 to do service on the Havasupai Reservation.

CHRISTINA (BERTSCH) THOMPSON (B.A.) and Kyle Thompson ’04 were married on Aug. 15, 2008, at Founders Chapel.

BRIAN VALENZUELA (MAFM, B.Acc.) and his wife, Roseanne ’05, bought their first home in a suburb of San Diego and moved into it in September 2008. Brian says they’ve enjoyed their first Halloween, Thanksgiving and Christmas in the new house.

ELIZABETH WALDMANN (B.A.) graduated from the London College of Fashion and moved back to Southern California. Elizabeth works in Los Angeles as an assistant designer at a high-end women’s wear brand.

CINDY WASSERMAN (M.Ed.) teaches second grade in the San Diego Unified School District. Cindy has been teaching for six years and says she wants to enter USD’s administrative credential program soon.

[2006]

ANDREW BOYLAN (B.A., J.D. ’09) graduated from USD’s School of Law in May 2009. He was scheduled to take the California State bar exam in July 2009. He also expects to complete his MBA this fall at USD.

PHILIP BRETSCH (B.B.A.) moved to Portland, Ore., after college to pursue a career in commercial real estate development. Philip has been with Killian Pacific LLC for more than two years as a development associate focusing on project management acquisitions, financing and more. “I’ve loved every second of it,” Philip says. He adds that the lack of sun can be a problem at times in the Pacific Northwest, “but I have my great times in the sun at USD to look back on.” Philip says, “USD, the business/real estate departments and my professors in particular (Mark Riedy, etc.) put me in a position to succeed and excel in my industry/career.” He adds that being a member and captain of the 2005 Toreros national champion football team and sharing that
Gear Up
The USD Bookstore.
WAY more than books.

THREE WAYS TO SHOP: Visit the campus store, online at www.usdbookstore.com or call (619) 260-4551.
experience with fellow Toreros and alumni is his fondest memory.

JENNIFER COHRS (B.A.) celebrated her first year anniversary of living in San Francisco at the start of 2009. “Ready for new scenery, my roommate (also a USD alum) relocated to a new neighborhood and we are loving city life from a new angle,” Jennifer says. “This city is wonderful and actually quite full of fellow Toreros. Go USD!” Tell Dr. Floyd in the English department I say ‘Hello,’ Dr. Thurber as well!”

GREGORY DAVIS (J.D.) left Heller Ehrman LLP in San Diego and is now an associate with Squire, Sanders and Dempsey LLP in Phoenix.

KATIE ERRECA (B.A.) is in her fourth year of graduate school at the California School of Professional Psychology. Katie is beginning to work on her dissertation on eating disorders. Katie attained her master’s degree in clinical psychology and expects to graduate with her doctorate in psychology by May 2010.

JORDAN FREITAS (B.Acc., MAFM ’07) was an auditor for one year at Ernst and Young in San Diego before transferring to its Los Angeles office. Jordan worked on audits of the firm’s media and entertainment clients. In December 2008, Jordan transitioned into the role of a campus recruiter for the company’s Pacific Southwest area. He still lives in Los Angeles and works at multiple university campuses.

HOLLY GLICKMAN (B.A.) works at the San Diego Gaslamp Marriott, maintaining relationships with business travelers who come to San Diego regularly. Holly lives with her best friend, Danielle Solare, “who was my random roommate freshman year at USD. We both graduated in 2006 but took our graduation trip together this past year.” Holly and Danielle went to Australia, New Zealand and Fiji for six weeks. “What an incredible adventure,” Holly says. She thanks USD for a great experience.

SHAWNA HUNT (B.A.) moved to Los Angeles after graduation in hopes of pursuing a career in fashion. Shawna is enrolled in a graduate program at The Fashion Institute of Design and Merchandise and is majoring in merchandise marketing. She expected to graduate in June 2009 and receive her professional designation degree.

“I plan to get a job as a buyer for a clothing store, hopefully in the L.A. area, and eventually plan to become a fashion director,” Shawna says. She adds that she misses San Diego very much and that some of her favorite memories are from USD. “Go Toreros!”

JOHN HURFORD (BBA) married Gina Crotesso ’06 on Aug. 11, 2007.

CHRISTOPHER KUTCHE (B.A.) lives in New York City and attends Columbia University. He expected to earn a B.S. in May 2009 and become a registered nurse. He plans to work on his M.S. next and hopes to be certified as a family nurse practitioner by December 2010.

KIRSTEN LOEFFLER (B.A.) lives in Charleston, S.C., and is working toward a master’s degree in physician assistant studies at the Medical University of South Carolina.

JULIA NEWMARK (B.A.) is following her dreams of writing about fashion and becoming an agent in the modeling industry. Julia lived in New York City after graduation and attended New York University for graduate studies in magazine publishing. Julia returned to San Diego and enjoys competing in triathlons, skiing, snowboarding and running with her dog, Chloe.

ILEANA (RODRIGUEZ) OVALLE (M.A.) is senior manager of external affairs for Cox Communications. Ileana was appointed by Mayor Jerry Sanders to the city of San Diego International Affairs Board and was named one of the “2009 Powers to Be” in the December 2008 issue of San Diego Magazine. Ileana recently finished a two-year term as chairwoman of Aquatic Adventures, which offers marine science education for underserved youth. She saw the organization through a budget increase from $280,000 to $1 million; was featured on NBC’s Today show, “Lend a Hand” segment with Al Roker, and received a $200,000 award from Bank of America.

BRUNELLA PALOMINO (B.A.) attends the Santa Clara University School of Law, where she expects to complete a J.D. degree in 2010.

MISTY RICHARDSON (B.A.) lives in Aspen, Colo., where she works and enjoys snowboarding.

WARREN RUIS (BBA) is in supply chain management and going to graduate school. Warren expected to graduate with an MBA from Pepperdine University in the summer of 2009.

LAUREN SPEIRS (B.A.) married Dan DeOliviera, an alumnus of San Diego State University. Lauren is a high school teacher in Simi Valley, Calif, where she teaches freshman and senior English classes.

KRISTEN THORNTON (B.A.) is an executive policy adviser for Orange County (Calif.) Supervisor Patricia Bates. Kristen initially worked as an editorial assistant and project coordinator for Foam, a beach lifestyle magazine, but left to pursue her passion in politics. She was first a field representative for state Assemblyman Todd Spitzer and in a year was promoted to district director. When Spitzer’s term in office ended, she went to work for Bates. In December 2008, Kristen went on a mission trip with her church to Rwanda.

[2007]

IROQUOIS ANDERSON (B.A.) has been a lab technician in clinical drug testing at Medtox Scientific Inc. since July 2007. Iroquois has also been taking classes at night as prerequisites for physician’s assistant school. She would like to return to school full time to earn a master’s degree as a P.A. While Iroquois says she loves Minnesota, she wants to attend school either in Oregon or Florida for a break from the long, cold winters.

FARIS KIRKLAND (MSGL) retired from the U.S. Navy after 27 years of service in the active and reserve components. Faris is now the director of development and planning at Ewing Construction Co. in Corpus Christi, Texas.

ERIK RAAUM (B.A.) has been working in small molecule organic synthesis at a biotech company in San Diego since graduation. “We are trying to treat asthma,” Erik says. He adds that he is about to buy his first house in San Diego, “since the market is so far down it is time!” Erik still plays guitar and recently started a new band. He goes bowling every Monday with friends, plays poker on Thursdays and plays football on Sundays. “Tennis is in there somewhere also,” he says. “Peace!”

ALEXANDRA SMITH (B.A.) moved to London after graduation in 2007. In seven months, Alexandra visited nearly a dozen countries. “Italy and Scotland were my favorites,” she says. Alexandra now works for Citrix Online in Santa Barbara, Calif., and says she’s planning her next travel adventure.

SARA (MACHTOLF) WAGENBLAST (B.A.) and her husband, David, welcomed their second daughter, Gabrielle Ann, on Jan. 15, 2009. Gabrielle joins big sister, Jocelyn. The family lives in Spokane, Wash. Sara and David, who are both high school teachers, planned to celebrate their fifth anniversary in July 2009.

JENNIFER WEISS (B.A.) was married in July 2008. Jennifer and her husband, Cristóbal, live in Madrid, Spain.

[2008]

EMILY LEIDY (B.A.) teaches high school math at a private school in Miami Beach, Fla.
If You Love What You Do, You’re a Success.

After graduation, our students go on to the sort of challenging careers that make a life worth living. Whether they pursue the arts or business, science or the law, health care, conflict resolution or another path entirely, their USD education provides a foundation that’s sturdy enough to build a life upon. Your gift makes their journey possible.

Give today. Call (619) 260-4724 or go to www.sandiego.edu/giving.
Sixty ways to Celebrate USD’s 60 Years

1. Attend Homecoming and Reunion Weekend October 16-18, 2009
2. Attend a USD baseball game — The Toreros have made a name for themselves as one of the premier college baseball programs in the country. There’s no time like the present to view Major League Baseball’s stars of the future. 3. Donate $60 to the Alcalá Alumni Fund. 4. Purchase a new USD T-shirt from the bookstore. 5. Take a picture with Diego, USD’s beloved mascot. 6. Take a break from whipping into a frenzy in order to pose for pictures. 7. Work out for 60 minutes in the new Missions Fitness Center. 8. Attend Saturday Night Mass at Founders Chapel. 9. Celebrate every Sunday at 7 a.m. with the USD Student Mass. 10. Volunteer to help an on-campus office. 11. Take a stroll to the Joan B. Kroc Garden of the Arts. 12. Gather in Alumni Center Living Room — A quick jaunt from the main entrance of campus, the DeGheri Alumni Center is a state-of-the-art facility replete with just about every amenity one might need, including a large fireplace that helps ward off the chill of those frosty winter evenings. (O.K., we know, it’s San Diego and it never gets that cold!) 22. Catch the Choral Scholars in concert. 23. Watch the MFA students in a performance at The Old Globe. 24. Attend a lecture sponsored by the Joan B. Kroc Institute for Peace & Justice — From former President Jimmy Carter to wildlife activist Jane Goodall, some of the world’s foremost experts on conflict resolution practices have delivered discourses designed to affect immediate and positive change in our global community. For any and all of those looking to fashion a more humane world, these lectures are not to be missed. 25. Volunteer to help an on-campus office. 26. Stand in the cono circle by the steps at Colichis plaza. 27. Take a class from Continuing Education in the Manchester Executive Conference Center. 28. Explore the progress of the new Student Life Pavilion — Stop by USD for a peek at what will soon be the epicenter of campus life. This four-story edifice, scheduled to open in Fall 2009, will house everything from a sprawling marketplace to recreation and study areas outfitted with every modern convenience under the sun. 29. Cheer on USD’s football as it battles for the PFL Championship. 30. Eat a sandwich from La Paloma. 31. Taste the “ultimate burrito” — There are places closer to campus at which to grab some fast Mexican food, but only Santana’s on Morena Boulevard offers the California Burrito, a two-fisted, 16-ounce concoction of carne asada, cheese, salsa and yes, french fries, all wrapped in a flour tortilla. It’s just a short hunt down the hill from campus, and most certainly well worth the trip. 32. Take a stroll around the desert garden. 33. Check in with an old fraternity, sorority, or honor society. 34. Watch USD undergraduate theatre students in their annual production — From light-hearted comedies to intensely emotive dramas, this Torero acting troupe consistently produces memorably performances that draw rave reviews from audiences. 35. View the incredible masterpieces on display in the Hoehn Gallery in the Joan B. Kroc Institute for Peace & Justice. 36. Take a Torero to lunch. 37. See a performance by the USD Symphony. 38. Take your kids to the Children’s Reading Room in Copley Library. 39. Connect with a USD Alumni Chapter in your area. 40. Attend a showing of the law school’s Law and Social Justice Film Series. 41. Read up on what students are saying in The Vista. 42. Take a moment of silence in the IPJ Reflection Room. 43. Watch the USD tram. 44. Network with students from the School of Business Administration — Recently rated one of the top 30 business schools in the nation by Businessweek magazine, the School of Business Administration is home to some of the best and brightest business minds in the country. 45. Visit the art gallery in the Joan B. Kroc Institute for Peace & Justice. 46. Take a tour led by one of our enthusiastic student volunteers. 47. Stop by the Office of Alumni Relations to see a calendar of upcoming USD events. 48. Experience Thanksgiving Dinner at the student dining room. 49. Visit one of the art gallery in Founders Hall. 50. Visit the 911 Memorial at the Joan B. Kroc Institute for Peace & Justice. 51. Go on a Torero tour of our beautiful campus — Nothing gives visitors a better feel for the vibe at Alcalá Park than taking a tour led by one of our enthusiastic student volunteers. 52. Stop by the Office of Alumni Relations to see a calendar of upcoming USD events. 53. Experience Thanksgiving Dinner at the student dining room. 54. Visit one of the art galleries in Founders Hall. 55. Take a stroll around the desert garden located behind the Donald P. Shiley Center for Science and Technology. 56. Attend the dedication ceremony celebrating the expansion of the Hahn University Center. 57. Vote during class elections. 58. Purchase a new USD T-shirt from the bookstore. 59. Have a picnic on The Immaculata east lawn. 60. Learn the lyrics to the Alma Mater.

Register online at www.sandiego.edu/homecoming. For more information call (619) 260-4819.