such like incoming freshmen, we here at USD Magazine have a tendency to seek validation: how are we doing? Are we producing an “A” caliber publication, or do we need to step up our game? And even when we’re sure we’re on the right track, we can’t keep ourselves from striving (higher), learning (smarter), reaching (farther). Lather, rinse, repeat.

As it turns out, our colleagues have a similar need to gauge their performance and make sure that USD’s tens of thousands of alumni remain happy with their alma mater (boy, can we relate). And one of the best ways to cut to the chase is to bypass anecdotal evidence and rely on hard data, metrics and analytics.

Toward that end, in the spring of 2012, the alumni relations office invited USD graduates to participate in an online survey to gather their opinions on a variety of topics relating to their engagement with the university since graduation. Former Alumni Association board member and current USD trustee Jamey Power ’85 — an expert in customer satisfaction measurement — led the effort.

The response was gratifying: thousands took the time to share detailed opinions about everything from their experiences as students to the perceived value of their degrees.

Of course, I couldn’t help but turn first thing to the results about the work we here at university publications do, and was gratified by what I found: 93 percent of respondents have a good or excellent opinion of the university, and most cited this magazine as one of the most important communications they receive from USD.

But even more fascinating is thumbing through the 1,726 stories from alumni about “the person who had a special impact” on their experiences as students. Some highlights:

“Tom Cosgrove was the ASB advisor when my husband and I were at USD. Tom did a great job of mentor- ing the students. He came to our wedding and we still keep in touch to this day (and yes, he talked us into donating a paver with our name on it in front of the new Student Life Pavilion).”

“Father Owen Mullen. Friend. Confidant. Mentor. My four-year education and experience would not have been the same without Father Mullen as an advisor.”

“Dr. Del Dickson was the most amazing professor I’ve ever had. Brilliant, kind, took a personal interest in my life and academics, prepared me better for law school than anyone else; a wonderful human being.”

“Greek advisor Mandy Womack was an amazing resource, friend and mentor and provided such a great example to the sorority women.”

“Professor Del Rio understood my desire and efforts to work within the political media arena and actively supported and worked with me to accomplish that goal by connecting me with former students, past colleagues and others who either were in Washington, D.C., or had connections that might help me. I will never forget how much time and effort he put into helping me get my foot in the door in a city that is built on who you know.”

“Dr. Iris Engstrand might be the greatest lady ever invented. She truly is what USD is all about. She epitomizes what a teacher should be, cares about her students and cares about USD. She is who I hope to be like one day.”

For those of us who spend our days working to keep the connection between the university and its alumni strong, immediate and lasting, it’s fascinating stuff. Rest assured, in the months to come, we’ll be blue go green.

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Julene Snyder, Editor

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USD alumni participation is only 13 percent.

We’re being beaten by our WCC rivals: Santa Clara’s alumni participation is over 21 percent, while Gonzaga and LMU are nearly 20 percent!

Your gift will help Diego hit the goal of 4,500 alumni donors by June 30, 2013.

Make your gift today at www.sandiego.edu/giving.
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Practicality isn’t always practical, especially when it comes to finding lasting satisfaction in work. But reaching for the carrot doesn’t have to mean giving up on happily ever after. Perhaps the key is to balance resoluteness with spontaneity. Then, one day, you might look around and realize that against all odds, you’ve wound up on exactly the right road to get you where you didn’t know you wanted to go.

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The Global Dimension
Edward Luck new dean of peace studies

by Sandra Millers Younger

The selection of United Nations Assistant Secretary-General Edward Luck as the new dean of the Joan B. Kroc School of Peace Studies (KSPS) opens a new chapter for USD.

Before coming to San Diego in August 2012, Luck served as special advisor to United Nations Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon, who personally tapped him to take charge of the U.N.’s “responsibility to protect” doctrine, adopted in 2005 to help protect civilians from mass atrocities. Last year, the U.N. Security Council cited the doctrine in two resolutions that cleared the way for military intervention in Libya, leading to the end of Libyan leader Muammar Gaddafi’s brutal 30-year rule. In less coercive ways, the principle was used to help halt violence in Kenya, Guinea, Kyrgyzstan and Cote d’Ivoire.

So what was it about KSPS that enticed Luck away from such an influential position? “It wasn’t easy leaving New York,” he concedes, “but the opportunities here are quite exceptional. The Kroc School is young, only 5 years old, so it holds great promise. I’ve inherited innovative programs, a dynamic young faculty, and a strong foundation to build on.”

“Now, we’re looking at a more mature phase,” Luck continues. “We have an opportunity to put USD on the global map as an important center for international peace policy research and programs at the International Peace Institute, an independent policy research center in New York. His academic experience includes several years as professor of practice at Columbia’s School of International and Public Affairs, as well as stints at Prince-ton’s Woodrow Wilson School and Sciences Po in Paris.

Luck also sees USD’s emphasis on values as a natural starting point for international policy discussion. "Before you can fix the world, you have to understand the world. The United Nations is the global center for the development of new principles and standards of international law and practice. Those are central to what this school and this university stand for. So we should bring the U.N. to San Diego and take San Diego to the U.N. It works both ways.”

Luck also uses USD’s emphasis on values as a natural starting point for international dialogue about pressing issues of peace, justice and human protection. “Tackling these issues will be an important part of our work going forward. Peace is more than the absence of war. I very much want us to focus on the principles of justice, human rights, and post-conflict peace-building, so that our students will make the issues we champion today core elements of global policy and practice tomorrow.”

Richard Shapiro, the parent of an incoming freshman and owner of an investment firm in Scottsdale, Ariz., donated $25,000 toward USD’s Mulvaney Challenge. The university recently met the challenge to raise $450,000 for Community Service Learning in order to receive a matching gift from Tom Mulvaney ’77 (JD) and his wife, Karen, on behalf of Tom’s father, Jim Mulvaney, a former USD School of Law professor who dedicated his life to community service. As part of his generous donation, Shapiro also offered a unique opportunity for two student internships, including room-and-board in a furnished apartment.

Jane (Rollo) Balouske ’91, who graduated from the College of Arts and Sciences, and her husband, Jon Balouske, have established the Jon and Jane (Rollo) Balouske Endowed Scholarship Fund. They recognize the value of their respective college educations and experiences to the advancement and quality of their professional lives and personal development, and they are eager to afford other students the same opportunity to prepare personally and professionally to become responsible, contributing, engaged citizens through their chosen fields of study.

Cynthia Connelly, PhD from USD’s Hahn School of Nursing and Health Science — along with Rachel Manber, PhD, co-principal investigator from Stanford University, and co-investigators Lois Howland, DrPH and Karen Macauley, DrPH — received $2,705,000 from the National Institute of Mental Health for their research on “The Effectiveness of Non-Pharmacological Treatment for Perinatal Insomnia.”

The five-year grant will run from 2012 to 2017. The research is a randomized clinical trial to examine the efficacy of a nurse-delivered cognitive behavioral therapy for insomnia (CBTI) for maternal insomnia disorder. The study also will examine secondary outcomes of maternal and infant sleeping, maternal depressive levels and quality of life.

University of San Diego Trustee Royal W. Carson III, and his wife, Debbie, gave a generous gift of $250,000 to establish the Royal and Debbie Carson Family Scholarship Fund, and to support the Center for Student Disability Services to help meet the growing needs of USD students with learning disabilities. The center’s services include evaluating disability documentation, arranging academic accommodations and providing disability management or counseling to students with disabilities. The Carson’s gift would allow the Center for Student Disability Services to reach out to more students, to provide newer technologies to students and to offer training opportunities that will help educate the campus about learning differences.

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Pair of USD faculty members receive prestigious awards

by Sandra Millers Younger

I may seem a long reach across the academic spectrum from modernist Eastern European architecture to organometallic chemical reactions, but Juliana Maxim and Timothy Clark, two young University of San Diego faculty members specializing in these disparate disciplines, share the distinction of having recently received prestigious awards for their scholarly work. Maxim, an assistant professor in the Department of Art, Architecture + Art History, is one of three recipients of the 2012 Fellowship for Postdoctoral Research in East European Studies sponsored by the American Council of Learned Societies (ACLS), a group dedicated to advancing the humanities. The 125,000 fellowship stipend will enable her to take a year-long sabbatical and complete her forthcoming book, “The Socialist Life of Modern Architecture.”

Bucharest, 1947-1965. Maxim credits USD College of Arts and Sciences Dean Mary Boyd and Provost Julie Sullivan with supporting her hiatus from teaching to implement the fellowship. Maxim’s book, an extension of her dissertation, explores the interplay between architectural expression and the communist political regime in post-war Bucharest, Romania. “The aim is to show specific ways the city and its architecture were shaped by politics and how architecture shaped politics in return,” Maxim says, “and also to show that socialist aesthetics, long understood as anti-modernist, are in fact key to a new, expanded definition of modernism.”

Maxim herself grew up in Bucharest, living in one of the communist-era mass housing buildings she now studies, before moving with her family to Canada at age 12. She studied art history at Quebec’s Laval University and completed her PhD in the history of art and architecture at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology in 2006. Her research topic crystallized soon after she realized the utilitarian concrete architecture that emerged in post-war Europe under socialist regimes — although not as eye-catching as the concurrent work of Frank Lloyd Wright, Le Corbusier and other great 20th-century architects — deserved attention for other reasons.

“I think the whole artistic legacy of the socialist regimes in Europe during the 1950s, 60s and 70s has been completely understudied,” says Maxim, who counts herself among a group of young scholars who have recently begun to reverse that deficiency. “These gray housing buildings seem quite banal, but they’re really politically and socially rich with messages. They represent a very different world view in which democratic architecture was supposed to transform inhabitants into collectively minded participants in a utopian socialist society. I’m arguing that when talking about modernism, one should also make this part of the picture.”

Clark, an assistant professor of chemistry and biochemistry, is the winner of a National Science Foundation CAREER Award, designed to foster the early career-development activities of teacher-scholars who effectively integrate research and education. Clark received a five-year, $400,000 grant to fund the development of metal catalysts that can simplify the synthesis of organic compounds which could be useful in a number of medical applications including diabetes testing. His project, which began last July, also provides hands-on research experience for 15 USD undergraduates and two high school teachers, while also introducing high school students to careers in chemistry.

A 2001 USD graduate, Clark returned to Alcalá Park as a faculty member last year. He completed his PhD at the University of California, Irvine, in 2006. His research focuses on organometallic chemistry as applied to organic synthesis; in other words, using metals as catalysts in organic reactions that otherwise could not occur as easily, if at all. Clark’s primary research goal is to develop catalysts capable of streamlining the development of new pharmaceutical products. But equally important, he hopes to provide extraordinary learning experiences for his undergraduates.

“I enjoy seeing students really get it; I love seeing the light go on,” Clark says. “Participating in research gives them insights that are hard to translate in the classroom.”

Clark’s passion for providing undergraduate research opportunities also stems from his own experiences. “I was a first-generation college student,” he says. “When I came to USD, I didn’t really know what I wanted to do, but I had great instructors who involved me in their research and got me excited about science. I want to have the same influence on today’s students that my professors had on me. I want to give them a good sense of how science can contribute to society.”

THE FUTURE IS NOW

Tammy Dwyer’s extraordinary research maps synthetic DNA

by Sandra Millers Younger

Six scientists, including James Watson and Francis Crick, discovered the now-famous double helix structure of DNA, that marvelous messenger molecule containing life’s genetic instruction manual, written with only four letters representing four types of molecules — the nucleobases known as A, C, G and T. In the years since — a fantastic era of genome mapping, forensic breakthroughs and medical miracles — researchers have worked to expand DNA’s genetic alphabet by inventing synthetic nucleobases. Their goal is to develop new organisms with potentially useful new properties and functions. Designer life, if you will.

This futuristic scenario is now unfolding with the help of a San Diego-based research group that includes USD Professor of Chemistry and Department Chair Tammy Dwyer. Scripps Research Institute researcher Floyd Romesberg led the team, which designed and created two synthetic nucleobases, called sSICS and NaM, a compatible pair that apparently feels right at home within the DNA molecule. The most stable and efficient synthetic base pair yet discovered, sSICS and NaM easily take on the work of A, C, G, and T, and even the critical task of DNA replication.

Using her expertise in nuclear magnetic resonance spectroscopy, Dwyer mapped the 3D solution structure — allowing Romesberg to infer behavior — of the altered DNA molecule during this delicate process of copying and passing on the genetic information.

She found that unlike A, C, G, and T, the synthetic bases sSICS and NaM overlap slightly within the DNA molecule rather than meet edge to edge. But during replication, they line up their edges just long enough for the normal sequence of cell division to proceed uninterrupted.

“This is one of the first times the precise steps of DNA replication have been presented with this level of structural detail,” Dwyer explains. “The opportunity to make even a small contribution to such an exciting project is thrilling. I’m very proud of this work.”
P

She continues to advocate for administration — that it’s an international endeavor, that it’s aro

Cordeiro’s mindset about education: Schools as we know them are no longer the same — effec
tive and financially sustainable in the age of globalization. There is a blurring of the lines between

Cordeiro’s research has unveiled three worldwide trends in education. Schools as we know them are not efficient. Effective and financially sustainable in the age of globalization. There is a blurring of the lines between who provides education and learning opportunities, with exponential growth in partnerships with nonprofit, public and private sectors. Technology — in particular, mobile devices — has radically changed opportunities to learn and to teach.

So how does SOLES approach it all? Cordeiro points to curriculum, pedagogy, faculty research and professional learning opportunities. “Through these areas, there’s a greater likelihood of having future teachers and school leaders who are globally competent,” she says.

SOLES, which moved into the technologically advanced Mother Rosalie Hill Hall building in Fall 2007, incorporated leadership into its official school name a decade ago. Since then, the degree program has successfully attracted students who apply this trait in various educational settings. It also complements SOLES’ active relationship with the military through its Army Reserve Officers Training Corps (ROTC) program. In Fall 2008, SOLES instituted a requirement that all students must have an international experience prior to graduation. The Ghana project is one example, but study abroad courses in Costa Rica, Kenya, Sri Lanka, Mondragon, Spain, and elsewhere are offered through SOLES’ Global Center.

Centers, institutes and field experiences enhance knowledge and, through student action research projects, it’s shared within the education field. The latest example is the new Mobile Technology Learning Center, aimed at researching, and simultaneously, championing K-12 innovation. Cordeiro said SOLES is committed to “working with everybody,” whether it’s meeting with San Diego’s many school superintendents, students partnering internationally or combining efforts with other schools on USD’s campus.

“We want to engage with the world,” she says.
The lofty goals he sets for himself are “a great example of what a student-athlete can be,” according to Coach Ron Caragher.

Blake is just solid,” says USD Head Football Coach Ron Caragher. “He’s really a great example of what a student-athlete can be. Blake does, and when you consider how talented he is, that can only mean good things for our football program, and for the university.”

“Blake is a player and a person, and the team would definitely miss him if he wasn’t there,” Caragher said.

The 2011 season proved to be Oliaro’s breakout year, as his rare blend of size, speed and strength left many opposing PFL head coaches averaging and admiring his offensive line coaches. As one of only 20 defensive players nationwide invited to the prestigious Buchanan Watch List, Oliaro knows full well that he’s on everyone’s radar this time around, and he’s looking forward to the challenge of exceeding expectations he’s set for himself.

“Last year, I think I might’ve snuck up on a few people, but I know I’ve got a big target on my back this year. All that does is make me want to work harder and prove that last year wasn’t some kind of fluke.”

The atmosphere, however, wasn’t the only draw for committee members.

“Of course, the climate was very important,” says Greenwood. “San Diego has unique weather conditions that we’ve been able to play with for the last year’s national championship game in Cary, N.C., where the College Cup has been played five times since 2000. San Diego will mark the championship’s first visit to Southern California.”

Greenwood says his players were “absolutely ecstatic” upon hearing the committee’s selection of their school. “They are all so excited. Making the Final Four in our own city would be incredible!”

“The beautiful game” USD to host 2012 women’s soccer national championship

by Davis Jones ’14

America’s finest collegiate soccer teams are about to take center stage in America’s Finest City. In October 2011, the NCAA Championship Committee officially named USD’s Torero Stadium as host venue for the 2012 Women’s College Cup, the Division I Final Four of women’s soccer. Semi-final games begin on Nov. 30, leaving two teams on Dec. 2 to battle for national supremacy.

“It is an exceptional honor for our university and community to get such a prestigious event on our door step,” says USD Women’s Head Coach Ada Greenwood. Greenwood, a member of the NCAA competition committee, says the bid to host the event in San Diego was well received by her colleagues.

“It was pretty straightforward. With San Diego being such a strong soccer community, the school is a great environment to host this kind of event,” Caragher says.

Torero Stadium certainly has a history of showcasing the sport’s most talented players. Besides hosting opening round matches of the NCAA tournament, it has also welcomed the Chivas Club Soccer Team, both the men’s and the women’s U.S. National team, and the L.A. Galaxy to the pitch.

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Will this setting be just what USD needs to make an historic post-season run?

“There’s a big challenge ahead of us. We have things we need to work on, but we’re definitely excited for the possibilities.”

Basketball season at USD

always starts in November, but the Toreros’ 2012-13 schedule includes something new for Coach Bill Grier’s program: a tournament at the Jenny Craig Pavilion.

The Toreros — in conjunction with Plan BJC’s LLC and Triple Threat Travel — will host a free team event, the PFL/DCF Basketball Challenge, from Nov. 14-18. Tournament proceeds will raise awareness, support and research for the National Line Kickers Disorder Foundation. For more information, go to www.nucdf.org.

Construction of Fowler Park

the on-campus ballpark scheduled to open in February 2013 is ongoing. To see the progress on the state-of-the-art stadium, go to www.sandiego.edu/experien-
cation/fowler_park.php.

The Los Angeles Lakers hired USD alumnae Mike Brown ’93 (BA) as its head coach last year. The team posted a 41-25 regular-season record and made it to the second round of the playoffs. While much of the team’s success was credited with giving Brown his first NBA opportunity, the former was the Denver Nuggets’ head coach in the mid-1990s.

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By Karen Gross

A mere 15 years away from academia, renowned art historian and museum director Derrick Cartwright has returned to his roots at USD. And his homecoming has caused a stir among the entire visual arts community in and around San Diego.

“He’s one of the very best,” declared his longtime friend and collaborator Hugh Davies, director of the San Diego Museum of Contemporary Art. “I’ve been telling people for 20 years that he’s the best museum director of his generation.”

Cartwright — who began his career at USD as an assistant professor in 1992 — left the university in 1998 for a string of successful museum directorships in France, Dartmouth College, the San Diego Museum of Art and, most recently, the Seattle Art Museum. Cartwright has returned to a position created for him to the university more than five years ago. “He’s such a bright colleague and so generous,” says Davies. “He’s been telling people for 20 years that he’s the best museum director of his generation.”

Cartwright is known among his peers for a brilliant reputation within the local arts world, dating back to his time as director of the Seattle Art Museum. Cartwright has returned to campus in an official role as the director of university galleries. “I decided after that I was ready for a change,” he says.

Seattle’s loss became San Diego’s gain. By all accounts, Cartwright is much more than a brilliant scholar and masterful administrator. Colleagues, artists, academics and students respect and admire him on a personal level. He makes friends wherever he goes.

“It’s a huge catch for USD in every way,” says Fine Arts Professor Sally Hall through Dec. 14, 2012. “He’s always been very deeply committed to the role of museums in the life of a city, a community and a university.”

Cartwright believes his new position will keep him true to that commitment, and give him the leeway to channel his passions in positive and productive ways. “On a practical basis, the job is to take the university’s separate gallery spaces and bring an overarching vision to them,” he says. “I’m very eager to get back into that mindset where it’s less about finding resources to keep the doors open, and more about sharing why art is such an important part of our lives.”

Cartwright also hopes to build lasting and reciprocal relationships with San Diego’s art museums and the visual arts community as a whole, so that USD might occasionally borrow pieces of art for display in its own gallery spaces. Similarly, he hopes to send more USD students abroad for practical internships in the community.

“The university needs to integrate itself well, and be a good collaborator with these other institutions,” he says. That shouldn’t be a problem. Cartwright already has an excellent reputation within the local arts world, dating back to his time as director of the San Diego Museum of Art. He is known among his peers for welcoming partnership and working openly and collaboratively on projects and exhibits. “He’s such a bright colleague and so generous,” says Davies. “To have his intellectual horsepower back in town is very good news.”

USD houses four exhibition spaces: the Hoehn Family Galleries, the May Gallery, the Fine Arts Galleries and the Exhibit Hall. To learn more, go to www.sandiego.edu/artgalleries.

STROKE OF GENIUS

Acclaimed art historian Derrick Cartwright comes home to USD as director of university galleries

By Karen Gross

A

WELCOME BACK
There’s a moment that feels like forever. It’s the instant when anything is possible and all your dreams seem not just attainable, but inevitable. Then life intervenes, as it tends to. Plans change and happily ever after starts to look like a childish reverie. So you get practical and do what needs to be done.

But if you’re smart, if you’re paying attention, if you take charge of your own life and keep more or less on the path you’ve set, you may look around one day and see that against all odds, you’ve wound up on exactly the right road to get you where you didn’t know you wanted to go.

For the four alums in the pages that follow, there’s a common thread: The best way to find fulfillment in work is to make it feel like play. Being famous isn’t the point for Jim Parsons, who’s found his way back to one of his first true loves. Claudia Dominguez delved deep inside herself, and then took a leap of faith. Kevin Petti has created a niche that allows him to share his love for interconnection. Tara Shiroff’s career has taken a dramatic twist that she never saw coming.

They all reached for the carrot, and once they caught it, they held on for dear life.

Show me the bunny

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They all reached for the carrot, and once they caught it, they held on for dear life.
PARSONS TAKES ON BROADWAY

The heat bounces back and forth between the pavement below and the sultry sun above in unrelenting waves. But in spite of the record-shattering temperature — 95-plus degrees and rising — the throngs that flock to Times Square radiate more excitement than seems reasonable. Just a few blocks away, on West 53rd Street, a crowd is jockeying for position, cordoned off on the sidewalk by a line of no-nonsense police barricades. Periodically, a just-the-facts-ma’am type strides by and tells people to bunch up closer to the stage door.

Then, without warning, the stage door opens and it’s him. When actor Jim Parsons ’01 (MFA) steps onto the sidewalk, it turns out that the crowd really can press closer together … a whole lot closer. He is tall, pale (or is that stage make-up?) and gracious, but he’s on the move, signing autographs for those pressed against the metal cordons, not pausing for photos, nodding and smiling as a voice here calls out, “Sheldon!” and another yells, “Sheldon!” He just keeps moving, signing, nodding, signing, smiling, then Mr. No-Nonsense decides that’s enough, and escorts Parsons into the backseat of a waiting car, which speeds down the street, takes a right and is gone. The crowd — some bereft, some still chattering with excitement — scatters, clutching autographed “Harvey” programs and posters and Playbills. A few look wistfully in the direction of the car that whisked Parsons away, then slowly make their way back toward 7th Avenue.

Is there any doubt that Jim Parsons has hit the big time? There really shouldn’t be, what with the pair of Emmys he’s won for his role as Dr. Sheldon Cooper on TV’s “Big Bang Theory.” Certainly, his star turn on Broadway this summer as Elwood P. Dowd — a dreamy soul whose best friend is a 6-foot-3 ½-inch-tall white rabbit — proves that his career has legs. Parsons away, then slowly make their way back toward 7th Avenue.

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The reviews have been outstanding: “Mr. Parsons carries the weight of a role immortalized on film by the inimitable James Stewart as lightly as Elwood does the hat and coat he keeps on hand for his furry companion,” said critic Charles Isherwood in The New York Times. “His quirky line — ‘You know, mister, but you’re a lovely fellow’ — is charming and dynamic range served him well in his performance in the play, a gentle madcap comedy of errors in which Dowd’s sister, Veta (played by Jessica Hecht), attempts to have him committed to an institution and winds up locked up herself through a series of misunderstandings.

Through it all, the character maintains his fundamental sweetness. In answer to a question about what he does, the character replies: “Oh, Harvey and I sit in the bars and have a drink or two, play the jukebox. And soon the faces of all the other people turn toward mine, and they smile. And they’re saying, ‘We don’t know your name, mister, but you’re a lovely fellow’”

Clearly, Parsons is in his element on stage, and to hear him tell it, he’s lived the spotlight since his breakout role as the Kolokolo Bird in a first-grade production of “The Elephant’s Child.”

“It’s come to hit me that it was some sort of divine intervention, because looking back, it crystallized a lot of desires for me. I’ve known from roughly that age that that’s what I wanted to do.” Of course, being center stage in bright yellow tights and abreastle his mother made out of paper feathers didn’t hurt.

Parsons sees any number of parallels between the work he does on “Big Bang” and his longtime love for the stage, especially since the TV show is filmed before a live audience. “It’s so similar to doing theater, in a lot of ways. But it’s not like that thing with theater where you work and work and work on a play for four weeks, then little things really land, like plot lines and moments when the audience is right there. That always surprised me, but it surprises me more that it was a surprise to me. I mean, duh!” His work ethic clearly keeps him plenty busy. “Harvey” closed on Aug. 5, and he was back in Los Angeles taping “Big Bang” by Aug. 14.

In 2009, Parsons spoke at length with USD Magazine about his career trajectory. During that conversation, he waxed nostalgic about his time in New York, where he had moved immediately after completing his MFA at USD in 2001. “I miss New York in a lot of ways. As the saying goes, ‘there’s no place like it,’ and that’s really true. Even though it can be very hard.” But as far as developing a sense of home? “Well, I feel pretty comfortable anywhere that I’m working.”

Still, when he took his leave of Broadway for the second time — in 2011: he portrayed Tommy Boatwright in a production of “The Normal Heart” — and headed back to LA, it’s easy to imagine that a little piece of him remained in the Big Apple, perhaps wearing a fedora with two holes cut in it, the better to fit the long floppy ears. — Julene Snyder
The Honest Artist

Claudia Dominguez is exploring what it means to be female

Claudia Dominguez '03, a visual artist whose work tells tales of her own story as an immigrant and a feminist. Change and transformation are recurring themes, which is apt; this past summer found her earning her graduate degree before packing up to move to South Carolina to start a teaching job at Coastal Carolina University.

Moving from Apex, N.C., to Myrtle Beach, S.C., may sound like a short hop to most of us, but it was no small matter for Dominguez, given the large quantity of marble and granite she keeps on hand to use when inspiration strikes. But even in the midst of upheaval, she had to have a creative project going. So she started a still-untitled series exploring another side of feminine identity.

“It’s about my relationship with my own mom, and also all women’s relationships with their own mothers. If we all somehow change together, we could help each other break through the glass ceiling,” she says. “This series focuses on embroidery, which is something I’m trying to get more proficient at. I’m already good at stone. Embroidery is very low, but it’s something I seem to turn to at times when I’m changing and moving.”

Dominguez came to USD from her native Mexico to study art and she fit right in academically. Socially, however, she found America to be very different from Mexico’s overt patriarchy. David Smith, then chairman of USD’s art department, told her, “There are people who do what they want and they find a way to do that.” It was valuable advice, since being a self-starter was a skill she had to work to learn.

“I thought America was so crazy that way, but now I get it,” she says. “It was a big moment in my life, in this culture so strange with values I had such a hard time understanding. USD was a place where I could figure that out.”

After earning her BA in fine arts from USD in 2003, Dominguez did a stonework apprenticeship in Italy. That’s where she met her husband, an academic who teaches Italian. She came to USD’s School of Design when he was at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill earning a master’s, and then followed him again to Myrtle Beach and a position of her own at Coastal Carolina (where her husband is, Dominguez quips, “the entire Italian department”). Coming to the Carolinas after living in Southern California, Italy and Mexico brought on a much more intense level of culture shock than her previous move from Mexico to San Diego.

“It’s a very different experience to be Mexican in the South than in California, so there was definitely some culture shock,” Dominguez says. “In general, Southerners tend to think of minorities as African-Americans and not much else. Of course, there’s been a lot of work in the South from African-Americans about minority roles in society, which was a rich thing for me to discover. And feeling like I was more on my own here also made me work harder at searching for who I was.”

Eventually, Dominguez found her artistic identity on a series of trips home to Mexico, where she reconnected with her heritage — and felt like an immigrant in two places. Themes of connection and self-discovery dominated her NC State master’s thesis, an ambitious seven-image visual memoir titled, “Transcending Cultural Boundaries,” which used a variety of materials including marble, cotton, tree-bark paper, silk, felt, dried beans, corn husks and even burned pages from a Bible.

“She was very specific in choosing materials that convey meaning along with the imagery,” says North Carolina State Professor Susan Brandes, one of Dominguez’s thesis advisors. “She made some really unusual choices, but each is embedded in her meaning. It’s very strong work that tells her own story, as well as the story of people with lives in two different cultures, challenging assumptions about the role of women.”

In “Transcending Cultural Boundaries,” Dominguez depicted herself, as well as various figures from Mexico, including Sor Juana Ines de la Cruz (a 17th century writer and nun, and the first Mexican feminist) and La Malinche (another historical figure, and a term that has come to be a derogatory term for those perceived to place too much value on foreign ideals). The in-progress series about Dominguez’s mother is more personal in its outlook.

“When My Mother Was Everything” represents Dominguez’s mother as an iconic, towering figure — almost like a pyramid, framed by a halo. It’s based on Coatlicue, the “Mother of Gods”; Dominguez herself is represented as a small figure inside her. Another piece, “Hysteria,” looks like the product of a bad fever dream from Dominguez’s stormy adolescence.

In that one, I’m a monster ripping my mom apart,” she says. “She and I did have kind of a horrible relationship when I was growing up. Your mother is usually the first person to tell you what you can and cannot do, and that was definitely the case with mine.”

So what does Dominguez’s mother think of this?

“Oh, she loves it!” Dominguez says, laughing. “She’s so excited I’m an artist. She grew up in a small town and was a chemist, but she couldn’t find a job, which she figured was because she’s a woman. So she left for Mexico City to find a job. Even though I did not know this while growing up, she had her own struggle. And we’ve been able to mend some things through my art.” — David Menconi
The Creative Scientist

FOR KEVIN PETTI, THE SURFACE IS JUST THE BEGINNING

[ITALY] The room is a lot smaller than one would think. It’s old; it’s not well lit, humble at best. Still, just walking through the door of that unprepossessing chamber in Ospedale Santo Spirito, near the Vatican, was enough to take Kevin Petti’s breath away. And his reaction had nothing to do with the fact that back in the late 15th century, the smell of unpreserved cadavers would have been pungent.

“The sense of history alone is enough to make you gasp,” he says. “To be in the room where Leonardo da Vinci performed dissections, well, I mean, I stood at Galileo’s podium. That’s one of the big things that people take home from a trip like this. They were in the actual rooms, at the actual institutions that are still doing this work. And we’re doing it too, now, in another part of the world. It gives us a connection to the history of our discipline. I think that’s very meaningful.”

How did Petti, a professor in the departments of science and health at San Diego Miramar College, come to make the leap from musculature to the mainstream tourist spots? As it turns out, it’s really not that much of a stretch. “I was part of the first cohort to earn their PhD from the School of Leadership and Education Sciences in 2006,” he explains. “And I took full advantage of the interdisciplinary option. Dean Paula Cordeiro is a big proponent of that approach; fully a third of my units were earned through the School of Nursing.”

The notion that seemingly disparate studies are connected is interlaced through the courses he teaches at Miramar as well. “With everything I do, every course I teach, I really emphasize the multicultural, the interdisciplinary aspect. It’s all interconnected,” Petti says that for as long as he can remember, he’s been intensely interested in bodies, in sport and in fitness. He had initially planned to spend his career working with athletes, but once he started teaching, he quickly changed his trajectory. “My dissertation was really the impetus for Anatomia Italiana,” he recalls. “That’s when I started really thinking about weaving interdisciplinary studies into the undergraduate curriculum.”

And his 2012 tour built upon the groundwork he’d laid on a 2009 trip to the Italian Peninsula. “I was astonished at how well it went this time,” he says. “Everyone seemed to find it really meaningful, really impactful.” One of the 2012 participants, Peggy LePage, a professor at North Hennepin College in Minnesota, agrees. “It is difficult to describe how we felt standing in the exact spot [da Vinci] stood. In awe only comes close,” she said in a blog post about her experience. How did Petti, a professor in the departments of science and health at San Diego Miramar College, come to make the leap from musculature to the mainstream tourist spots? As it turns out, it’s really not that much of a stretch. “I was part of the first cohort to earn their PhD from the School of Leadership and Education Sciences in 2006,” he explains. “And I took full advantage of the interdisciplinary option. Dean Paula Cordeiro is a big proponent of that approach; fully a third of my units were earned through the School of Nursing.”

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For Petti, it’s really all threads from the same vast tapestry. “Look, anatomy as a science, it permeates art, culture, literature. Regardless of your faith, among all the world’s religions, what’s the greatest of God’s creations? The body. And what is the body? Is it the vessel of the soul? If you’re Christian, is it the vehicle for the Resurrection?” He pauses, waiting then answers his own question. “Well, that’s a big deal.” — Julene Snyder
For Tara (Hamilton) Shiroff ’02, a legal consultant for “CSI: Las Vegas,” that perception has its benefits — and its drawbacks. “I enjoy researching the questions the show writers have about the correlations between developing an interesting script, and following the guidelines of the law. “As a lawyer, I notice that jurors want to know where the DNA evidence is,” Shiroff explains. “And they want to know if the rape kit was properly labeled, and whether the evidence was handled properly.”

For the past six years, Shiroff has adroitly balanced the demands of a successful career in civil litigation with her work on “CSI, “ a gig that the show’s lead legal consultant, feels its life-affirming plot lines have struck a chord with a broad viewership, ever produced. “Now into its fourth season, “Drop Dead Diva” and its cast of hijinks ensue. Sound like a stretch? Shiroff and her husband, Adam Sauer, who serves as the show’s lead legal consultant, feels its success is attributable to a universal axiom that she embraced during her undergraduate years as a political science major at USD. “It really comes down to feeling comfortable in your own skin, and being yourself — and, occasionally, macabre practice of gathering crime scene evidence seems … well, downright cool.”

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Keep on paying it forward
Alumni Endowed Scholarship Fund reaches $1 million goal

by Krystin Shrieve

M ark Hoekstra ’36 knows the importance of scholastic opportunities from a young age. — as a student, as a parent of a daughter who graduated in 2012, as an alumnum’s USD Alumni Association Board of Directors, and even as someone who reads scholarship applications from students in the Burnham-Moores Center for Real Estate.

Each year, from among the many deserving students, Hoekstra must pick one to receive a scholarship through the California Hahn building Foundation from the Ernest W. Hahn Endowment. The scholarship, which is named for Hoekstra’s grandfather, a trustee emeritus for whom the Hahn Young Center is named, was established in 1993, prior to the launch of the real estate program in 1993 and well before the Burnham-Moores Center for Real Estate was named in 2004.

“The world’s in great hands if these students are an example of our future,” Hoekstra says. “The achievements they have experienced and the obstacles they have overcome in their short lives are inspiring and motivating to me.”

In its inaugural year, the Wine Classic drew 400 guests and raised $20,000. In four short years, the numbers skyrocketed to 700 and the event has brought in a combined total of more than $156,000 to help reach the $1 million mark. “As founder of the Wine Classic, I am extremely proud of how the university’s administration, the Board of Trustees, the alumni office, our amazing faculty and my fellow alumni have been so supportive of the event and its goals,” says Dooley ’93. “I am truly grateful to my fellow alumni on the Board, but USD is a part of my foundation that can’t be removed.”

Dooley says it was his parents who inspired him to make a difference as a donor and as an active alumnum. He also volunteers at Homecoming Weekend and attends Alumni events.

“Today, it is the students and faculty of USD that inspire me. Knowing that even a gift of $100 toward the Alumni Endowed Scholarship Fund, volunteering at Homecoming, or championing the USD Wine Classic can help a student fulfill their dream of a college degree and give a student and their families a new life,” she says. “After a year, I can write to the donor’s family, maybe meet them and learn about the person who gave me the chance to breathe.”

“Finding the perfect donor — whether it’s the right age, blood type, and even the right height — could take anywhere from two months to three years. The procedure will cost $1.1 million. And USD has applied for grants and is raising money to pay for the procedure, follow-up care and pricy medications.”

“It’s amazing to see the love and support, and it’s inspiring to know that even strangers want to help.”

Young says it was her recovery, the love that they have for this university, says Charles Bias, director of alumni relations. “It also shows how every gift, no matter the size, can add up to benefit our students for a lifetime.”

The ambitious seven-figure quest started in 2006 when Shan- non Smith ’96 established the Alumni Endowed Scholarship Fund. The next year, while the board discussed its annual goals, Hoekstra, then the chair of the finance committee, suggested the board commit to a $1 million goal. To make it happen, board mem- ber Kevin Dooley ’93 established the Wine Classic in 2009, with proceeds supporting the Alumni Endowed Scholarship Fund.

Hoekstra says there are several things that make USD’s Wine Class- ic special — and different from other wine-tasting events. First, all of the vineyards are con- nected in some way to USD. The dozens of owners or winemakers are USD alumni, USD parents or have some other close tie to the univer- sity. Also, the people who are

The USD Wine Classic has helped the Alumni Endowed Scholarship reach its $1 million goal. Nearly 70 percent of students at the university benefit from some sort of financial aid.

pouring the wines aren’t sales staff. Rather, they’re owners, vintners or others who are actively involved in the winemaking process. The setting — the Joan R. Kriss Institute of Peace & Justice’s scenic Garden of the Sea, which overlooks the Pacific Ocean — is arguably one of the most beautiful in San Diego. And finally, the fundraising component is an integral part of the event. At each half of the guests are alumni, who understand the importance of scholarships.

“Nearly 70 percent of the stu- dents at USD are on some sort of financial aid,” Hoekstra says. “The vining is the thing, we have a strong relationship with everyone, is scholar- ships. The biggest growth in our alumni population was in the late 70s to the early 90s. They all recognize the value and impor- tance of scholarships.”

The Alumni Association Board of Directors, and even as someone who reads scholarship applications from students in the Burnham-Moores Center for Real Estate.

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by Sandra Millers Younger

Erica Ashworth doesn’t remember the disappointing grade she took away from a summer school section of juvenile law at USD. Each student drew a topic to research during the short session. Ashworth ended up with a real head-scratcher: “Is foster care good for foster children?”

“Finding out the issues took the whole time,” she recalls. “I certainly didn’t come up with a solution.” But potential solutions were exactly what the professor expected; he marked her final paper down. Way down.

“That really annoyed me,” she says, in a tone that makes it clear she’s still upset. “I saw the insensitivity and the illogical nature of the foster care bureaucracy in her research uncovered. Reviewing cases after horrifying cases, Ashworth eventually did conceive of a real solution to the system’s deficiencies: assign volunteers as official advocates for foster children.

A sympathetic judge put her in touch with retired social worker Elizabeth Bacon, who loved the idea. In 1983, the two women founded Voices for Children, a nonprofit organization dedicated to helping foster children navigate a byzantine bureaucracy and find “forever homes.”

Voices for Children became one of the first in a nationwide network of programs that train and deploy volunteer Court-Appointed Special Advocates (CASA’s) as champions of foster children. Today, the organization provides more than 800 CASA’s, who accommodate nearly a third of San Diego County’s 5,000 foster care children.

Kathryn Ashworth recently received San Diego’s 10News Leadership Award for her seminal role in humanizing the foster care system, but she deflects accolades. Her focus remains on the children. “I’ve always liked kids,” she explains.

Ashworth came to USD’s School of Law later in life than her classmates, and with a specific goal in mind. A mother of three, with years of volunteer experience in child advocacy programs behind her, she was determined to become the most effective possible advocate for children. She knew that meant earning her law degree, since she’d seen firsthand “that the people who got respect were the lawyers, even though the volunteers knew more.”

After graduating with her JD in 1981 and launching Voices for Children the following year, Ashworth settled into a career in family law, eventually co-founding the firm Ashworth, Blanchet, Christenson and Kelemkiarian, with fellow USD law alumnae Lesa Christenson ’82 and Sharon Kelemkiarian, who joined the firm shortly after graduation, directs the Voices for Children staff. After graduation, she reflected that “the people who got respect were the lawyers, even though the volunteers knew more.”

After graduating with her JD in 1981 and launching Voices for Children the following year, Ashworth settled into a career in family law, eventually co-founding the firm Ashworth, Blanchet, Christenson and Kelemkiarian, with fellow USD law alumnae Lesa Christenson ’82 and Sharon Kelemkiarian ’89. At the same time, she continued to push for improvements in the foster care system with undaunted zeal.

“You can’t treat children the way they’re treated in these systems, embedded in a bureaucracy created only to process cases, without any consideration of child development,” she says. “There’s a saying that a foster child’s luggage is a paper bag, and it’s true. Imagine being uprooted in the middle of the night and taken away from your home and parents, not told why, not understanding. Who can stand that?”

Looking back, Ashworth is gratified to see so many changes in the way the system works, including a shift of priorities from parental rights to child safety; a shortened time frame for unfit parents to “get their act together” and reclaim their children; an end to cavalier labeling of “unadoptable” kids; and official recognition of CASA volunteers.

“When we started, there was no legislation regarding CASA’s,” she says. “Now, in California, if there is a CASA program, courts must consider the CASA’s report on a child.”

Voices for Children continues to grow and recruit more volunteers. Just last year, the organization added a special program to better serve infants and preschoolers, who constitute the largest percentage — up to 25 percent — of San Diego County’s foster kids.

USD alumna Christine Consentino ’96, who joined the Voices for Children staff shortly after graduation, directs the infant and toddlers program. Kathryn Ashworth is retired now, happy to leave the legal work to her colleagues at Ashworth, Blanchet, Christenson and Kelemkiarian, and to her son, James ’90, also a USD School of Law graduate. But she herself remains active as a CASA.

“I always have a child,” she says. “The last one was adopted by a wonderful couple.”

Nothing could make Ashworth happier.
1960s

[1966] JANET DAINO SILER (BA) is a retired anesthesiologist and has been a member of the Burlington County Medical Reserve Corps since 2007. She was named the organization’s 2010 Volunteer of the Year. Her volunteer assignments have included flu clinics, a homeless count, a Red Cross shelter and more. She also serves on the board of directors for Efforts to Educate the Needy Children of Virginia.

1980s

[1981] FATHER HENRY RODRIGUEZ (BA) is pastor of St. Jude Shrine of the West, a community pastor with the San Diego Organizing Project, a police and fire department chaplain, and former BP chaplain.

[1985] DONNA (HAFF) SKIRL (BA) and her husband, Vince ’83, joined the Peace Corps and planned to travel to Micronesia/Palau in June 2012 to teach for three years.

[1987] ROBERTO RODRIGUEZ (BA, MA ’92) recently celebrated his 25-year anniversary as a high school teacher. He is vice president of the Sweetwater Education Association. “My passion as an advocate for public education has led me to run for office,” he says. “I am a candidate for the Palomar College Governing Board.”

[1992] DIANA (DUDDIT) RACIHE (BA) graduated from The Catholic University of America in May 2011 with a PhD in religious education/sociology. She served as a visiting assistant professor of theology in the School of Ministry at the University of San Diego in 2011 and was recently appointed assistant professor of theology (a tenure-track position) for the 2012-13 academic year. From 2003-2008 she was the executive director of the department of religious education at the National Catholic Educational Association.

[1992] BARBARA McNAIR (MA) has worked as an executive director of the East County Council on Aging, and as chair and vice chair of the Catholic Charities Board for Grant Program Advisory Council for San Diego and Imperial counties since 1992. She also has been an president of Pug Rescue of San Diego County since 1998. Last year, Pug Rescue held 20 years of service and received proclamations from both the San Diego County Board of Supervisors and the Office of the Mayor of the City of San Diego. Barbara and her partner recently celebrated their 10th anniversary.

[1995] KATHY (SRINIVASA) RAO (BA) earned an MBA in finance from San Diego State University. She lives with her 19-year-old daughter in Phoenix and says they just returned from an adventure in Uganda. She is a contract administrator for San Diego’s Genesys Healthcare Partners, a multi-specialty group of 10 physicians. She is also on the board of directors for Efforts to Educate the Needy Children of Virginia.

[1992] SUSAN HUGENT (BA, MA) taught fourth grade at Pepper Drive Elementary in El Cajon, Calif., where she also is working with master gardeners to bring native habitat to the school. Susan has seven beautiful grandchildren and recently celebrated her 35th wedding anniversary.

[1995] BRIAN POWERS (BA) and his wife, Elizabeth, welcomed a new baby, Preston Christian, on Jan. 23, 2011.

[1995] KATHRYN RUSIN (BA) earned an online and brick-and-mortar). Her third book is forthcoming from a major publisher this fall. She is working with master gardeners to bring native habitat to the school. Susan has seven beautiful grandchildren and recently celebrated her 35th wedding anniversary.

[1996] KRISTIN INGRAO RUDE (BA) and her husband, Brad ’95, graduated from USD’s School of Law together. They celebrated their 10th anniversary. In November 2011, they welcomed Isabella Sofia into the Smalley family. “On May 10, 2011, they welcomed Isabella Sofia into the Smalley family. "Welcome to the world, Audrey!," say the proud parents. If you’d like to share a photo of your own new arrival or another milestone occasion for consideration for the print edition of USD Magazine, email your class note (along with a resolution photo) to classmates@sandiego.edu. Please note that while we are unable to print every photo we receive, we can certainly share your photo and class note with fellow Toreros in the Magazine’s Web edition.

[1997] KELLY (KREIDLE) BURKE (BA) and her husband, Mike, welcomed their second child, Evan James, on Nov. 30, 2011. The family lives in Orange County, Calif.

[1997] JACQUELINE (FARNAN) CLANCY (BBA) has two children: a son, 4, and a daughter who is learning piano and tap. She also has been president of Pug Rescue of San Diego and Imperial counties since 1992. She also has been an president of Pug Rescue of San Diego County since 1998. Last year, Pug Rescue held 20 years of service and received proclamations from both the San Diego County Board of Supervisors and the Office of the Mayor of the City of San Diego. Barbara and her partner recently celebrated their 10th anniversary.

1970s

[1970] RICHARD GARDNER (BS) is an urgent care nurse at part of the VCN network, affiliated with the University of California, Los Angeles. He also has taught in the emergency room after spending two years teaching history at the International School of Panama in Panama City. Meg Rorie was born on March 15, 2010. She was born in Harborview Medical Center in Seattle, Wash., with her wife, Amy, and their two sons, Tim and Greg. Nicole is a fourth generation restaurateur and is looking forward to opening more locations with her husband. The couple lives in San Clementes with their sons, Cole, and Bryce. 7.

[1976] BARBARA FERGUSON (BA) and her husband, Tim, own and operate Humphry’s in Carlsbad, Calif. They offer specialty sandwiches, salads, wraps, burgers and brew. Nicole is a fourth generation restaurateur and is looking forward to opening more locations with her husband. The couple lives in San Clementes with their sons, Cole, and Bryce. 7.

[1979] JAYRIE GONGAZA (MA) is an adjunct counselor at Miramar, Palomar and MiraCosta community colleges. Jayme teaches community college success skills at San Diego City College. She is the author of Career in Criminal Justice.

2000s

[2000] JAYRIE GONGAZA (MA) is an adjunct counselor at Miramar, Palomar and MiraCosta community colleges. Jayme teaches community college success skills at San Diego City College. She is the author of Career in Criminal Justice.

[2008] BRETT BANDUCCI (BA, MA ’99) returned to California in July 2011 after spending two years teaching history at the International School of Panama in Panama City, Panama. He is now working at a private day school in Irvine, Calif.

[2010] JENNY RUSSEL (BA) and her husband, Tim, welcomed another daughter, Kinia Kate, on Nov. 15, 2011. Big sister Kyra was born on March 15, 2010. They were married in December 2010.

[2010] CHRISTINE MORTSMAN WARNER (BA, BA ’01) moved to San Diego, D.C., after earning a master’s degree in nursing from the University of California, San Francisco. She is a pediatric, neonatal and pediatric cardiac intensive care nurse at Children’s National Medical in the critical care float pool. She also volunteers as a pediatric intensive care nurse during her vacations with International Children’s Heart Foun-
Jamal Al Sharif is helping Dubai become a major global player

By Mike Sauer

In the span of just a few decades, the Emirate of Dubai has grown from a sparsely populated principality into one of the planet’s most prolific business hubs. Its crown jewel, Dubai City, glimmers like an oasis at the edge of the Arabian Desert; offering the promise of prosperity through an ever-expanding economy.

Jamal Al Sharif ’99 has had a front-row seat to Dubai’s meteoric rise since the latter part of the 20th century. And when it comes to encapsulating the spirit and vibrancy of his beloved home city, he shares a phrase that just might become the region’s rallying cry: In Dubai, everything is possible, and nothing is impossible.

“I’ve got a lot of responsibilities, but I’ve also got a lot of really intelligent, talented people working for me. We work together, establish goals and organize a plan to achieve those goals. He exhales heavily, perhaps reflecting on the enormity of the challenge facing him, then adds with a laugh, “Remember, in Dubai, everything is possible, and nothing is impossible”.

daton [www.babyheart.org], which provides free heart surgeries for children with congenital heart disease and teaches local nurses, doctors and health care professionals how to care for these patients. This work has taken her to Nahrain, Iraq (July 2011 and January 2012). Guayaquil, Ecuador (December 2012); Al Neal, Iraq (February 2012); and Benghazi, Libya (March 2012). Christine will be volunteering with HCF again starting in mid-November 2012.

(2002)

JESSICA DAVREZZE (BA) transitioned from her job at USAID, Office of Iraq Reconstruction, in Washington, D.C., to manager of business development at the Justice Institute of British Columbia in Vancouver, Canada.

ROBERT PINTERICK (BA) and his wife, Elizabeth, welcomed their first child, Leah Hoffmann, into the world on July 15, 2011. They live in Monterey, Calif.

TARA (HAMILTON) SHIROFF (BA) recently joined the law firm of Lewis Brisbois Bisgaard & Smith as an associate. She practices in all areas of civil litigation, including commercial litigation, product and premises liability, and insurance defense. Tara has spent her legal career defending insurance companies, businesses, ca-

KATE NASMAN REIDEL (BS) and her husband, Chris, welcomed a baby girl, Nicole Veldhuis, on November 10, 2006. She is their 4-year-old twin daughters and now baby daughter, 19 months, in Chicago, Ill.

KORD (BA)

WINDSOR FERNANDEZ BRINK-KORD (BA) and her husband, Kurt, adopted two babies who are siblings, just eight months apart in age.

BASIL CONSIDINE (BA)

TARA (HAMILTON) SHIROFF (BA) recently joined the law firm of Lewis Brisbois Bisgaard & Smith as an associate. She practices in all areas of civil litigation, including commercial litigation, product and premises liability, and insurance defense. Tara has spent her legal career defending insurance companies, businesses, ca-

SUSMIT DEY

is a doctoral student in musicology at Columbia in Vancouver, Canada.

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When Tim Lynch ’95 submitted a class note, he wanted to let his fellow alumni know he’d found a foothold in the film industry. What Lynch didn’t know is that a whole lot of the story ideas for USD Magazine come from class notes just like his. Just weeks later, he was being interviewed for a feature story.

Now an award-winning producer and documentarian for major musical acts like Green Day and Other Ocean, Lynch is traveling the globe in search of the compelling stories that define our times, and he’s loving the journey.

Tim Lynch ’95 is loving life behind the lens.

Submit a class note today: Email classnotes@sandiego.edu or go to publications.classnotes.sandiego.edu.
I just love the old jazz songs,” she explains. “ Nowadays, it’s all so explicit. Back then they told love stories with insinuations. It was romantic and sentimental.”

Boutros, who has been playing music since she was a girl, now has an excellent career in music, though she’d always been singing since she was a little girl practicing harmonies in church with her grandmother. At home, she’d put on a hat and pretend to be Frank Sinatra. But when she left for USD, her parents urged her to study something practical.

Boutros chose business and took a first job in marketing. But she felt she already had enough. She recalls her exact turning point: “One day I said, ‘I’m just going to do music.’”

Suddenly, Boutros discovered a better use for all those business courses—she joined the PR, the advertising— it all came in handy promoting herself as a jazz singer. She opened a booking agency, previously and then a production company. “I’ve used every single thing I learned at USD,” she says.

But the fire, the drive, the drive? All pure Boutros. When she decided to leave USD’s San Diego jazz club and asked for a performance date, she got it. Emboldened, she went to New York, told club owners, “I’m a jazz singer,” and they gave her a break. “I just kept singing and singing and singing,” she says. In 2008, Boutros submitted her self-produced CD, “Simply Sacha,” for Grammy consideration and earned a nomination for “Best New Artist” and “Best Jazz Album.” Odors began to open. Now she tours in Europe, Japan and Hawaii, where last year she recorded her sophomore album, “Sacha, Live in Hawaii.”

Although she’s clearly savouring her acclaim, Sacha Boutros admits she has a definite destination in mind. “My goal is to be in every jazz lover’s house,” she says. “I want to bring them something very special. I want to bring old jazz music, especially classic and Latin jazz, to contagion.”

Dulcet tones
Sacha Boutros hits all the right notes
By Sandra Millers Younger

BRIAN McCARTHY (BA)
completed his master’s degree in graphic design/interactive cese and the Orange County Diocese. He is a speaker, and the life experience is unmatch- ing. His mentoring and has been hired to train vice pres- ident as course manager and performance as course manager and is pursuing a master’s degree in accounting and finance at the London School of Economics and

CRISTOPHER D. BURCH ‘01 (BA)
completed his doctorate in cognitive behavioral therapy, Yeshiva University. is a doctoral student at New York University School of Medicine. Allison is also in Stan- ford University’s Strategic Decision and Risk Management program, an executive development program offered on-campus and via the Inter- net. “USD changed my life,” she says.

CAREY MOELLER (BA) writes, “After graduating in May 2011, I moved around the U.S. for a little while, enjoying new places and beginning to look for a job. I had been in a long-distance relationship for quite a while, so I finally decided to settle down and eliminate the distance.” Carey works for Bank of America and reports that she and her boyfriend just bought a house in Alten, Texas.

MICHAEL NALAN (JD) joined the professional liability practice group at Klinedic PC. While at USD, Michael served as comments editor and Stark, for finding a cure for ALS by forming offices in small and civil litigation cases. and many friends. She is overjoyed to announce the arrival of the unit’s competencies. His efforts resulted in comprehensive in- struction as well as the Marine Corps plan- ning process, tremendously impact- ing the unit’s competencies.

Judith Ann (Strickland) Startzel ‘74 (BA) died of cancer on April 19, 2011, at age 64. Following a valorful battle with ALS (Lou Gehrig’s disease), she leaves behind her husband, Maureen ‘81 (BA) and two children. The family ralied around the ALS Service in San Diego and was promoted to project manager at Insight Express.

Christopher D. Burch ‘01 (BA) passed away in his sleep on June 18, 2011, in Kennebunkport, Maine. He was 54. A San Diego native, he moved to Sacramento after graduation to work as a fellow for the California State Legislature, then embarked on a career in the Office of the General Counsel for the Department of Defense. He was an avid traveler and is survived by her parents, girlfriend, a large family and many friends.

Lori Murray ‘83 (BA) passed away on May 3, 2012.

Mike Ramirez ‘79 (BA) passed away on April 23, 2012 at the age of 56, after fighting a valorful battle with ALS (Lou Gehrig’s disease). He leaves behind his wife, Maureen ‘81 (BA) and two children. The family ralied around the ALS Service in San Diego and was promoted to project manager at Insight Express.

Christopher Lippman (BA) is president of Accretive Health, a health care- and has been promoted to project manager at Insight Express.

Capt. Jon Wilkins (BS) recently received the Harry and Mary Carillon Achievement Medal for outstanding performance as course manager and primary instructor of the Rapid Response Planning Process Primer, Experiential Warfare Group, Pacific, San Diego, Calif. Am consumed by volumes of publications and endured countless learning hours to master the process of fire support coordina- tion as well as the Marine Corps plan- ning process, tremendously impact- ing the unit’s competencies. His efforts resulted in comprehensive in- struction as well as the Marine Corps plan- ning process, tremendously impact- ing the unit’s competencies.
The renowned actor Martin Sheen sounds like the natural voice of USD’s new “Changemaker” video, it might be because he’s already got a connection with the university. He first visited campus in 2007 to receive the USD Peace Medal from the Joan B. Kroc School of Peace Studies for his efforts in support of human rights. Sheen has a history of using his celebrity to advance causes close to his heart. Among those is the work of Monsignor Michael Dolan, pastor of the Sacred Heart Church in Camden, N.J. Sheen donated the modest honorarium for his involvement with the latest USD TV spot to support Dolan’s work in one of the poorest communities in the United States.
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