Finding Daniel
DEAR ALUMNI, PARENTS AND FRIENDS,

The exuberance that usually accompanies the beginning of school is muted as we witness the devastation and suffering of our neighbors in the Gulf Coast. While we can keep the victims of Hurricane Katrina in our thoughts and prayers, we can also do our part to help alleviate the anxiety experienced by so many students who have been displaced by the destruction of their campuses.

Many colleges and universities throughout the nation are engaged in efforts to help; USD is no exception. Our own crisis response team has convened to ensure that our enrolled students, faculty and staff who have family from the Gulf Coast are being provided with assistance. The information I share with you below is timely, but the situation remains dynamic. Thus, I encourage you to access our Web site (www.sandiego.edu/news/katrina.php) for updated information about USD’s efforts to help victims and survivors.

The university has established two collection sites for those of you wishing to contribute cash or checks to aid victims of Hurricane Katrina. Donations to Catholic Charities U.S.A. are being accepted at the offices of Public Relations (Hughes Center, Room 218) and Community Service-Learning (Maher Hall, Room 218); donations also can be made online at http://catholic-charities.org.

To assist members of the USD community and their families who have been directly affected by this horrific tragedy, a special fund has been established. Donations to the Employee Hurricane Relief Fund should be sent to the University of San Diego, Human Resources, Maher Hall, Room 101, 5998 Alcalá Park, San Diego, CA 92110-2492.

USD will allow a limited number of Loyola University, Xavier University and Tulane University students from either San Diego or Imperial counties to enroll at USD this semester. These students must be in good standing for enrollment in the fall semester, and they are expected to transfer back to their home university when the schools reopen.

We know that there are far more urgent needs for those who have been devastated by this natural disaster. One reason we can respond so quickly to this emergency is that for many decades, the men and women of this university have created a culture and tradition of service; a culture that is apparent to anyone who encounters our community. God bless you all and thank you for making USD a university of which we can all be grateful and proud.

Sincerely,

Mary E. Lyons, Ph.D.
President
20 / FINDING DANIEL
No longer a “lost boy,” McNair Scholar Daniel Akech James went through the gates of hell and emerged unbroken. The grueling journey that brought him from his native Sudan to Alcalá Park is a testament to the human spirit: while surviving is a triumph, thriving is a miracle.

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USD takes a proactive stance to combat underage drinking, thanks to a federal grant.

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An awesome 56-year-old grandma became the first person to ride a personal watercraft solo from Canada to Mexico.

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Alumna’s documentary delves beneath the surface to explore the quest for authenticity in the lives of young people.

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Versatility is key when players Adam Hannula and Nick Garton take their spots on the gridiron.

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While some might be tempted to turn away, Gregg Burgess ’98 (M.I.B.) helps Cambodian girls rescued from brothels.
EDITORIAL

IN DUE TIME

The making of a magazine is hard work, but it's a labor of love

Bodooni or Copperplate? Helvetica or Verdana? Lucida or Geneva? Choosing just the right font can be as fraught with uncertainty as the decision parents make about what name to give their firstborn.

Come to think of it, it takes just about the same amount of time to grow a baby as it does to redesign a magazine, and both endeavors require reaching one consensus after another. It was almost exactly nine months ago that we started our redesign process in earnest. Of course, before that, there had been endless brainstorming, much discussion and many, many meetings. Naturally, we talked a lot about you. What did our readers want? How could we best serve up the most appetizing version of the magazine possible? Were our goals realistic? Would you like us? I mean, really, really like us? But eventually there comes a time when you've got to stop talking and start doing. There was no getting around it: It was time to make this dream a reality.

And luckily, we knew just the person to do it: Our incredibly talented art director, Barbara Ferguson, took all of our disparate ideas from those endless meetings and came up with concrete representations. We'd scribbled drawings and ripped pages we liked out of other publications, had indulged in wild flights of fancy and thrown around words like "modern," "cleaner" and "cooler." Then Barbara would go away for a while. When she came back, she'd show us pages that were, eerily, exactly what we hadn't even known we'd meant. It was almost scary how she was able to translate our hazy meanderings into something real.

By now, we were well into our second trimester, and we could really start to feel that baby kick. Our feature stories were getting written and rewritten, the first illustrations were coming in (we were so proud!), the dazzling tones of our new color palette were finalized, and we could almost feel the heft and weight of the magazine in our arms when we gazed at our computer screens and marked up page galleys.

We knew the magazine would be brand new, but like any little one, it would resemble those who'd come before. Naturally, it would still reflect the University's mission, and of course, the content would still be of great interest to USD alumni and friends. But we have lofty hopes for our new offspring. We want it to inspire and elevate, to amuse and edify, to entertain and surprise you in ways we haven't even thought of yet. So we picked our pages apart — one by one — and put them back together again in a way that pleased us, knowing that our ultimate goal is to please you.

Some changes will be obvious: slightly bigger pages, greater emphasis on excellent photography and illustration, a brand new font — it's called "Myriad," isn't that a beautiful name? — greater attention to details, and a renewed dedication to reflecting the very best of all that the University of San Diego has to offer. There are so many changes in these pages that it's hard to know which to focus on, but we hope you'll be pleased: We've simplified your Class Notes, added a new Alumni Update section, revamped our Web site and are planning a photo contest — all with the sole aim of giving you the very best magazine we can.

So please, let us know what you think about our newborn. As I write this inaugural editorial, I can only half-imagine the day our efforts will finally emerge, fully formed into the world. Then, our revamped USD Magazine will take wing and arrive in thousands of households, while we wait patiently for you to open its pages and take in its fresh new scent. Of course I can't believe you won't immediately fall in love with it — what parent doesn't know with deep conviction that their own offspring is clearly the most special in the whole wide world? — but if you have critiques or comments, by all means, let us know.

We'll be right here, taking care of our baby and helping it grow into the very best magazine it can possibly be.

— Julene Snyder, Editor
Raffo Unpeeled
The recent article about my play, “Nine Parts of Desire,” (“One Woman, Nine Lives,” Spring 2005) looks and reads gorgeously! I was blown away by the writing style, which made for a varied and exciting read that was full of layers, and reflected so many of my influences. Also, the photos are the best ever taken for any story about this show.

I laughed aloud at myself many a time; the writer brought great humor and fun to the piece.
— Heather Raffo ’98 (M.F.A.)

Since we last published, Raffo has received nominations for the Outer Critics Circle Award and the Drama Desk Award, and won a 2005 Marian Seldes-Garson Kanin Fellowship. Her show also won the 2005 Lucille Lortel Award for both “Best Solo Show” and “Best Sound Design,” as well as winning a special commendation for the Susan Smith Blackburn Prize, which is awarded to the best play in English by a female playwright. The show runs at the Geffen Playhouse at the Brentwood Theatre in Los Angeles through October 16. The play will be published in book form by Northwestern University Press in January 2006.
— Editor

Close to You
I continue to be impressed by the professional image presented by USD Magazine. Organizations of every kind send promotional materials to my office every day, but none done as well as yours.

Your periodical exudes the spirit of campus life at USD. Clean, bright images of life on the hill entice the reader to enhance their relationship with students and faculty. As a BusinessLink USD member, it reaffirms USD’s commitment to be a viable part of the San Diego community. Thank you for bringing me a little closer to life at USD.
— Deborah S. Condon
Discover Infiniti

A Hearty Chuckle
I laughed and laughed over Tim Pickering’s comments in the Spring 2005 issue of USD Magazine (“Letters”).

There are people who catch the boat, people who miss the boat and go home and people who wait for the next boat. And then there are those who jump overboard without any understanding of what it is all about!
— Joseph Nevadomsky ’64

Beyond Textbooks
As a parent of a High Tech Middle seventh-grader and a High Tech High tenth-grader, I was very happy to see the informative article in USD Magazine about current and past USD students who now teach at the school (“The High Tech High Way,” Spring 2005).

Melissa Vincent ’03 (M.A.) is my seventh-grader’s advisor, and my older son had Janel Holcomb in the ninth grade. My husband and I can attest to these two teachers’ competence, dedication and ability to engage the students. The project based method is a perfect fit for students who need and want to be challenged beyond the traditional textbook style.
— Carol Steslick

Calling All Alumni
Clearly, USD Magazine is the most potent vehicle to keep alumni connected with their alma mater. Because of this, it is vitally important that alumni be able to see not only what changes are taking place at the school, but also what the needs of the school are.

For a private institution, USD has a very anemic gift rate from its alumni. Since it is vital for any great, private institution to have strong alumni support, it is important that the magazine highlight alumni as much as possible, and it is key that inactive alumni see what active alumni are doing to better their alma mater.

But we must highlight the needs of the university as well. Recently, Georgetown University had a capital campaign to promote the need to fund a new school of business. For issue after issue, their alumni magazine provided excellent updates of the fund-raising efforts and how alumni were playing a role in helping to achieve the goal.

If alumni can become more involved and support USD, current students benefit, the community benefits, and the publication benefits because it is doing something to fortify the school through its alumni.

More stories of active alumni and alumni that are community achievers have to be accentuated. The series about current undergraduates is nice, but it really doesn’t appeal to me.

I do hope the magazine begins transitioning into a true alumni magazine that will draw in alumni to give, support and participate. Truly, alumni participation should be the livelihood and essence of any private university.
USD Magazine is the most effective vehicle to help make this happen.
— Arnie García ’91
USD Alumni Board, Communications Committee

Write us ...
We welcome letters to the editor about articles in the magazine. Letters may be edited for length and content, and must include a daytime phone number. Write: Editor, USD Magazine, 5998 Alcalá Park, San Diego, CA 92110. E-mail: letters@sandiego.edu.
The statistics are alarming. Nine out of 10 college students experiment with alcohol. Seven out of 10 drink regularly. Nearly three in 10 will be problem drinkers.

"Heavy drinking is a prevalent health problem on college campuses nationwide, and USD is not immune to the consequences," says associate psychology professor Michael Ichiyama.

Clearly, the freedom that comes with going away to college is the impetus for at least some underage students to drink. Now, USD is taking a leadership role with its proactive stance: The school recently sought and received a $788,000 grant from the National Institute on Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism to address the touchy topic head-on. The grant — one of the largest in USD history — looks at freshman attitudes and whether an instruction book that helps parents communicate with their children can keep alcohol-related problems at bay.

"Parents have been an untapped resource when it comes to reducing or preventing heavy drinking and its related problems among college undergraduates," says Ichiyama, who is co-investigator for the grant, along with principal investigator Louise Stanger, USD’s director of alcohol and drug education.

A survey will involve some 450 randomly selected incoming freshmen and a larger sample next year. About half of their parents were chosen to receive the handbook. Students were surveyed on family interaction and their own alcohol use before the semester began, and will answer questions again later to see whether the children of parents who used the handbook fare any better when it comes to indulging in risky behaviors like binge drinking, unprotected sex and physical altercations.

Rather than just instructing parents, the 45-page handbook — written by Rob Turrisi, who is participating in the USD study as
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and gives parents ideas about how to respond to their children's certainty that the folks can't understand what they're going through. The handbook is also peppered with first-person tales from college students about grim subjects like being raped after drinking or of knocking back “at least 15 beers.”

USD’s challenge is to help produce a safety net so that underage students don’t echo nationwide trends, says Stanger. “There are some norms that say, ‘I go to college and one of the things I do at college is experiment.’ I don’t think USD is any different.”

Several students who helped enlist new freshmen to complete the survey agreed alcohol can be a factor during the first years of college. Each says they have seen others fall into what appeared to be bad patterns with alcohol. Drew Scott, a USD sophomore studying psychology, says his parents have always had a measure of guidance in his life. “They knew I would have more freedom here. They never said, ‘You cannot drink.’ Mostly they just showed me that the possible repercussions were far greater than the ‘rewards’ of drinking.”

Among the tools USD offers to students is a screening quiz to determine whether their drinking behaviors may be a problem. To take the test, go to http://unet.sandiego.edu and click on the e-Chug link.

Chris Webb, 21, a USD psychology senior this fall, says those who over-indulge may have come to school with underlying issues. Nonetheless, she does view some parents as in denial: “I think it’s really asinine to think your child will go to college and not drink until they’re 21. I think it’s inevitable.”

That may not be what parents want to hear, but one parent who wishes she’d known more of her son’s struggles is Chris Volkmann, co-author with son Toren ’02 of Our Drink: Detoxing the Perfect Family. Toren had already been caught drinking several times when he entered USD. Once he entered college, he was able to cover up some of the trouble he got into.

“A lot of kids abusing alcohol may be abusing it eight to nine years by the time they graduate college,” says Volkmann. “By then, they almost don’t know how to function without it.”

That’s why it’s important to quell the most extreme behavior before it becomes rote habit, and why the goal of the study is to see if parental influence can provide the extra nudge that keeps a dabbler on the safer end of the drinking continuum.

[syllabus]

Course Title: Social Ethics
Instructor: Lawrence Hinman

DESCRIPTION: A study of the applications of ethical concepts and principles to different areas of human social conduct.

SHOCKING REALIZATION: This class begins at 7:30 a.m., and by 7:35 the professor is handing out a pop quiz. Gulp.

AMBIANCE: Professor Hinman looks as wide-awake as it is possible for a human being to be. The vast majority of students wear “hoodies” to ward off the morning chill. Several appear to be wearing slippers.

SUSTENANCE: Most students have brought breakfast with them, ranging from cinnamon buns to bagels to smoothies. Nearly everyone has some form of caffeine at the ready.

OPENER: The pop quiz deals with the TFR (Total Fertility Rate) for Western and Third World Countries. Once it’s established that the global population is on an alarming upward spiral, Professor Hinman begins: “On our list of cheery topics, we turn today to the subject of hunger. It turns out that helping people is an extraordinarily tricky business.”

INADVERTENT HUMOR: 2.1 children per family is the magic number that means a society will have zero population growth. Upon revealing that Italy’s TFR is a shockingly low 1.28, Hinman wryly notes that “Italy is possibly the most Catholic country in the world. I don’t know what they’re doing wrong.”

FOOD FOR THOUGHT: “To turn our backs in the face of such human misery would be cold-hearted indeed. Such a response would not only fail to relieve the suffering of others, but it would also diminish us, revealing a disturbing moral indifference.” — Contemporary Moral Issues: Diversity and Consensus, by Lawrence M. Hinman.

IN CONCLUSION: “As we move toward exam week, you may not feel that you live incredibly privileged lives.” Class dismissed.
It’s hard to believe that her hands were the only part that got sore. A 56-year-old grandmother traveled 1,800 miles from Canada to Mexico on the open ocean, riding a personal watercraft (PWC) and, in the end, it was the endless gripping of handlebars that gave her grief.

“The hands were the weakest link,” says Jane Usatin, director of undergraduate programs for the School of Business Administration. “It took a while for them to get back to normal.”

Other than that, how was the six-week-trip?

“It was a learning experience,” says Usatin, with characteristic understatement. But a moment later, her whole face lights up. “It was mind-blowing! Just the marine life alone!”

She ticks off the list on one (clearly recovered) hand: “I saw two orcas. I stopped my engine, because I didn’t want to spook them. I also saw some whales that I’d never seen before; I sketched them and asked the locals. It turned out they were blue whales.” She leans forward, eyes glowing. “When I was growing up, blue whales were about to become extinct, so this was like seeing a unicorn.”

The recitation continues: Humpback whales. Acres of seabirds. Otters. A pod of dolphins. A shark. (“Maybe. It was sort of so-what.”) And of course, the humans were special too, especially one in particular.

“My ever-patient husband followed along in the RV and we’d meet up every night; she recalls. “And of course, up in Oregon and Washington, people weren’t as familiar with PWCs. The locals would come out to see what was going on when I’d come in. In one town, a wave had pushed me off. I was tethered, but it was hard to get back on, especially once the boat got pushed over on one side. When a tractor came into the water and got me righted, a crowd had assembled on the beach. People were cheering and clapping.”

Of course, the trip wasn’t all applause and unicorns. There are bad eggs among the PWC community (Usatin calls it the “1 percent jerk factor”), and some maritime officials tended to view Usatin’s quest with a certain skepticism.

“Maritime law says that they cannot deny me safe harbor,” she explains. “But in one case, they didn’t want to let me leave once I got there.” Usatin all but snorts with derision. “These crafts are what lifeguards use to rescue swimmers; it’s ridiculous. They’re really small boats. You just sit on them, rather than in them.”

Adventure is no stranger to Usatin. She’s traveled by motorcycle — both solo and with husband Josef — across the country many a time. But she wanted to do this particular trip for several reasons.

“I had four objectives,” she says, ticking them off. “To help people gain respect for the ocean. To gain respect for the coastal fishing and logging towns. To raise money for Sister Dale’s scholarship. And to counter the media stereotype of PWC riders as scofflaws.”
A FRESH START FOR EDUCATION

National recognition prompts new name and new building

You may not have noticed, but over the past few years USD’s School of Education has quietly assembled a slate of nationally recognized programs in education, leadership studies, school and career counseling, and marital and family therapy.

And now it’s time to let the world know. Reflecting its expanded mission and cutting-edge offerings, the School of Education earlier this year announced a new name — the School of Education and Leadership Sciences — and unveiled plans for a new and critically needed $35 million, 86,000-square-foot building to be constructed west of Copley Library.

It’s about time. Since 1998, the school’s faculty has swelled from 15 to 35, and the student population has doubled to nearly 1,000 students. Academic programs have grown to encompass master’s and doctoral degrees, teaching credentials and specialized programs in educational leadership, nonprofit leadership management and character education. “We’ve grown tremendously in our offerings,” says Paula Cordeiro, the school’s dean. “We now have a variety of leadership and other programs beyond those that focus on traditional education.”

Construction of the new facility will begin in July 2006. The building, which will be financed by a fund-raising campaign that launches this fall, will house state-of-the-art technology such as interactive “smart” classrooms, an instructional resource center and simulation classrooms for demonstration of counseling and teaching scenarios and techniques.

“It’s an exciting time for us,” Cordeiro says. “We were a small, fine school. And now we’re a larger, more comprehensive school that will better address the needs of our community.”

For more about the campaign for the School of Education and Leadership Sciences building, call (619) 260-7514

To learn more about Usatin’s journey and the Sister Dale Brown Marine Science Memorial Scholarship, go to www.pacificoceanrider.org.
Lydia Stirling ’03 isn’t afraid to be provocative. And what could be more challenging to the status quo than bucking the stereotype that young people are about as deep as the latest hot song download?

In Stirling’s first documentary film, Pop+Culture, she takes aim at the notion that today’s youth are all about MTV and image. What’s even more scandalous is that she made the quest for meaning, purpose and religion a central theme of the project.

“You can talk about sex all day long,” she says with emphasis. “But the second you try to say you believe in Jesus or whoever you believe in, it’s like (gasp) ‘Why did you just say that?’ I don’t get that at all.”

Pop+Culture — which explores the media’s influence on issues like image, success and love — was a natural project for Stirling, whose Canadian family owns NTV, the last independent television station in North America.

“I just wanted to put out something positive and something real,” she says. “I think there’s a lack of rea...
Stirling's journey toward realizing her dreams. She says that making the film was like attending a four-year film school, since she played every role — from interviewer to cinematographer to editor to lighting coordinator.

When she rented out a La Jolla auditorium earlier this year and put on a premiere, it was the culmination of this particular dream. “I knew I had a message I wanted to say, and I knew there was a voice missing. But the moment I saw it on the big screen, with all these people in the theater, I was just hooked.” She laughs, her doe eyes gleaming. “I thought, ‘This is what I’m meant to do.’”

For more information on Pop+Culture and Stirling, go to www.popculturefilm.com.

THE ELOQUENT ADVOCATE
Justice Richard Goldstone stands up for the downtrodden

by Kelly Knufken

When most young people head off to college, their long-term ambitions tend to be on the vague side. When he left home in the late 1950s, Justice Richard Goldstone certainly didn’t plan to wind up an important player in international human rights.

Now a worldwide leader in fighting atrocities like genocide and war crimes, as a youth he hadn’t given much thought to those suffering under apartheid in his native South Africa.

“I came from a typical upper-middle class white home,” he recalls. “I had never met black South Africans as equals during my school days.”

But while attending a Johannesburg university where black students were treated as equals to whites, he saw that on campus, those same students were harassed by police and had to return to the poverty of black townships where they read by the dim light of oil lamps.

Goldstone’s passion for justice was roused. He went on to practice law, but didn’t stop there, going on to ultimately become a justice of the Constitutional Court of South Africa, where from 1994 to 2003 he helped oversee his country’s transition into democracy.

USD is lucky to have him this semester, when he will conduct a seminar on international criminal justice at the Joan B. Kroc Institute for Peace & Justice and teach a seminar at the law school.

“One of the problems with a large and powerful country like the U.S. is that it tends to be inward-looking,” Goldstone says. “It’s wonderful to see the Joan B. Kroc Institute bringing the whole world to the doorsteps of the students.”

Those students will learn from a man whose career is filled with worldly experiences: chief prosecutor of the U.N.’s International Criminal Tribunals for the former Yugoslavia and Rwanda; member of the Independent Inquiry Committee that is investigating the U.N. Oil for Food program in Iraq; chairman of South Africa’s Commission of Inquiry Regarding Public Violence and Intimidation, known as the Goldstone Commission because of his role; and chairman of the International Independent Inquiry on Kosovo.

“The reason he’s held those positions is the kind of human being he is,” says IPJ Executive Director Joyce Neu. “He’s such an articulate spokesperson for those who’ve had their rights trampled. He gives us all a lesson. He’s a truly humane, decent person who shows great integrity in his work.”
For an audio sample of the new USD school song, go to www.sandiego.edu/usdmag.

It happens all the time in the movies: Students gather beneath a large oak tree, arms around one another’s waists, and sweetly warble their school song. Passersby can’t help but stop and listen, a few discreetly wipe away tears, moved by this spontaneous eruption of sentiment.

In real life? Not so much. But perhaps USD has come a step closer to realizing that bucolic version of traditional campus life with the recent announcement of the song “USD Alma Mater” as winner of the School Song Composition Contest, which was co-sponsored by the College of Arts and Sciences and the Music Program.

Written by Thomas G. Ventimiglia, parent of two USD alums, the song evokes spirit, loyalty and tradition, key themes in the university’s core values.

“There were a few revisions to the music and text,” explains Christopher Adler, director of USD’s music program. “We wanted it to match the mission of the university.”

College of Arts and Sciences Dean Patrick Drinan says the hope is that the new song will become part of USD lore and tradition. “We’ll be introducing it in some sort of splashy way this semester,” he promises. “Expect us to use it in a variety of performance contexts.”

While Ventimiglia is in the insurance business, this is far from his first foray into songwriting: “It’s a labor of love,” he explains. “I’ve been writing songs since high school.”

So if the sweet tones of soprano communing with tenor waft through the campus, by all means, stop, listen and make sure you’ve got a hankie handy.
CENTRAL PARK

New pedestrian mall to be dedicated with hoopla

As if Alcalá Park isn’t pretty enough, this summer the university completed a new pedestrian mall that graces the center of campus, stretching from Colachis Plaza to the eastern edge of Maher Hall. The mall will be dedicated with a celebration for students and alumni on Oct. 7.

Construction on the pedestrian mall, named Plaza de San Diego, began in March and was finished in August, in time for the start of the fall semester. The $1.2 million plaza — which is part of USD’s master plan and was funded through donations from former USD Trustee Kathryn Colachis and The Theresa & Edward O’Toole Foundation — features landscaped walkways, an open lawn, a central courtyard surrounded by trees, and seating areas with a fountain in the center.

The entrances to Maher Hall, Serra Hall and Warren Hall were renovated in conjunction with the project, and now sport an improved appearance as well as improved access for people with disabilities.

The Oct. 7 festivities start with an afternoon dedication ceremony followed by an evening party for students. Evening activities include a picnic-style dinner, a costume contest for students and a concert in front of the Hahn University Center. The celebration, funded by an anonymous donor, includes cash prizes for costumes and a $100,000 giveaway, with 100 students — 50 men and 50 women — winning $1,000 each. For details, visit www.sandiego.edu/plaza.

[etc.]

USD approved changes to the general education curriculum, known now as the core curriculum, in Spring 2005. The changes, which will be reflected in the Undergraduate Bulletin course catalog this semester, will take effect in the 2006-07 academic year. The General Education Review Committee report outlined four changes. The first was changing the name “general education” to “core curriculum,” as well as changing the name of categories within curriculum. Other changes are as follows: to limit the number of courses applicable to the core curriculum; move the second language requirement from its current general education category to the indispensable competencies category; and to create a new diversity requirement.

Planning for the Joan B. Kroc School of Peace Studies kicks into high gear this fall with the launch of a nationwide search for the founding dean. The school, funded by a $50 million gift from the late philanthropist Joan B. Kroc, will open in January 2007. In the meantime, the new dean will be responsible for hiring faculty and shaping the curriculum.

Alumni Relations for years, serving as chair of both his 10-year reunion in 2002 and as chair of Homecoming last year. “There’s something about giving back to the university that’s appealing,” he says. “That’s why so many people volunteer their time.”

Lewis says that the main focus of his term will be increasing the board’s visibility. “We want to improve alumni participation throughout the country. Whether it’s alums attending events, making donations, or serving on the board, the more people, the better.”

Senior Jordan Freitas is the incoming Associated Students 2005-06 president. Freitas, last year’s vice president of programming, has also been active in the orientation team, University Ministry and the overnight program, in which the admissions office brings incoming freshmen to campus for a weekend.

USD’s “University Of” commercial, the 30-second spot that aired during the 2004 Summer Olympics, won a gold medal in the Council for Advancement and Support of Education’s 2005 Circle of Excellence Awards. The spot brought national attention to the school, and focused on a traditional university icon, the sweatshirt, and a group of words derived from USD’s core values.

Get the inside scoop on Toreros news, schedules, stats and scores at USD’s athletics Web site, www.usdторeros.com.
[shifting gears]

ALL THE RIGHT MOVES

by Michael R. Haskins

Take a good look at the two guys grabbing passes for the Toreros. It’s hard to imagine another pair of college receivers looking more natural as they run complicated routes, haul in tough catches and score touchdowns. You’d never guess that in high school one was a quarterback and the other was a soccer player.

Implausible as it seems, it’s the truth. Adam Hannula, who is second on USD’s all-time list in career receptions, total yards and touchdowns, was an exceptional high school quarterback recruited to throw the ball for the Toreros, not catch it. His counterpart, Nick Garton, was a lifelong soccer player who gave football a shot in high school and got hooked on the game. Both seniors are savvy enough to know that versatility is crucial to success at football — so when it came time to change jobs, they weren’t caught off guard.

Hannula showed up at Alcalá Park in 2001, fresh off an MVP season at Bellarmine Prep in Tacoma, Wash., where he threw for 1,750 yards and 17 touchdowns. Very impressive, but his competition was Eric Rasmussen, who earned the quarterback slot and went on to be one of the best quarterbacks in USD history. Rather than take a back seat, Hannula adapted. Five Torero receivers had graduated, and the coaches thought Hannula had the moves to take on that position. So he did.

“I like challenges, so I went at it with my all,” says Hannula, who also played basketball for USD as a freshman walk-on. “At first I felt like a quarterback playing receiver, but by the end of the first season I was a receiver playing receiver.”

Garton can relate to that fish-out-of-water feeling. A fanatical soccer player who tried football on a whim, he sometimes had to remember which sport he was playing and shake himself out of the instinct to throw a tackle at an opposing soccer player. But he says that his soccer skills and training make him better on the gridiron.

“I’m not the strongest guy on the team, but I can run the farthest,” says Garton, who does double time on the field as a defensive back and one of the Pioneer Football League’s top return specialists. “Soccer helped me with that all-around athleticism and endurance that’s important in any sport.”

Garton and Hannula’s flexibility might help the Toreros nail down a championship. After three straight seasons of finishing one victory shy of going to the PFL championship game, the two seniors knew something had to change. Rather than going home for the summer, they set an example by sticking around San Diego to train for the past three months. They were joined by more than 50 other players.

“For both Nick and I, and for a lot of other guys, this was our first summer staying in San Diego,” Hannula says, “and I think this is the strongest and most prepared we’ve ever been at the beginning of a season.”

The duo also attributes their readiness to yet another change — new head coach Jim Harbaugh. In 2004, his first season with the Toreros, the former NFL star and quarterbacks coach for the Oakland Raiders introduced what Hannula and Garton both call an “NFL mentality” — stricter practices, higher expectations and a deeper commitment to the fine points of the game.

“The feeling we have is that every second we waste, the other team can be using that time to get better,” Garton says. “This year we’ve used all of our time productively, because we know that’s what we need to do to get a PFL championship.”

If that’s true, then change surely is a good thing.
[first person]

NET WORK
SETTING THE COURSE FOR VICTORY

Lindsey Sherburne is at the top of her game. Single out last year by an opposing volleyball coach as the “heart and soul” of the Toreros, the senior setter is USD’s all-time leader in assists, and is on track to become the West Coast Conference’s all-time leader in that category. A First Team All-WCC selection last year, Sherburne anchored a squad that notched a perfect 14-0 WCC record and became the first team in USD history to reach the final 16 of an NCAA Tournament.

“ON HOSTING THE FIRST TWO ROUNDS OF THE NCAA CHAMPIONSHIP AT USD It was amazing to have the home court advantage for the first time, and to play in front of the best and most enthusiastic fans I’ve ever experienced at USD. For years we’ve been ranked in the top 25, but what was most exciting about last season was that we finally rose to the occasion in our tournament appearance and proved we can compete with the best teams in the nation.

ON THE ROLE OF THE SETTER As a setter, my role is to run the offense by instructing attackers what to hit each play and delivering the set to the best place to get a kill and capitalize on the other team’s weaknesses.

ON LIFE AWAY FROM VOLLEYBALL In my spare time, I love going to the beach and hanging out with my friends and family, traveling whenever possible, taking pictures and scrapbooking.

ON HER FAVORITE CLASS My best class was The Biology of Exercise, because we incorporated working out with increased knowledge about the body, health and nutrition, which are all of great interest to me.

ON EXPECTATIONS FOR THE UPCOMING SEASON It’s my final season, so I have extremely high hopes and expectations and want to achieve even more than what we’ve done over the past three years. Another WCC title and successful tournament appearance are definitely part of our plan!

ON THE BEST CAMPUS SPOT La Paloma, for an egg and cheese bagel with my friends before class on Tuesday and Thursday mornings.

ON THE FUTURE If the opportunity presents itself, I’d love to play professionally in Europe and attend graduate school before settling down. I’m interested in law and real estate, but ideally would like to start my own company in order to manage myself and enjoy what I do.

[game plan]

TIME FOR A TURNAROUND After back-to-back losing seasons, the women’s basketball team needed someone skilled in the art of the turnaround. Cindy Fisher, who this fall takes over at the helm of the Toreros, is the perfect fit. Fisher most recently helped pave the way to consecutive Women’s National Invitational Tournament appearances as an assistant coach at the University of Nebraska, and in five seasons at the University of Wyoming she built a winning program, on and off the court. In 2002-03, Fisher’s Wyoming squad finished 18-12 and set a Mountain West Conference record with 11 Academic All-Conference selections. She aims to do the same at USD, saying that her vision for the Toreros is “to win championships.”
Emotions and memories tend to bubble to the surface when people reminisce about their college years. For many, those halcyon days were the foundation upon which an entire lifetime has been built. With Homecoming and Reunions weekend approaching this Oct. 7-9 (the latter for those whose classes end in zeroes and fives), we quizzed reunion class chairs and volunteers about their fondest remembrances of years past.

“I was a high school dropout who was allowed into USD on strict probation. Dean Irving Parker was the one person who had faith in me, and he really made me tow the line. I got two F’s the first semester and he said, ‘That’s it, Mr. Bowman. You have one more chance.’ Next semester I got A’s and B’s. All my professors had a real impact on my life; I taught English for 38 years, and they were my inspiration. I love the school. I’m very loyal to it and I always will be.”

— John Bowman ’60

“Back when I was a freshman in 1961, Bishop Buddy would wave to us, and it was just so special. In those days, it was still women on one side of the street and men on the other, but we had lots of mixers. I especially recall the Ball d’Fleur, the huge ball that the women’s college put on; it was spectacular. I always look forward to reunions, and I go to all of them. It doesn’t seem possible that it’s been five years since the last one.”

— Maureen Buckley ’65

“As class agent for a number of years, I’m practically required to go to the reunions. I’d encourage my classmates to come, not just to reconnect with old friends but to check in with old acquaintances.
So much has changed with the university that it’s always worth a visit; there’s so much new to see. Plus what’s not to love about visiting San Diego?”

— Rosemary (Masterson) Johnston ’70

“I go to all the reunions. I love them. College was such an important time in my life, and it’s really nice to reconnect with people. My favorite was my five year reunion in 1990. I was a Political Science major, and the Berlin Wall had just fallen. It was so interesting to talk to PolSci professors at such a pivotal moment in history.”

— Heather (Lampron) Garganus ’85

“I’m looking forward to seeing my old friends; there are so many people I haven’t seen in such a long time. The military has moved my family all over, from Japan to Nevada to the East Coast, and now I can’t wait to see the changes to the campus. Believe it or not, one of my fondest memories of USD is getting chicken pox during freshman year. I was living on campus and the entire building took care of me. They’d bring me food, my homework, whatever I needed.”

— Julie Ann (Pineda) Ripley ’90

And who were you?

At the kickoff for last year’s Homecoming festivities, alumni gathered beneath twinkling lights in the courtyard of the then brand new Degheri Alumni Center to reminisce about their college days.

“Even though I live in San Diego, I rarely, if ever, get to USD. I’m really looking forward to the reunion; so many people were a big part of my life in college. I’m hoping those people will be there so I can see how everyone’s doing.”

— Eric Ludwig ’95

“If you can’t come to the campus, let the campus come to you. That’s the idea behind USD’s national tour, which kicked off in January in Washington, D.C. All year, events have been held across the country, each designed to bring alumni and parents together for fun, socializing and mingling with one another and with USD administration and staff.

The national tour is part of USD’s regional outreach efforts, which have inspired new regional alumni chapters throughout the country. Event standouts have included a Washington, D.C. happy hour in late April, a social networking evening for Nevada residents in early June, a day at the Getty Museum in Los Angeles in mid-June, and an evening dinner event celebrating fine art at the Pageant of the Masters in Orange County in late July. A Sept. 24 event is planned in New Jersey for East Coast regional chapters, when the Toreros take on Princeton’s football team.

“It’s always great to get together with members of the USD community,” says Jack Kelly, senior director of alumni relations. “No matter where they live now, they’re still connected emotionally to the campus.”

Upcoming national tour events are scheduled for Oct. 26 in Los Angeles, Oct. 27 in Orange County and Nov. 15 in Chicago.

To learn more, go to www.sandiego.edu/alumni/alumnirelations and click on “regional.”

[alumni benefit]

Longing for lush greenery and an up-close look at million-dollar yachts? Then you’re ready for a stay at Humphrey’s Half Moon Inn and Suites, minutes away from campus on Shelter Island. Through a new partnership with Bartell Hotels — owned by Richard Bartell ’75 (J.D.) — alumni and friends of USD can get special rates on hotel reservations with any San Diego Bartell hotel. A portion of each room’s total cost will be donated to the university’s student scholarship fund.

For a complete list of benefits available to USD alumni, go to www.sandiego.edu/alumni/alumnirelations or call (800) 345-9995.
[love story]

SOMETHING GREATER TAKES OVER

When Jennifer Schelter ’94 (M.F.A.) conducted an orchestra at the foot of the steps of the Philadelphia Art Museum, her instruments responded en masse.

I loved her because she never demanded you do anything special or outstanding. I loved that you could always find malted milk tablets in the glove compartment of her Volvo. When she would say, “Let’s go to the market for fish,” that was the world, being with her and going for fish.

And it was enough. Enough to be at the dinner table eating bluefish and talking about how you went swimming that day.

“Oh, how lovely,” she’d respond, and mean it.

I loved that she sat at the head of the dinner table, listening with her eyes wide and a red lipstick smile. She did daily things on a timetable and got her hair set the same way and kept the same cleaning lady and gardener for years.

I loved her because she’d write letters to me in college and say things like, “Focus on you. Put the guys on the back burner.”

I’m thinking about her this morning, as I stand below the steps of the Philadelphia Art Museum, about to lead hundreds in a yoga session. Thanks to my Madonna head-mike, my voice carries all the way to the top step, where Rocky strutted his stuff.

“I am here because I believe in living beyond breast cancer, and I believe in the women I have come to know intimately who have survived,” I say, my voice echoing. “I dedicate this day to my grandmother, Kathleen Converse, who suffered from breast cancer in the ’60s and ’70s. She had enormous courage and she inspired me with her love.

I dedicate this day to her.”

Salvador Dali’s face is painted on the steps in red, black and white in celebration of an exhibit. Now the surrealist and his swirling greased mustache are covered by yoga mats. Men and women pay homage to their own survival, or the memory of loved ones, or simply their passion for yoga. Even though it threatened to rain, they’re here, early this Sunday morning.

So we begin, and I realize I’m not in charge. Yes, my voice leads, but something greater takes over. I call it my Inner Ray Charles. I close my eyes, I think I know why singers close their eyes; it’s to stay present, to feel each word as it arrives. I say, “Let’s begin with Om.”

I think back to how this began, and am amazed that my idea and vision have become reality. I was practicing yoga one hot afternoon in June by myself on the art museum steps. The spray from the fountains wafted by on the breeze. I was worried about something, probably whether I had enough money or whether my boyfriend was faithful, and then — in Warrior II pose, a deep lunge face forward, as my right arm pointed down the flag-lined Parkway, left arm back toward the museum — I took deeper breaths, drank in the incredible skyline, watched people and clouds drift. I suddenly felt calm, connected to the city, my body, the sky.

“I have got to share this with as many people as possible,” I thought. “How fantastic. I will.”

And in the next breath, “Damn. Now I’ve got to carry through.” Inspiration is nice. Action is real.

The crowd Om’s, and sounds like bees in a hive. Yoga is like that; a group of bees being led one by one, all working toward the same end, to create a hive, a body that sustains with energy, with vitality. The honey is the communal juice, the pure intention to be part of something greater than oneself.

And as I stand here, conducting the class, I know I’m not leading it at all. I’m the conduit to some Higher Power. I’m like a conductor leading an orchestra, but the symphony is in each person. The grace comes when we breathe and relax long enough to receive it.

The sun comes out. Clouds break and swirl like dance partners. Hundreds of arms reach to the sky. I feel my grandmother. I hear her voice: “You didn’t have to do this for me. You didn’t have to go and make such a fuss. But I’m honored you did. I love you.”

Reaching toward the sun, I answer with my body.

“I love you too.”

Jennifer Schelter ’94 (M.F.A.) is the founder and creative director of the Yoga Schelter studio in Philadelphia, and leads the annual Yoga Unites for Living Beyond Breast Cancer event on the Philadelphia Art Museum steps. For information or to purchase her new DVD, go to www.yogaschelter.com.

To share your “Point of View,” contact Julene Snyder for guidelines at (619) 260-4684 or e-mail julene@sandiego.edu.
Daniel Akech James comes from a world where death knocks on everyone’s door.

by krystn shrieve
photography
by tim mantoani
Daniel Akech James sits at a desk. He is twelve million, nine hundred, four thousand, nine hundred, sixty-eight feet from home. The year is 2005. He writes in black ballpoint ink on a yellow legal pad, the top page filled with his careful handwriting. He wears razor-creased brown slacks and a button-down light blue Oxford shirt. His sleek skin is so black it’s almost blue. His lips move slightly as he reads the words that both tell the story of his past and determine the course of his future.

Daniel is a senior at the University of San Diego. He’s writing a personal statement, the first of many official documents he must complete to enter graduate school. It’s the story of how he came from Sudan, the largest country in Africa, and was one of thousands of children, mostly boys, who survived its civil war and walked for years before reaching neighboring Kenya and eventually coming to America. They are known to the world as the Lost Boys of Sudan.

Daniel is lost in more ways than one. He has no birthday. Akech, the name he was given at birth, means one who came into the world without a parent. As a boy, he lived without the protection of parents for nearly a decade as he wandered the desert and took refuge in a foreign land. He can’t remember some things. Other things he wishes he could forget.

Daniel lays down his pen and glances out the window. He hears children playing at the preschool only steps outside his east campus dorm room. Their gleeful noise reminds him that despite the horrors he survived, he has one happy memory. That memory, still vivid, offers insight into his passion for learning. The passion kept him going when he thought he could go no farther.

It’s 1987. At an age when the typical American kid is choosing a kindergarten lunchbox, Daniel sits outside his hut. He picks at blades of grass and scans the countryside. His job is to tend to the goats. Although he never says it out loud, in his heart he wishes he were older so he could go to school like his brother, Gak.

He’s starting to get bored when he sees Gak returning from school, books tucked under his arm. A huge smile spreads across Daniel’s face. He scrambles up and runs to his brother. He begs Gak to let him look at the schoolbooks. Flipping through them, he’s fascinated by the colorful pictures and strange words. In a singsong voice, he recites phrases he memorized after hearing his brother say them — A is for apple. One plus one is two. His tribe speaks a language called Dinka, but he’s thrilled to hear the funny English words come out of his mouth.

Sudan, which borders the Red Sea between Egypt and Eritrea, is in the middle of a civil war. The mostly Christian southern half of the country, where Daniel lives in a village called Maar, is pitted against the Arabs from the north.

Daniel’s best guess is that he’s about 5 years old. All he knows about the war is that his mother says he was born at the time the war first broke out.

One day, the war reaches his village. Daniel hears screaming. Billowing smoke blackens the sky over nearby villages. People run past him, their faces filled with fear. They say only one thing: The enemy is coming. The boy doesn’t know what to do. Oldest brother Diing grabs his arm and runs, half dragging him, toward the bush, a nearby forest of acacia trees. Daniel and his brother spend the night there. He hears gunshots and screaming. He sees flames. He prays. The enemy doesn’t venture into the bush. Daniel and his brother survive.

When all is quiet, the boys creep out and make their way back to the village. Daniel sees his mother and runs to her, arms outstretched. She holds him. She rocks him. His sobs subside.

Daniel’s entire family survives. His mother, Aluel, is a Christian, active in her church. When he turned 4, she had him baptized and gave him the name Daniel. His father is Thiong. A career soldier, Thiong fights in the Sudanese People’s Liberation Army — because he has no choice and because he believes that the lives of innocent people must be protected. Daniel is the fourth of his mother’s six children. She is the first of his father’s three wives.

Together again, the family sifts through the debris of what had been their home. Daniel, digging with bare hands, finds his wooden cross. As he pulls it from the ashes, he remembers the day the 3-foot-long cross, with hand-carved points and a single nail in the center, saved his life.
It happened when Daniel was about 3 or 4. Sunday service had just ended. He and the parish priest, Simon Bul, were walking through the thick grasses surrounding the church. Suddenly a red cobra raised its head and flared its hood. Daniel froze. The snake struck. Thwack! The priest bashed the snake over the head with the cross. The cross snapped. The bottom half landed next to the lifeless serpent. Father Simon gave the priest bashed the snake over the head with the cross. The cross snapped. The enemy hears the sound of the cross. Daniel eats the handful of grains she finds. The enemy has stolen his sister. Carrying some of the children, his mother and Daniel and Angeth hide in the bush. When the sun rises, Daniel and Angeth hide in the bush. When the moon rises, they walk. Every day, with cross in hand, Daniel prays for protection from the enemy, for the safety of his family and for food. Daniel eats leaves and grass until eventually, there is no food. The only water is the dew that collects on the grass at night. He swipes at the grass with his palm and licks at what trickles down. It barely moistens his parched lips. At one point, Daniel goes three days without food. The pain, which on the first and second days stabs at his belly, dulls on the third day, a dangerous sign. He’s dying. His sister knows it. The sun is up and Daniel sleeps. His sister, who knows it’s not wise to build a fire, rubs two sticks together and fans a tiny flame. She must feed her brother. On a rock she pounds the handful of grains she finds. The enemy hears the sound of rock against rock.

Daniel wakes to the sounds of gunshots and screams. He knows even before the others tell him. The enemy has stolen his sister.

### IT’S 1992, FIVE YEARS SINCE DANIEL FIRST FLED HIS VILLAGE.
He’s probably about 10, he doesn’t know for sure. He and the thousands of children he sees along the way have walked countless miles. Sand storms feel like pins in their eyes. The desert sun sizzles at 120 degrees during the day. Temperatures plummet to 45 degrees at night. Daniel wears short pants and a thin shirt. His only other possession is the wooden cross he carries in his hand. His feet are bare. The desert floor grates at the calluses on Daniel’s feet. Calluses turn into blisters. Blisters give way to open sores. Eventually the flesh falls off altogether. Still he walks.

Just when he thinks he can’t take another step, Daniel sees help. It’s a Red Cross camp. Red Cross workers tend to his feet. They give him porridge. For a while, at least, he doesn’t worry about where to find food and water.

But Daniel and the other children can’t stay. They must make room for the throngs of others. Their feet are bandaged, their bellies are filled and they move on. Daniel stops briefly at four of these makeshift camps in Southern Sudan between 1992 and 1999.

### IN MARCH OF 1999, EXHAUSTED AND DRAGGING,
Daniel finally limps toward the Kakuma Refugee Camp in Kenya. He and the others are herded into the camp. It’s then that the world starts counting the lost boys — 5,000, 10,000, 20,000. Soon after Daniel arrives, an older boy approaches him, asking him questions about his family. Daniel doesn’t recognize him at first. It’s his older brother, Diing.

Daniel is 17, and his longing for school is reignited. Diing has a plan. He tells Daniel to go into second grade. Daniel will do well, progress quickly, earn the coveted eighth-grade scholarship and go on to Kenyan high school.

Eager, Daniel enters second grade. The other children, young and innocent, laugh when they see this tall boy, almost a man, sitting dutifully at his small desk. At the end of the day, Daniel asks the teacher to give him a test so he can move to third grade. In a matter of weeks, he takes tests to get through third and fourth grade.

The semester is over, and when classes start up again Daniel goes to another school in a different part of the camp. He tells teachers he’s already been in fifth grade. So Daniel finds himself in sixth grade. Everything is fine until one day in math class the teacher mentions fractions. Daniel only knows about whole numbers. He should’ve learned about fractions in the fourth grade. Maybe he would have if he’d been there for more than a few days. The jig is up. The principal calls him into the office and cautions Daniel to slow down.

As the ‘90s draw to a close, Daniel becomes fluent in English while hopscotching from classroom to classroom. The United States government starts taking photos of the boys. It’s the first step in a two-year process to bring many of them to America.

Daniel knows that education is his ticket to a better life. All the lost boys know it. It becomes their motto: Education is my mother and my father. In 2000, Daniel takes his time and spends the whole year in seventh grade. In 2001 he finishes eighth grade and passes the grueling exams.

But Daniel still has another test to pass, the one given by the United States Immigration and Naturalization Service. Daniel sits in a room across from a man with a neatly groomed beard. The man asks him questions involving times and dates — complicated, since the Sudanese don’t measure time the way the Western world does. After all, Daniel doesn’t even know his birthday. He knows only what his mother had told him: that he was born when the war broke out. The way his villagers see it, that could have been any time between 1980 and 1984.

The United States assigns all the lost boys a universal birthday: Jan. 1. The year depends on each child’s size. Daniel’s running tally over the years puts him at 17. He must be tall for his age. The government assigns him the birth year 1980, which instantly makes him 21. Classified as an adult, he undergoes a more rigorous INS interview process.
So Daniel looks the bearded man in the eye and answers all his questions. When the interview is over the man, and the boy who with a stroke of a pen became a man, shake hands. Weeks later, Daniel receives the coveted envelope decorated with the United States seal. He’s going to America.

† † †

IT’S MAY 27, 2001. A plane circles over the refugee camp. Daniel thinks it looks like an angel from God. It will take him to America, where he hears there’s no war. He can’t imagine a place without war. Tears stream down his cheeks as he waves goodbye to Diing and the others who gather to say their final farewells. Four days later, Daniel looks out the window and sees the lights below. It is New York. It is America.

In the airport, people wave signs that say, “Welcome Lost Boys!” The boys are whisked off to a restaurant and then a hotel. Daniel and his roommates, Santino, Duom and Majok, marvel at the wonder of electricity. They flip the light switch on and off. They jump on the beds. They laugh about the taste of airplane food and wonder why Americans complain about being so fat when their food is so terrible.

Eventually, Daniel, Santino, Duom and Majok arrive in San Diego, one of several U.S. cities with organizations dedicated to hosting lost boys. They’re greeted by Joseph Jok of the International Rescue Committee. Jok, also from Sudan, came to the United States in 1998 from Kongor, a village not far from Daniel’s. Jok takes them to their two-bedroom apartment on Kansas Street in San Diego’s Normal Heights neighborhood, then to the bank where he gives them each $100. The highlight is a trip to K-mart, where they gawk with wonder. Daniel picks out two shirts and two pairs of pants. At the grocery store, they buy beef, rice, beans, milk and Apple Jacks.

With Jok’s help, Daniel finds a job working for $6.25 an hour as a “dish catcher” at a restaurant at Sea World. He rides the bus two hours there and two hours back. While the bus starts and stops — University and 30th, University and Park, Pacific Highway and Washington — Daniel reads the books he’s been given to pass the GED. He comes home, eats dinner, retires to bed and reads until his brain hurts. Jok rushas Daniel to the hospital for an MRI. Doctors warn him not to read all night. Sleep at least once in a while, they say. After only a week in the United States, Daniel passes the GED and becomes the first lost boy in San Diego to graduate from high school.

After time at a community college, Daniel meets Cynthia Villis, an IRC board member and an administrator in the USD provost’s office. He tells Villis he wants to go to a university where he can talk to professors whenever he wants, and where he can learn to become a professor himself. Villis is waiting to hear about a grant to start a program called McNair Scholars for students like Daniel — first-generation, low-income students who want to teach college. In the meantime, she helps him navigate his way through admissions and financial aid. In Fall 2003, Daniel is admitted to USD. In Spring 2004, Villis launches the McNair Scholars program.

Daniel majors in math and theology. He chose math because the man who speaks five languages — Dinka and Nuer, which are two tribal languages, Swahili, the most common language in Kenya, Arabic and now English — is fascinated by what he thinks of as a universal language. He chose theology to honor God, whom he believes walks with him every step of the way. Daniel moves into USD’s newest residence hall, Manchester Village, in a sparsely decorated apartment where the wooden cross he’s carried all these years sits on his desk. He lives with one roommate, but spends most of his free time at his old apartment in Normal Heights playing chess, Dominoes and Scrabble with Santino, Duom and Majok. They avoid talking about the past. Sometimes he’s lonely. Often he misses his family, but he says they’re happy knowing he’s safe in America.

Daniel starts writing an English-Dinka dictionary. He checks in regularly with Christine Mullin, director of the McNair Scholars who, like the principal at the refugee camp, gently reminds him that he must take classes in the right order. It’s like fourth-grade fractions all over again. Daniel works with math Professor Cameron Parker researching chaos and fractals, patterns that repeat themselves.

† † †

THIS YEAR, DANIEL WILL TAKE DRIVING LESSONS, continue his research, now on theories about algorithms, and graduate from USD. He hopes his family can come to America for the pomp and circumstance. His mother lives in their old village with sisters Akon and Alek. His father, with whom he spoke on the phone in December 2004, still fights for the SPLA. His brother, Gak, attends boarding school in Kenya. Diing, whom Daniel e-mails regularly, travels back and forth between Kenya and Sudan. Angeth’s captors released her. She returned to the village in 1999 and is married with two children.

Though Daniel’s status as a refugee in the United States means he’s not allowed to ever again live in Sudan, he longs to visit. He aches to see his family. He hopes to return to the refugee camp in Kenya to teach other lost boys how to prepare for their INS interviews and life in the United States. Teaching is in his heart. So Daniel, who was a second-grader only six years ago, focuses on the next step in his education: graduate school. And he’s aiming high. He plans to apply to the University of California, Berkeley. He wants to be a college professor. Education changed his life. He wants to change the lives of others.

Daniel stops writing. He thinks back to the little boy who tended goats and dreamed of going to school. His dream came true. Daniel reads the words he’s been writing. He scrutinizes the last paragraph.

“I am a child without a childhood, a child who grew up speaking many languages,” he reads. “I grew up without my mom and dad’s supervision, yet I’m psychologically and morally OK. Where I’m from, death is known as a mighty journey to some other places. Where I’m from, death has knocked on everyone’s door.”
The grand experiment that USD Magazine launched last fall — to follow five students through their college careers — is well under way. In this second installment of our annual check-in on their lives, we’ve learned that no two 19-year-olds are created equal. One of them goes non-stop all day and considers it a luxury to have two free hours to watch a movie. One is already resigned to never having a 4.0 GPA. One is working to overcome dyslexia and test anxiety. One still asks permission from parents to socialize and goes home every other weekend. One needs to work out every day or risk insomnia.

If there’s a constant thus far, it’s that the five of them — Brianne Butler, Carmen Gonzalez, Kendra Hoffman-Curry, Marco Martinez and Matt Rutz — are as confident as they are insecure.

In a word, they’re sophomores. Their commonalities will be familiar to any college alum: friendships made and broken; good times sought, found and occasionally regretted; early morning classes, late-night heart-to-hearts and challenges that rise up with the regularity of pop quizzes. How they react to the latter should prove instructive to anyone who’s ever grumped about “these kids today”: The shared traits of these five students — boundless energy, unquenchable optimism and wholehearted sincerity — are downright inspiring.

So take a moment to reintroduce yourself to these members of the Class of 2008. While it may be hard to believe an entire year has passed since we first met them, for our quintet of second-years, the time has zoomed by in a dizzying blur.
It’s hard to imagine Kendra Hoffman-Curry as being anything other than supremely self-possessed. Eloquent, fashionable and down-to-earth, Hoffman-Curry shudders when she recalls her first few weeks as a freshman. “When I came here, I was worried that I’d walk into the wrong class. It’s pretty terrifying getting used to everything,” she recalls. “But now getting around is a whiz. It’s funny how fast that changes.”

Beyond learning the ropes, she had some academic challenges to overcome. “First semester I had a hard time adjusting,” she admits. “I have dyslexia, test anxiety and ADD.” But by April, she was able to obtain the necessary documentation that allowed her concessions such as not being graded on spelling, and taking tests and finals separately from other students.


“When I was a little kid, I’d always get 100 percent for science on those standardized tests,” the square-jawed Rutz recalls. “When I took the ACT, I didn’t study and I didn’t do any test preps — and my science score was 31 out of 36.”

Although seemingly prepared for collegiate life, in some ways Rutz was caught unaware. “In high school you didn’t have finals junior or senior year if you had 100 percent attendance,” he recalls. “So when I came here, I was really scared of finals. But I prepared for the worst and hoped for the best.” He takes a breath and smiles. “It worked out fine.”

Now he’s charging full-speed ahead up the pre-med path and intends to wind up as a physician for the NFL or an orthopedic surgeon. “Anything with sports, I love the physiology of the human body.”

Rutz has come a long way in a year. As a campus newbie, he had to call his mom long-distance to get the lowdown on whether one should wash whites in cold or hot water. But now he’s got it down. “I am awesome at laundry,” he says with pride. “I also cook.”

Though it irks him that he was unaware that an “A-minus” counts for less in his GPA than an “A,” and he wound up with a 3.76 for his first semester, Rutz’s long term goals are solid. “Medical schools don’t look at pluses and minuses. So in their eyes, at least, I still have a 4.0.” Still, it rankles. “My high school GPA was 5.18.” He shrugs, trying to let it go.

This is a young man who most definitely knows what he wants. Although he ran cross country in high school, he opted not to go out for the team at USD. “Science majors have to work really hard to keep the grades up,” he says. “Running cross country won’t make me $100,000 a year, but academics will.”

Still, there’s time for fun, at least on the weekends. “During the week, I wake up, go to the gym and go to class,” Rutz explains. “I can’t risk going out at night and not being able to function the next day.”

But when the stress piles up, he’s ready to hit the road with his friends and blow off some steam. That’s when he and the guys go camping, head to the beach, go
Hoffman-Curry points to joining her sorority, Gamma Phi Beta, as the highlight of her year. “As a freshman, it’s hard to meet upper classmen, but I’ve met so many girls,” she says, laughing. “It’s an opportunity to meet a lot of people so you can make friends.”

Her pragmatism is refreshing. “This year the focus was on getting good grades and realizing I needed to be comfortable in this new life,” she says. “It was an assimilation process.”

Now that she’s adapted to campus life, Hoffman-Curry vows to keep it real: “I don’t want to lose sight of what’s important and get too wrapped up in fun.”

Toward that end, she got involved in the Just Cause club, which aims to make sure that corporations USD partners with have fair working practices. She also worked retail for several months, and juggled two part-time jobs this summer: inputting checks for one company and delivering dogs for her mom’s pet grooming business.

No biggie. “Hey, I have a single mom who owns her own business. I need to show her how much I appreciate and respect the fact that she sent me here.”

snorkeling, whatever. It was on one of those forays into the outside world that he got an up-close look at what his chosen career might entail when he witnessed a car accident.

“This woman’s wrist was split to the bone from the wrist to the elbow. Even though I’d never seen an open wound, it didn’t make me queasy,” he says. Luckily, a passing doctor helped take care of the victim until an ambulance arrived. Rutz did what he could to help out and came away more sure than ever that he’s on the right path.

“Nothing freaked me out,” he recalls with a smile. “I was solid.”
There’s something so genuinely nice about Brianne Butler that you can’t help but return her dazzling smile when she aims it your way. That’s a quality that will come in handy when she serves as Resident Assistant (RA) to a group of freshman girls this year, a challenge that makes her near-giddy to contemplate.

“I’ll help them get into the swing of things when they miss home,” she says, flashing that million-dollar grin. As far as her own feelings, Brianne overcame bouts of homesickness during freshman year the old-fashioned way: by hopping on a plane for a visit every chance she got.

“First semester, I went home so often it was just ridiculous,” she confesses. “But I cut it down quite a bit. Of course, now, being an RA, I won’t be able to go back as much.” For a moment, the smile fades. “I was really surprised, because I didn’t think it would be such an issue. I mean, I love it at USD.”

Given the Washington native’s hardcore work ethic, it’s a wonder she found time to be homesick. What with carrying 18 units last semester, serving as executive liaison for the Residence Hall Association and working 15 hours a week, there wasn’t much time for frivolity.

“I go non-stop all day, nine-to-five,” she sighs. “Once I get to my room, it’s all about homework.” If Butler has a vice, it’s not lolligagging at the beach (“I don’t have a car”), slacking off (“This year the focus is on academics”), or being scatterbrained (“I’m really planning for the future; I even have a 10-year plan”). Instead, she indulges herself in another way: “Buying plane tickets is a bad habit of mine,” she confesses. “I’ve just got to cut back.”

If the word “wise” doesn’t come to mind when you think of a 19-year-old, that’s because you haven’t met Carmen Gonzalez.

“When I first got here, I was worried about finding people with the same thoughts as me,” she recalls, eyes direct. But those worries proved groundless. Now, she’s got wisdom of her own to impart: “I’ve been hosting students for the admissions office,” Gonzalez says, explaining that she volunteered for the task, which allows prospective students to shadow a current USD freshman and find out what campus life is really like. “I’ve been telling them to be careful. Some people come here wanting to change the world, but instead they’re changing themselves.”

Tough stuff, but this past year pushed Gonzalez outside her comfort zones.

“My ‘Music for Educators’ class was great,” she says. “It’s always been hard for me to talk in front of others, and now I can actually perform. I even learned how to play the piano.” At first, she
thought she might be in the wrong class. After all, having grown up in the village of Ahualulco, in Jalisco, Mexico, “The Itsy Bitsy Spider” didn’t exactly resonate. But now she’s comfortable, not just with American pop culture, but with putting herself out there.

“I didn’t like participating,” she recalls. “I was too shy to raise my hand. Now, well, I know I have to.” And finally getting a hard-won ‘A’ in one class helped increase her self-confidence: “Sometimes you think you’re putting out an effort, but you really have to do more.”

One experience that stood out during her freshman year was a visit to a Tijuana orphanage. “We played, read and told stories,” she recalls. “Then we ate lunch and then it was time to leave. One of the little girls came and held my hand, and said, ‘Take me in your car.’ She pauses, collecting herself. “I couldn’t think of any words to make her understand. But I just wanted to cry so bad.”

While that experience reinforced Gonzalez’ determination to teach, in some ways it’s made her rethink her goals. “Before, money wasn’t an issue,” she says. “I mean, I still want to teach. But I want to make sure that my income is enough to help my dad out. I have two little brothers and I really want them to go to college. I want them to experience what I did.”

Not that her college experience — at least thus far — includes much carousing. “Actually, I still ask my parents before I go out,” she confesses with a laugh.

There’s no limit to the heights Marco Martinez intends to reach. When he nailed a 3.8 GPA his first semester, he took it as incentive to aim higher. When he wanted to get involved on campus, he ran for — and was elected as — one of two Associated Students freshman senators.

To win that position, he had to do some legwork. “I went around to all of the freshmen residential areas and introduced myself to pretty much the whole freshman class,” he recalls. “It took a lot of time, but it was a lot of fun. The best part of the whole job is how many people I’ve gotten to know,” he says, flashing a grin. “I’ll be working with the organizations around campus, to get them together to do events.”

Martinez’ sunny disposition hasn’t dampened a bit in the past year. He loved living in a triple in Maher Hall (“The best part is getting to know all the people on my floor”), but he’s just as excited at the prospect of sharing a house with four friends in Pacific Beach this semester (“great guys”) and with the possibility of learning to surf.

But it’s his newfound love for politics that’s made the biggest impact on Martinez. “One quality I developed last year was learning people’s names. Through campaigning, I learned not just their names, but who they were, regardless of whether they were voting for me or not.”

And in the future? “Politics are a definite possibility. It’s a definite way to make a difference in society.” As far as fun goes, Martinez knows he’ll find it wherever he goes. If not, he’ll just make his own. Of course, his idea of fun is hardly bacchanalian.

“I have to work out or play a sport every day,” he confesses, almost sheepish. “Otherwise, I can’t go to sleep at night.”

There’s a vice that even a politician could take pride in.

Go to www.sandiego.edu/usdmag for exclusive Web content related to this story.
THROUGHOUT HIS BASEBALL CAREER, [BRADY CLARK] HAS ALWAYS BEEN THE UNDERDOG, THE GUY WHO NEEDED TO PROVE SOMETHING TO EVERYONE. EXCEPT HIMSELF.
Here is a short but important list of the things Brady Clark ’95 was told he couldn’t do: play Division I college baseball. Play professional baseball. Make it to the major leagues. Be a starter. Wrong, wrong, wrong, wrong, wrong.

For as long as he wanted to be a professional athlete, Clark’s been dismissed by everyone — scouts, sportswriters, analysts, and the all-around know-it-alls who seem to pop up whenever sports are being discussed — as a guy without the tools, or the size, or the speed, or the talent, to be a starter on a major league baseball team.

They all underestimated him.

But proving the critics wrong hasn’t been easy. At every step, Clark has had to prove himself. The breaks have been few, and the setbacks so numerous that at many junctures it would have been easier to give up. But for a guy who’s always been told he can’t, Clark has always been pretty sure — strike that, he’s been absolutely sure — that he can.

IT’S A TUESDAY AFTERNOON AT SAN DIEGO’S PETCO PARK, and the Milwaukee Brewers have the field for practice before the night’s game against the Padres. The sun shines on the fresh grass, the wind breezes through the stadium. The park is quiet, save for some random chatter from the outfield, the occasional crack of the bat and the slap of a ball landing in a glove.

When Brady Clark appears in the visitors dugout, bat in hand, it’s entirely possible to see why, for so many years, he was overlooked by the baseball establishment. A lanky 6-foot-2, 200 pounds, he’s not an imposing figure. At 32, he’s middle-aged for a baseball player, but his youthful face makes it easy to picture him getting carded at a bar. The bat in his hands somehow seems oversized. It doesn’t look like he could use this bat to become one of the top hitters in the National League, which is exactly what he’s done.

In a world full of swagger, Clark is calm and quiet. He doesn’t make much eye contact, preferring to gaze out at center field, as if taking stock of the territory he’ll patrol this evening. In the midst of a breakthrough season as the leadoff hitter for the Brewers, he looks about as far from self-important as the outfield wall looks from home plate.

Clark wears his cap pulled low as he watches his teammates take batting practice. If you described him to a friend, you’d probably start with something like “low-key.” He turns that bat over and over in his hands, as if itching to get out there and take a few cuts.

When Clark does talk, it’s clear why he’s finally has taken his rightful place among the ranks of the top major leaguers. He believes. And his faith in himself is unwavering.
“I never doubted myself, so I was persistent,” says Clark. “My belief in knowing what I was capable of doing kept me going — that and my love of the game.”

Many times, Clark was the only one who believed. He was always athletic, but he never looked much like a stereotypical jock. As a kid, he was into gymnastics, skiing, basketball, football and, of course, baseball. But he always had something to prove.

Case in point: As a sophomore at Sunset High School in Beaverton, Ore., Clark weighed in at an unimpressive 145 and stood 5-foot-7. But he was convinced he had the tools to be the football team’s starting quarterback. Who did this short, skinny kid think he was? But Clark believed. He weeded basketball out of his activities, focused on football and baseball only. And when senior year rolled around, he took the field as the team’s starting quarterback.

THE LESSON CLARK LEARNED FROM FOOTBALL WAS fortuitous when it came to baseball. Although he turned in a solid high school performance on the diamond, Clark was overlooked by the major colleges. That might have been it, had he not been so confident.

“I had the desire to play the game, so I knew I had to find a way,” he says. “At the time, it was something I had to explore, to see how far I could go.”

So in the fall of 1990, Brady and his father, Steve Clark, put together a homemade press kit and sent it to 40 or 50 colleges. A couple of smaller schools in the Northwest offered scholarships, but Clark wanted to be where the climate would allow him to play year-round. Father and son hit the road, and in the midst of their travels, stopped by USD and talked to then-coach John Cunningham.

“All we were asking for was the opportunity for Brady to perform, to show what he could do,” says Steve Clark. “In Brady’s mind, that one chance was all he needed.”

IT WAS WITH DEEP ANTICIPATION AND EXPECTATION THAT CLARK AND HIS FAMILY AWAITED DRAFT DAY. AND THEN, NOTHING.
One chance was all Cunningham was willing to offer.
“Brady and his dad said that he’d come to USD as long as he got an
opportunity to play,” says Cunningham. “I couldn’t promise him playing
time or even a roster spot, but I did promise that he’d get the same
opportunity as anyone else to make the team.”

So Clark came to USD as a non-scholarship, walk-on player. He played
well enough in the fall of 1991 to make the team, and started the season
as a backup. To make money, he did the team’s laundry.

But Cunningham had an unofficial rule about bench players. If they
came in and got a game-winning hit, they’d start the next game. After
spending the first 10 games on the bench, Clark got his chance. He came
in as a pinch hitter and nailed down a Torero victory. True to his word,
Cunningham penciled Clark into the starting lineup for the next game.
He should have used pen, because Clark started every game for the rest
of the season.

The walk-on hopeful went on to start almost every game for the rest of
his time as a Torero. After earning a scholarship spot as a sophomore,
Clark posted an impressive .307 batting average over his four years at USD
and was selected First Team All-West Coast Conference as a senior, when he
lead the team in home runs and RBIs.

All in all, Clark turned in an outstanding college career. When he didn’t
geret drafted by a major league team after his junior year, he shrugged it off.

“Coach Cunningham really stressed the importance of finishing school,”
says Clark, who majored in business. “I liked the idea of that, because it
allowed me to go after my dreams with something to fall back on.”

But those dreams were about to be shattered.

THE RULES OF THE MAJOR LEAGUE BASEBALL DRAFT HAVE
changed over the years, but the basic concept remains the same. Each
June, baseball teams get together on a conference call and, by rounds,
select nearly 1,500 amateur players they may want to sign to professional
contracts. Even among players selected in the very first round, slightly
less than two-thirds ever make it to the majors.

So it was with deep anticipation and expectation that Clark and his
family awaited the June 1995 amateur draft. On draft day, they gathered
to await the phone call letting Brady know which team had picked him.

And then, nothing. The shock, to this day, remains palpable.

“Brady couldn’t believe it when he didn’t get drafted,” says Steve Clark.

“Very disappointed’ hardly begins to describe it. But the confidence he
had in himself was still there.”

Clark was devastated, but unwilling to give up. His choices were to try
signing with a major league team as a free agent — an unlikely scenario —
to play in an independent league, or to give up and go home.

Going home was never an option. Clark joined a semiprofessional team
in the Bay area for a year after graduation, then returned to USD to finish
up a couple of academic requirements. One day, as he helped
Cunningham prep the field, Clark met a scout for the Cincinnati
Reds. Impressed with the young man’s dedication, the scout
invited Clark to a workout in Los Angeles, liked what he
saw and signed him to a contract.

It would be nice to say that good things contin-
ued to happen. But Clark went to spring training
and almost immediately broke his
hand. The team released him
and sent him home to Oregon.

At the memory, Clark flexes
his hands and winces. Had
he not been a free agent, it might have been different.

“The opportunities you’re given as a free agent are not as plentiful
as those given to a high-round draft pick,” says Clark. “You need to do
everything perfectly to move up.”

So Clark went home, where his dad was lucky enough to know an
orthopedic surgeon. After an operation and a summer’s worth of rehabili-
tation, the same scout convinced the Reds to give Clark one more chance.

That was all he needed. Clark quickly made a name for himself in the
minor leagues. He was an all-star in the Class A Midwest League in 1997
and was most valuable player and batting champion in the Class AA
Southern League in 1999. Having shown his capabilities, Clark moved
up to AAA in 2000 and, on Sept. 3 of that year, after seven years in the
minor leagues, stepped onto the field for the first time as a major
league player.

Just six Toreros have ever made it to the majors, and among them
only Clark and John Wathan, who played 10 seasons for the Kansas City
Royals, have had careers of any length. In his first season, Clark played in
a handful of games to finish out the season, and the following year
he split time between the Reds and the minor league club.

But he still had to prove himself. After so many years in the minors,
Clark was pegged strictly as a utility guy, someone reliable to have on
the bench. He bounced between the majors and the minors, and even-
tually was traded to the Mets, who cut him after 2003 spring training.
He was picked up by the Brewers, who also had him in mind for a back-
up role. Through it all, Clark envisioned himself as a starter, and he
knew what it would take to get there.

“There are guys at this level who don’t have to work as hard, because
they’ve got such incredible natural ability,” says Clark, “but guys like me
have to work every day to maximize their abilities.”

When he got to the Brewers, Clark knew he’d found a team that
would appreciate his work ethic. He describes Milwaukee as a blue-
collar environment, where people come in every day, work hard and
do the right things. As a backup at all outfield positions and a pinch
hitter, he appeared in more than 100 games in 2003 and 133 games
last year. When the Brewers traded their regular center fielder, Scott
Podsednik, to the White Sox before this season, it was time for Clark
to prove himself once and for all.

CLARK HAS MANY FOND MEMORIES OF HIS TOREROS
baseball career, but there is one thing he remembers in particular. It’s some-
ting that Coach John Cunningham said to the team almost every day.

“He always told us that we are responsible for ourselves, that we control
what we do, and that we should never look to use someone else to blame
for what happens to us,” says Clark.

This year, those words resonate more than ever. Clark earned the chance
to be the starting center fielder, and leadoff hitter, for the Brewers. At
the beginning of the season, the naysayers were out in full force. They said Clark
was too old to be a starter. They said he wasn’t fast enough to play center
field. They said he’d never cut it as a leadoff hitter. Brady Clark just smiled —
or maybe he was gritting his teeth.

So far, “they” have been dead wrong. In the first half of the season, Clark
posted a .322 batting average and a .994 fielding percentage. So has he
proved himself yet?

Clark smiles, twists the bat in his hand, and stares out at the field.

“I’ve always had to prove I could play at the next level,” he says. “Now I
have to prove that I belong here as an everyday player. At this level, you
have to prove yourself every day.” He gives a little shake of his head.

“But I don’t have a problem with that.”
It helped him work hard without forfeiting fun. It made him a star. It reminded him of his mother. So it's no wonder that even though it also broke his back and limbs, and siphoned every penny he earned, he keeps coming back for more. It's surfing, and Devon Howard '99 can't get enough of it. His mother, a professional surfer in the 1960s, had him in the water at La Jolla Shores from day one. He turned pro at 19 and in 2000 ranked No. 5 in the world. Howard has lived off the surfing industry ever since. Even before he earned his degree in communications, Howard interned for free at Longboard Magazine in San Clemente, Calif., just to be part of the scene. “I covered surfing competitions, took photos and did whatever I was told,” says Howard, whose dark hair is sometimes short, sometimes shaggy, but always a bit bleached from the sun. “When I graduated, they created a position for me as associate editor.” He ended up at the helm of the magazine for five years, covering competitions around the world. He also appeared in independent surfing films such as “Singlefin: Yellow,” which documents the travels of a surfboard and the six surfers, including Howard, who rode it. He also surfed in “Sprout,” the documentary film that lured him from the magazine.
“My friend, Thomas Campbell, was making the movie and traveling to Mexico, New Zealand, Australia and Indonesia,” Howard says. “He invited me along, and I couldn’t pass it up.”

When Campbell ran out of money, Howard, through surfing connections, convinced Converse to kick in $125,000. Converse then hired him to promote the movie on a 44-city tour throughout the United States.

Howard has watched the sport evolve from a compulsion only for beach bums to something that makes everyone a surfer wannabe. Now he plans to ride the wave all the way in to corporate America.

“Surfing is a youth-oriented business and I’ve seen dozens of famous guys hang on too long,” says Howard, 31. “I want to use my passion and knowledge to start my own marketing and public relations company.”

What about surfing?

“I’ll surf until I can’t walk anymore. Even then I’ll have my grandkids push me into the waves on my stomach.”

**1950s**

**[1959]**

THOMAS SHARKEY (J.D.) was a partner and trial lawyer for more than 35 years at McInnis, Fitzgerald, Rees & Sharkey before it merged with Higgs, Fletcher & Mack in 1999. He was of counsel to Higgs, Fletcher & Mack until 2001, at which time he started a solo practice specializing in mediations and arbitrations. During his career, he has been designated a fellow in the American College of Trial Lawyers and an advocate in the American Board of Trial Attorneys. He is also a member of the USD School of Law Board of Visitors and enjoys maintaining his relationship with the law school. “Over the years it’s been gratifying to witness the development of the university and its law school,” Thomas says. “I owe a great deal to the USD School of Law and I’m proud to be one of its many alumni.”

**1960s**

**[1960]**

MIXS SHARKEY (J.D.), attorney and the founder of Boss Hoss Motorcycles and spends much of his spare time promoting the sport. He reports that he’s been single since 1986.

**[1964]**

ROBERT BAXLEY (J.D.) says he’s written and published two books since his retirement. One is called The Lifeguards, the other is called A Miscellaneous Lawyer.

**[1966]**

BENTON BECKLEY (B.A., J.D. ’76) has been involved in the sales of Boss Hoss Motorcycles and spends time at his house at Lake Arrowhead, Calif. He reports that he’s been single since 1996.

**[1968]**

DONALD CLINE (J.D.) still represents injured workers in worker’s compensation cases.

**[1969]**

T. WORTHINGTON VOGEL (J.D.) recently retired after 31 years as an assistant district attorney. Now he is a part-time criminology instructor.

**1970s**

**[1970]**

MARY (SEARCY) BIXBY (B.A., M.A. ’86) is president and chief executive officer of The Charter School of San Diego, an educational option for seventh- to 12th-grade students. Mary, founder of the charter school, oversees the corporation and its 18 school sites located throughout the city. A well-known educational reformer in California, Mary received the first Gary Hart Vision Award for her state-level work on behalf of charter schools. She is board chair for Audeo Charter School, another charter that she founded. Mary and her husband, John, have been married for 36 years and greatly enjoy their three adult children.

ROSEMARY JOHNSTON (B.A., M.A. ’90) serves on the policy committee of the San Diego Housing Federation and Housing California. She currently serves as vice president of the Regional Task Force on the Homeless as well as secretary of the Interfaith Coalition for Immigrant Rights. She maintains an active speaking schedule on topics related to spirituality and faith-based advocacy.

**[1972]**

ROBERT LEAMAN (J.D.) has been the chief trial counsel for the New Jersey Division of Criminal Justice, Office of the Attorney General, since July 2002. In this position, he tries criminal cases throughout New Jersey. The trial work includes homicide, sexual assault, and other violent crimes.

DONALD WORLEY (J.D.) retired in November 2004 from practicing law. He’s now a full-time actor in film and television and often plays lawyers. Recently he filmed, “The Battle of the Bulge” for the History Channel, in which he played Gen. George Patton (see page 38).

**[1974]**

DONALD CLINE (J.D.) still represents injured workers in worker’s compensation cases.
division or the attorney general. Robert also is the attorney in charge of the north regional office, in Whippany, N.J.

[J 1 9 7 3 ]
JEROME SCHIEFELBIEN (J.D.) has been in civil trial practice in Austin, Texas, since 1991. The practice is limited to plaintiff's legal malpractice, legal ethics and bad-faith insurance litigation in Texas state courts and the federal, fifth, ninth and 10th Circuit U.S. Courts of Appeals.

[R 1 9 7 4 ]
RICHARD GARIEPY (J.D.) is practicing law in Sun Valley, Idaho, and says, "If any alumni are in Idaho, please feel free to contact me for lunch or tourist info."

[J 1 9 7 6 ]
JOHN BURNS (J.D.) has been active as an investor and board member with several San Diego-based companies: SYS Technologies, a defense contractor; Alturdyne Inc. a private manufacturer of generators; and Airsis Inc., a private wireless device and services company.

[J 1 9 7 7 ]
MARTA BECERRIL (M.ED.) worked in counseling and administration after receiving her master’s degree from USD. She continued her education, attending Cleveland Chiropractic College in Los Angeles, and now owns her own business as a doctor of chiropractic and a life and health skills counselor. She also is a developer and master trainer of Ridge Work, a deep-tissue massage technique.

[R 1 9 7 8 ]
ANDREW HOLCOMBE (J.D.) has been a legal services staff attorney and has been running his own eviction defense practice in Chico, Calif. In November 2004, he was elected to a four-year term on the Chico City Council. “Spring is in the air,” Andrew said. “Time for Padres baseball from afar and my 21st season on the Nolo Contendere slow-pitch coed softball team.”

[Acting Out]

LEAD ME, FOLLOW ME, OR GET OUT OF MY WAY

The idea of portraying Gen. George Patton is not for the faint of heart, but Don Worley '70 (J.D.) isn’t afraid to take risks. When he played the venerable military icon on the Discovery Channel’s "Battleground: The Art of War — Battle of the Bulge," which aired over Memorial Day weekend, he went for authenticity.

“The temptation was to do a caricature of the role,” Worley says. “But I didn’t want to just do George C. Scott doing Patton. From all the research I did, I knew Patton actually had a high, squeaky voice, so I went with it.”

Worley started out as a lawyer, but fell into acting 10 years ago when he inadvertently was picked for a part while tagging along with his wife during her audition for a church play. After years of doing community theater, Worley began snagging increasingly frequent roles playing lawyers in jury trial simulations or true-crime reenactments.

“I mostly play authority figures,” Worley says, “doctors, lawyers, CEOs and now a general.”

As for what happens next, well, to reprise the words of Patton, “If a man does his best, what else is there?”

[R 1 9 7 4 ]
RICHARD HADEN (J.D.) recently retired from the San Diego Superior Court after 21 years. Most recently, he coordinated the statewide natural gas antitrust cases and managed a regular inventory of 500 to 600 civil cases. He had resolved between 10,000 and 12,000 civil cases since his designation as a civil independent calendar judge in 1992. He first served as a family law and motion judge and criminal supervising judge downtown before his assignment to criminal and civil trials.

[J 1 9 7 6 ]
JOHN BURNS (J.D.) has been active as an investor and board member with several San Diego-based companies: SYS Technologies, a defense contractor; Alturdyne Inc., a private manufacturer of generators; and Airsis Inc., a private wireless device and services company.

GLORIA DE MENT (M.ED.) is still busy with volunteer work in the area of dyslexia, attention deficit disorder and literacy.

MAX HANSEN (J.D.) continues to be actively involved in the American Bar Association. He is the ABA delegate to the House of Delegates and is a member of the nominating committee of the House of Delegates. Max is also an active member of the ABA Section of Taxation. He lectures extensively throughout the United States on the Internal Revenue Code Section 1031, property exchanges.

HARRI KETO (J.D.) is acting as general counselor and chief operating officer for Centerstone Communities. He lives in north Tustin, Calif., and has four children, two of whom have graduated from college. “One is actually thinking about becoming a lawyer,” he says.

SUSAN LEE (M.ED.) is pursuing her Ed.D. in educational leadership from the University of Virginia.

[J 1 9 7 7 ]
MARTA BECERRIL (M.ED.) worked in counseling and administration after receiving her master’s degree from USD. She continued her education, attending Cleveland Chiropractic College in Los Angeles, and now owns her own business as a doctor of chiropractic and a life and health skills counselor. She also is a developer and master trainer of Ridge Work, a deep-tissue massage technique.

RONALD FRANT (J.D.) reports that he has been married for 21 wonderful years to wife Bobbi. They love their dog, a Maltese. They also enjoy traveling and helping others without worrying about the work grind.

WILLIAM O’CONNOR (M.ED.) retired after 31 years with the Poway Unified School District. He is active with local and national philanthropic organizations, researching, writing, exhibiting and traveling.

VICTOR SALERNO (J.D.) and his wife, Laurie, celebrated their 30th anniversary in July. They were married in The Immaculata when he was a law student. Monsignor John Portman performed the service.

[R 1 9 7 8 ]
ANDREW HOLCOMBE (J.D.) has been a legal services staff attorney and has been running his own eviction defense practice in Chico, Calif. In November 2004, he was elected to a four-year term on the Chico City Council. “Spring is in the air,” Andrew said. “Time for Padres baseball from afar and my 21st season on the Nolo Contendere slow-pitch coed softball team.”

JOSE SANDOVAL (M.ED.) retired from San Diego City Schools and currently is involved in the music ministry and prison ministry at his church.

FREDERICK SCHENK (J.D.) in July was expected to become
president of the Civil Justice Foundation, a Washington, D.C., public interest nonprofit foundation, which funds grants to consumer grassroots organizations. In addition, Lexis-Nexis will publish the sixth edition of a book he co-authored, The California Automobile Collision Handbook. Frederick also continues to be a consulting editor for Matthew Bender’s book, California Forms of Pleading and Practice, on automobiles. Frederick has been with Casey, Gerry, Reed & Schenk for 22 years.

[1979]

EUGENE KUSION (J.D.) is entering his 20th year of private practice in plaintiff personal injury, after six years of employment with the U.S. government. His children are between the ages of 15 and 17, and his son will attend college in the fall. Eugene still surfs around the world and also enjoys windsurfing, parasailing and diving. He attended his class reunion in 2004 and was happy to see his classmates.

SUSAN SANDER (J.D.) has lived for 15 years in Waldport, Ore., on the central Oregon coast, where she owns an insurance agency and is involved in local and state politics.

1980s

[1980]

GEORGE DEANE (J.D.) says after nine years of practice in San Diego and another nine years in Sonora, Calif., he took off and lived on his boat and sailed in Mexico for a year. That was followed by two years in Kauai, Hawaii, scuba diving and working on his golf game. Upon returning to the mainland, in the San Francisco Bay area, he spent a year and a half as a yacht broker before deciding to return to the trenches as a litigator, this time for Boornazian, Jensen & Garthe, in Oakland, Calif. “My boat is visible from my office window and available for the occasional lap around the bay,” George says. “And I’m once again general counsel for the Dodge Ridge ski area, so I have an excuse to go skiing most weekends during the winter.”

DANIEL GROSZKRUGER (J.D.), on Sept. 1, 2004, was appointed to fill a new position at Tri-City Medical Center, a 400-bed acute-care hospital in Oceanside, Calif. He is the hospital’s first director of legal services, and acts as in-house counsel and director of risk management and patient safety functions.

PAUL JACOBS (J.D.) is married to Debra Dodds (J.D. ’82). They have five children and own a practice in Newport Beach, Calif.

[1981]

SANTA (HALL) HOUGGARD (B.S.N., M.S.N. ’83) retired in May as a professor of nursing at Arizona Western College. She plans to travel and remain active in the local chapter of the Arizona Nurses Association.

JOAN (BARNETT) MCMLLAN (B.A.) received her M.F.A. degree from San Jose State University in May. Her thesis, “La Storia di la Strega” (The Strega’s Story), is a memoir of her Italian-American childhood in Los Angeles. She continues to publish, and win awards for, her poetry, fiction and creative nonfiction. Joan has taught creative writing and composition at San Jose State University and was considering remaining on the English department faculty after graduation.

ALEXANDER SCHACK (J.D., LL.M.T. ’86) and his wife, Kathy (Burns) Schack (B.A. ’81, M.B.A. ’83), are proud parents of two soccer players: John, whom they hope will graduate from USD in 2011, and Amanda, whom they hope will graduate from USD in 2014. Al continues practicing law, specializing in anti-trust and consumer class actions. Kathy is part owner of Savor Faire Stables, a dressage training facility in San Marcos, Calif. The family is completed by three dogs, two cats, two tortoises and an iguana.

[1982]

H. MARK DAVIS (J.D.) has been an FBI agent since 1986. He works on terrorism investigations with overseas operations but is based in San Diego. Mark is married and has a 6-year-old daughter.

ANA ZELEDON (B.A., M.ED. ’84) teaches special education preschool in Oceanside, Calif. and has a 10-year-old daughter named Gabi.

[1983]

PAMELA KLEINDAU (M.A.) says after 11 years of running her own law firm in the Rancho Bernardo neighborhood of San Diego, she now is in-house counsel for Fidelity National Title. For the last two years, she has taught her 6-year-old daughter Jill’s CCD class at St. Raphael Church.

CHRISTINE MUGRIDGE (B.A.) earned a master’s degree in theology in 1991 from Franciscan University in Steubenville, Ohio, and earned a license in social communications in 2004 from Pontifical University of Santa Croce in Rome, Italy. She has traveled to 23 countries as a missioner and evangelist for the Catholic Church and is a weekly producer and host of a live radio program broadcast from Rome to the United States. Christine also has permanent status as a member of the Vatican Press Corps and authored and edited an anthology, God’s Call to Women, which she personally presented to Pope John Paul II (see page 44).

[1984]

DAVIDE GOLIA (J.D.) is a founding partner of Marks, Golia & Finch, LLP. The firm opened its doors in April 1987, and now has 17 attorneys, primarily serving the construction industry. Davide has been married for 24 years to Tess and has three boys: Tommas, 18; Travis, 15; and Taylor, 13. They all are students at La Jolla Country Day School. In Fall 2005, Tommas is expected to be a freshman at Williams College on the East Coast, where he plans to play point guard for its basketball team.

[1985]

JAMES BELLINSON (J.D.) has been married nine years and has three children: Cooper, 7, and 5-year-old twins Nick and Dara. He lives in Birmingham, Mich., and owns and operates 32 RV resorts and manufactured home communities in Florida.

CATHRINE (O’Rourke) DELANO (B.A., M.A.T. ’90) is a stay-at-home mom who home-schools her four sons: Nicholas, who is in eighth grade; Joseph, who is in seventh grade; John, a fifth-grader; and third-grader Dominic. She says because Nicholas has an interest in drama, the two of them have been active in community theater. They were in a production of “South Pacific” in Spring 2004. She also assisted with the direction and choreography of “Footloose” in Fall 2004, and in Spring 2005 she choreographed “The Music Man” for a college production. Also this spring, she assisted with the high school play “Anne of Green Gables,” and managed to costume the cast even though she doesn’t sew. “Needless to say, I’ve been busy, but am having a ball,” Catherine says. “My son has had a role in each play, as well as assisted with backstage work.”

EARL FORTE (J.D.) continues to practice in the area of corporate Chapter 11 cases and related litigation. Along with other attorneys in his firm, he currently represents USGen New England Inc. in its Chapter 11 proceedings in the District of Maryland. USGen New England Inc. is an electric utility, the “deregulated” subsidiary of PG&E Corp. Earl’s two sons, Thomas, 7, and Jonathan, 4½, continue to grow and are happy and active. His wife, Deborah, is a family physician and a marathon runner. She ran in this year’s Boston Marathon for the third consecutive year.

JESSICA HAURY (M.A.) teaches adult education classes at her parish and is involved with the Northern Arizona Interfaith Council, an Industrial Areas Foundation organization. She is working with Hispanics to create a day labor center and to establish an Arizona Attorney General’s Office in Sedona to address consumer fraud, financial abuse and civil liberties violations among immigrants and the elderly. Jessica also leads a contemplative prayer group at her home in Oak Creek, Ariz.

MARY MARLIN (M.S.N.) is an area chair of undergraduate and graduate family and community nursing at the University of Phoenix.

CAROLYN REILLY (J.D.) has served for five years as executive director of Elder Law & Advocacy, a California nonprofit corporation that serves individuals ages 60 and older in both San Diego and Imperial counties. With a budget of just over $1 million and a staff of 23, eight of whom are attorneys, the corporation assists seniors with civil legal issues and fights for their rights in nursing homes. Carolyn says the corporation takes cases that impact this population, such as elder financial abuse, and educates the community. “Aren’t I the luckiest alumna on earth?” she asks.

FALL 2005 39
MR. WONDERFUL GETS HITCHED “I married the most amazing man on earth, Steve Altes, on Aug. 20, 2004, on Shelter Island in San Diego. Steve is a rocket scientist with three degrees from MIT, a model who has appeared as a blond man on the Just for Men hair color box, and a professional speaker and writer. He’s the man all little girls dream they will grow up and marry. I win!”

— TIFFNI JELLINEK ’93

[1986] PATRICIA CRONE (M.ED.) works with nonprofits that are in the start-up or reorganization mode or are introducing new programs.

CRAIG FRIEDBERG (J.D.) established the Law Office of Craig B. Friedberg, Esq. in 1999, and says its emphasis is consumer protection law and intellectual property law. He married Lauriann Bradford in 1992 and has stepson Joshua, 23, stepdaughter Nicole, 18, and son Ian, 13.

MARSHA (ORSOLINE) MCDONALD (M.A.) is in her 18th year of elementary school counseling, which she says she loves. This year she also began teaching a group counseling class for school counseling students at Chapman University. She also is continuing her ADHD parent support group and enjoys traveling and spending time with her family and her grandchildren.

R. CLAYTON WELCH (J.D.) still works in-house for State Farm, handling subrogation claims. Otherwise, he spends time surfing and visiting his children and grandchildren in California and Hawaii.

[1987] DAVID BOURGOIN (J.D.) has ventured to Antarctica to do a multimedia production for TCR Productions.

WILLIAM LAVELLE (J.D.) and his wife, Beth (Badders) LaVelle (B.A. ’87), just celebrated their 16th wedding anniversary. Bill is busy running a three-lawyer, eight-staff law firm in Patchogue, N.Y., and coaching his daughters’ track teams. Daughter Chloe is 10, and daughter Shelby is 7. Beth is teaching her 12th year of elementary art and is planning to open her own art studio next summer. All friends are welcome to visit if they’re on the East Coast.

DEBRA PALMER (M.S.N.) will participate in the development of the first orthopedic nurse practitioner certification examination. She also planned to lead a volunteer medical mission to Guatemala from July 31 to Aug. 7.

MIGUEL SMITH (J.D.) has been at Solomon Ward for 17 years and is completing a two-year term as managing partner. His practice is real property transactional. He is married with a 15-year-old stepdaughter and a 3-year-old daughter.

PHILIP WELP (B.B.A., M.I.B. ’89) has two children, a 5-year-old boy named Cole, and Emily, who is 7. Philip sold his company in July 2002 and moved from San Diego to Phoenix.

GAIL (GIULIANI) ZADOW (B.A.) and her family are spending part of their year in Montana and part in Hawaii, as she trains to become a Waldorf school teacher. Husband Jeff surfs when in Hawaii and keeps their dock-building and rock wall business going in Montana when there. Their children are Ellie, 5, and Hayden, 3.

[1988] STEVEN HERNANDEZ (M.ED.) works at Potter Junior High School in Fallbrook, Calif., as the athletic director and chair of the physical education department.

BONNIE MARBLESTONE (M.S.N.) is working on her Ph.D. in nursing at USD.

JAMES VALLIANT (J.D.) is the author of The Passion of Ayn Rand’s Critics, and is a regular political and legal commentator on local news programs, including KUSI and Fox 6.

KATEY (POTTS) FLANAGAN (B.A.) and her husband, Matt, welcomed their son, Ryan Patrick, on June 27, 2004. He joins sisters Megahn, 3½, and Kelley, 2. In August 2004 they relocated from San Marcos, Calif., to Temecula, Calif. Katey is taking a leave of absence from her job at Oracle Corp. to be a full-time mom.

STUART GRAUER (ED.D.) reports that the Grauer Foundation for Education launched a 56-million capital campaign to make independent, humanitarian college preparatory education permanent in San Diego’s North County.

JOE MARSHALL (J.D.) lives in the Dallas, Texas, suburb of Coppell, with wife Julie and three children: Hutton, 14; Kelly, 13; and Ben, 10. He is a shareholder with the firm Munsch Hardt Kopf & Harr, and practices in the area of commercial bankruptcy and restructure.

JOHN NORIEGA (M.ED.) has four daughters: Emily, Angela, Alison and Lisa.
NICOLE TOESCA (M.B.A.) is a fine art photographer who in April had a showing at The Village Gallery, in the La Jolla neighborhood of San Diego, and showed at ArtWalk 2005 in San Diego.

DAVID HILTON WISE (J.D.) has formed a new firm, Waters & Wise, with offices in Virginia, Maryland and Washington, D.C. Waters & Wise focuses its practice in the areas of construction defects and toxic torts.

ROBB HAMMOND (B.B.A) and wife Linda welcomed their third daughter, Sara Amanda Kate Hammond, on Jan. 6, 2005. Big sisters are Emma, 4½, and Anna, 2.


MICHAEL SLATER (J.D.) was appointed assistant city attorney for the city of Fresno, Calif., in November 2003. Michael mainly practices in the area of land use. He and wife Laurel celebrated their 15th anniversary in December 2004. They have three daughters: Sarah, 11; Mollie, 9; and Katie, 6.

MARcia Venegas-Garcia (M.Ed.) is in her second year in the USD School of Education’s doctoral program in Leadership Studies.

Doreen Hogle (J.D.) was elected president of the Boston Patent Law Association. She also was selected as one of Massachusetts’ “Super Lawyers” in a recent issue of Boston Magazine. She is a partner in the intellectual property law firm of Hamilton, Brook, Smith & Reynolds in Concord, Mass.

Gina (MonforTE) Wehert (J.D.) has practiced insurance defense for 15 years, the past 10 with Barry Bartholomew & Associates. Her record of four defense verdicts in five trials helped earn her a “Trial Attorney of the Year” award last year.

[1990]
Claudine (Sherman) AbrahAm (B.A., J.D. ’96) and husband Bryan were blessed with the birth of daughter Claire Louise on Nov. 17, 2004. The family lives in Newport Beach, Calif., and Claudine still practices employment law at Friedman Peterson Stroffe & Gerard in Irvine.


ISTA VENEGAS-GARCIA (M.ED.) is in her second year in the USD School of Education’s doctoral program in Leadership Studies.

John Alessio (B.B.A., J.D. ’94) started his own law firm, Thompson & Alessio, about three years ago. “We are going strong, focusing primarily on business, employment and real estate law, both litigation and transactional,” he reports. Among the firm’s six attorneys is Mark Bale (B.A. ‘90), whom Alessio calls a “good friend and excellent attorney.”

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[1991]
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Nadine (Coro) Felix (M.ED.) is in her fifth year as a counselor in the English as a Second Language department at Mount San Antonio College in Walnut, Calif.

Michael Pellan (M.A.) left active duty in the Navy in 2000. He graduated from Fletcher School of Law and Diplomacy at Tufts University in 2002. Michael joined the U.S. Senate’s Foreign Relations Committee staff in 2003 and works on post-conflict stabilization and reconstruction in Africa and Afghanistan.

Jeanette Baust (M.A.) earned her Ph.D. in sociology of religion at the University of Denver’s Iliff School of Theology in May 2004.

Michael Cordier (J.D.) changed firms at the beginning of 2005 and now is a shareholder with DeConcini, McDonald, Yetwin & Lacy, where he practices in the areas of intellectual property, employment defense and construction.

Stuart Gustafson (M.B.A.) recently published his first book, Parables for Life in the 21st Century, a treasure trove of 24 modern-day fables. To order or read excerpts, go to www.ParablesForLife.com. Stuart lives in Boise, Idaho, where he is a global accounts business manager for Hewlett-Packard. He also teaches math and finance courses at University of Phoenix.

Lois Knowlton (Ed.D.) retired from Grossmont College as the senior dean of business and professional studies. Since then, she has begun a “full schedule” of other activities, including helping her daughter with a new business, volunteering and taking an active role as chair of the La Mesa First United Methodist Church Foundation.

Richard Britschgi (J.D.) was elected to the partnership of Kutak Rock LLP. He works in the firm’s Irvine, Calif., office, one of 16 offices nationwide. Richard’s practice is focused in the areas of public finance, financial guaranty insurance, and interest rate swaps and derivatives.

Julie (Underhill) Butsch (B.A.) has two children, 4-year-old Andy and 2-year-old Katie, who have juvenile rheumatoid arthritis and were selected as the 2005 Colorado Arthritis Walk honorees.

Every Gift Matters

Pitch In: It’s Not How Much, It’s How Many

There’s serious competition going on, and USD wants to be a contender. But your alma mater needs your help to enter the ring and take its rightful place among the top colleges in the country.

We’re talking about alumni participation.

Viewed as a measure of the value alumni place on their educational experience, national college ranking organizations use alumni participation in their ranking process. “We’re proud of our alumni fund-raising efforts leading up to this year’s Homecoming,” says Jack Kelly, senior director of alumni relations. “However, it’s important for those who haven’t yet participated to know there’s still time to make a gift. Alumni celebrating their reunions have raised $173,551* so far and we’re hoping that the momentum keeps building. We also want people to realize that it’s not how much alumni give, it’s how many alumni give that will make the difference in our national rankings.”

Following are numbers that reflect where USD stands on goals for each reunion class:

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<tr>
<th>Reunion Class Year</th>
<th>Current Donors</th>
<th>Additional Donors Needed</th>
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<tr>
<td>1955</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>8</td>
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<tr>
<td>1995</td>
<td>57</td>
<td>182</td>
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<tr>
<td>2000</td>
<td>56</td>
<td>150</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

To find your own class rate, or to view the complete chart, go to www.sandiego.edu/giving/class. To participate in the current annual fund drive, call the office of Annual Giving at (619) 260-4724.

*All figures as of July 25, 2005
CA THERINE DICEY [1908-2005] was a longtime San Diego County teacher whose legacy will live on at USD. Although she never taught at Alcalá Park, she was well-connected to the school through her many friends here. Dicey, who died on Feb. 15 at the age of 96, left her home and other gifts to USD to fund no- and low-interest student loans.

Born on a Mennonite farm in Canada, she spoke only German in her early years, and made education her priority. Dicey, who taught first grade for more than 30 years in Fallbrook and San Diego, made learning fun. On a field trip, she once convinced workers to let her students decorate dynamite boxes being used to level a mountain.

“She made education her lifelong passion,” said Lisa DeBolt (B.A. ’04), who along with twin sister Karen DeBolt (B.A. ’04) got to know Dicey in recent years. “Just by donating her home in Point Loma to USD, she still can continue that passion — teaching and helping students.”

[loving gift]

MIKE GERGEN (B.B.A.) and wife Melanie welcomed their first child, daughter Payton Neeley, on Jan. 18, 2004. Mike, Melanie and Payton live in Las Vegas, where Mike is director of marketing for LVI Global.

RICHARD HEALY (L.L.M.T.) works for the McGeorge School of Law’s Institute for Administrative Justice as a staff attorney managing contract attorneys for the California Parole Advocacy Program. He reports that his wife, Toni, was selected as one of the top attorneys of the year by California Lawyer magazine.

TIFTFNI JELLINEK (B.A.) married “the most amazing man on earth,” Steve Altes, on Aug. 20, 2004, on Shelter Island in San Diego (see page 40). The following USD alumni attended their wedding: Michelle (Majchrzak) Jacko (B.A. ’93); Tina (Strelchun) Demarchi (B.A. ’92); and Laura Lee Juliano (B.A. ’96). Also attending was Eric Grischkat, a former assistant professor in the theatre department. Tiffni, now going by the stage name Diana Jellinek, lives with her husband in Los Angeles and teaches voice and “the business of show business” at The Acting Corps in North Hollywood. One of her recent students was Brennan Taylor (B.A. ’02).

CATHERINE (DUFORT) KUIPER (B.A., M.ED. ’94) still teaches at Julian High School. She plans to begin teaching part-time to make extra time for her second child, due Oct. 1. Cathy and husband Jason also have a “beautiful 2 1/2-year-old daughter, Tierra Jasmine.”

DANIEL KUNKEL (J.D) is a staff attorney for the Supreme Court of Hawaii.

ERIC MAGNUSON (B.B.A) and wife Jennifer welcomed their first child, Cole Thomas, on March 1, 2004. They recently relocated to Virginia, where Eric manages CRM marketing for Circuit City.

KAY (MANN) OWENS (M.ED.) has been working in the field of information technology for the past 10 years. She and her husband had their first daughter, Isabella Rose, on March 31.
KEVIN MCSWEEENEY (B.B.A.) married Anne Bunte on Feb. 25, 2005, in Kauai, Hawaii. Jim Hafner (B.B.A. ’93), Dave West (B.B.A. ’93) and Hillary Wiessinger (B.A.C. ’93) all were in the wedding. Kevin and Anne moved to Chicago in August 2003. Before that, Kevin had been in San Francisco for nine years. He has been working for Future Brands, a joint venture of Jim Beam Brands and Absolut Spirits Co., as a category manager since moving to Chicago.

SHEILA (KUNTZ) MOHAN (J.D.) spent five years in the administration of then-Gov. Gray Davis, before returning to the state office of the legislative counsel in late 2003. She and husband Jay opened an “original concept pizzeria” in late 2004. They are enjoying 5-year-old daughter Mira and 2-year-old son Kieran.

RICHARD OSTROW (J.D.) left the San Diego City Attorney’s Office after a year and a half to enter private practice. He joined the firm of Kimball, Tirey & St. John as a senior business litigator.

LORI (SHACKELFORD) SCHIMENTI (B.A.) and husband Chris were blessed with their first child, Jenna Anne, on Dec. 20, 2004. They had been living in Southern California, but planned to relocate to Washington, D.C., in Spring 2005.

JOEL SELIK (LL.M.T.) was elected to the board of directors for the North San Diego County Bar Association. He received the President’s Star award from the Consumer Attorneys of San Diego. Selik also produced and spoke at the Consumer Attorneys of San Diego.

CLAUDIA (GACITUA) SILVA (J.D.) is a deputy city attorney in San Diego, handling land use cases in the litigation division. Her husband, Simon Silva (J.D. ’92), also works in the city attorney’s office, as a legal adviser to the police department. “We enjoy spending time with our daughter, Gabriela and Isabel, who are growing up far too fast for our liking,” Claudia writes.

ANNE (POPPDE) STEGEN (B.A.) and Sloane Stegen (B.B.A. ’93) had a daughter, Samantha, on Sept. 11, 2004.

COLLEEN (QUICK) THOMAS (B.B.A.) and husband Mark celebrated the birth of their first child, Caitlin, on Nov. 19, 2004, “and couldn’t be happier.”

ROBERT LITTLE (J.D.) is a certified criminal trial attorney in Manhattan and New Jersey. He has been admitted to the bar in six states and recently argued before an en banc U.S. Court of Appeals. He frequently appears as a legal affairs commentator on “Court TV.”

SUSAN MITCHELL (J.D.) recently celebrated her 30th anniversary working for the California State University system, having worked at both San Diego State University and the Cal State, San Marcos, campus. She is the associate vice president of student academic support services at Cal State, San Marcos.

ALAN NELSON (ED.D.) released his 12th book in the fall of 2004. After more than 20 years as a local pastor, he has begun working as a leadership development specialist and organization change coach for nonprofits. He and his wife and three sons were planning a move to San Diego. His Web site is www.leadingideas.org.

LYNN O’HARRA (M.ED.) has been teaching in Oceanside, Calif., since graduating and reports she married a “wonderful man” last year. She passed her national boards two years ago and now mentors other teachers who are taking those tests. Her 19-year-old son started college after graduating from Torrey Pines High School.

KRISTEN (PARKER) FOSSLER (J.D.) is a deputy city attorney with the city of San Diego and is married with two children, 6-year-old Jared and 4-year-old Madeleine.

ROGER HASSELT (M.A.) and wife Mary, who worked in USD’s University Ministry from 1988 to 1995, now live in the Bay area. They are campus ministers at De La Salle High School, and recently were recognized as Distinguished LaSallian Educators for the San Francisco district with the Christian Brothers. They have three children: Dominic, 12; Erin, 9; and Danny, 6.

HEIDI HOKAJ (B.A., M.A. ’96) reports that she found the love of her life in recent years. She married Rico Terry on Valentine’s Day 2004.

CHRIS JESTER (B.A.) and wife Angele (Farrell) Jester (B.A. ’95) had their first son, Rio Joseph, on the island of Malta in July 2004. After traveling the world for a year, they returned to Southern California and are starting their own fractional sailing business, SailTime, in Newport Beach, Calif.

RITHA BOOKERT (M.S.N.) has been busy in the last two to three years developing her own 501(c)3 nonprofit health care organization, Sharing the Vision. Her vision is to make a difference by improving the health care status of Mississippi residents. She also was accepted into Walden University’s Ph.D. program in public health.

ALISON (MAAS) BRAY (B.A.) and husband Tim Bray (B.A. ’95) announced the arrival of son Connor on Aug. 12, 2004. Tim is an attorney in northern Massachusetts, and Alison splits her time between environmental consulting and staying home with Connor.

JOANNE (TAN) FUSON (M.ED.) and husband Josh moved to the Albany, N.Y., area, from Spokane, Wash., in December 2003. They are now the “proud parents” of Jamie Michelle-Alicyn Fusan, born July 29, 2004. Joanne is a special education teacher for the Rotterdam-Mohonasen Central School District in Schenectady, N.Y. They recently purchased their first home. “Although we miss San Diego, we are excited to be putting down roots here,” Joanne reports.

VANESSA GOMEZ (M.ED.) is the lead student assistance program counselor for Moreno Valley Unified School District, working at Valley View High School. She has conducted training sessions and workshops on developing a student assistance program and other topics.


KARLA (HALLIDAY) KOURAJIAN (B.A., M.ED. ’97) and husband Peter welcomed their first child, Ben Stephen, on Oct. 18, 2004.

LAUREN (ASTE) POLEK (B.A.) got married in October 2002 to Greg Polek and gave birth to John David on Sept. 3, 2004. She is in commercial finance as vice president for Capital TempFunds. The family still lives on Lake Norman outside of Charlotte, N.C. Lauren says they’re looking forward to returning to USD for her 10-year reunion.

FALL 2005
The date was June 28, 1979. Christine Mugridge '83 and her parents were carefree with anticipation as they headed toward a national forest near the Oregon border.

But they never got there. When a drunk driver careened into their car, her parents died instantly. Mugridge was pulled from the mangled mess by a highway patrol officer who wept. He couldn’t believe she lived. 

“God gave my life to me,” she says, matter-of-fact. “But I never thought about it until I almost died. I knew then I had to give it back to Him.”

That fall Mugridge came to USD. The cross was everywhere she looked. And the cross, she vowed, would continue to infuse every part of her life.

Fast-forward 23 years. As she had so many times before, again Mugridge saw the cross. It was Nov. 20, 2002, and she was standing before Pope John Paul II.

She had kept her promise.

Not long after college, Mugridge gave up a glitzy Hollywood gig working with stars like Madonna, Sting and the Rolling Stones to do volunteer work for churches. She earned her master’s degree in theology and subsequently traveled as a missionary to 23 countries, including to Russia, where behind the Berlin Wall she prayed the rosary in a courtyard not far from a 70-year-old woman who told her, through tears, that she hadn’t prayed the rosary publicly for six decades.

“I realized the rosary represented a power in my faith,” Mugridge says.

Now Mugridge lives in Rome, where she hosts a weekly radio show, “Rome to Home,” while earning her doctorate in theology. She started an organization, Sacred Arts Communications, to promote Catholicism. She also served as a consultant to Mel Gibson during the filming of the movie, “The Passion of the Christ.” And she wrote an anthology, God’s Call to Women, about 12 women whose lives are living testimonies to God’s word.

Clutching her book on that transcendent day in 2002, she approached the Pope and presented him with this manifestation of her faith. A lifetime of work culminated in that moment as she basked in the glow of stained glass and looked into his eyes.

“He cupped my face, caressed my cheek and blessed me,” Mugridge recalls. “He showed me, right then, the deeper meaning of being Catholic. It’s not about doing a small work or a great work. It’s about how you receive the person in front of you.” She pauses a moment, reflective. “I told myself, ‘Don’t forget this. This is real. This is what it’s all about.”

HALLELUJAH IS HER SONG
Alumna dedicates her life to the Catholic Church

by Krystn Shrieve

Christine Mugridge (center, kneeling) and the other authors presented their book, as well as white roses, to Pope John Paul II in the Vatican’s audience hall, following an address he made to about 8,000 people.
TINA (CROWLE) TEDESCO (B.A.) and husband Chris welcomed their first child into the world on Jan. 30. Michael Henry was named after his uncle and grandfather. Tina is the executive producer at WFMY News 2 in Greensboro, N.C. The family is looking forward to moving “back home to California very soon,” Tina says.

[1996]

WAYNE BEAUDOIN (J.D.) has been named partner at Luce, Forward, Hamilton & Scripps, and practices in the firm’s Los Angeles office.

PAUL BRUSO (B.B.A.) and wife Joanna Lee Bruso (B.A. ‘98) had their first child, Patrick James, on March 11, 2005, in San Francisco. Joanna will stay home with the baby, and Paul is a financial director for Niku Corp. in Redwood City, Calif.

LISA KENNY CAREY (J.D.) says there’s been “nothing new” of late. She’s been married five years and has a 2-year-old son named Spencer. She is a sole practitioner doing family law in downtown San Diego. Her husband is a construction defect defense attorney. “All is well,” Lisa says.

MARTA CETALE (M.I.B.) is the founder and owner of Little Treasures, which she describes as a unique Latin art company. The products are “one-of-a-kind and carefully selected from numerous Colombian artisans,” she says. She also is the mother of 4-year-old Melanie and 2-year-old Michael.

BRIDGET (JOHNSON) GERNANDER (B.A.) and husband Bart announced the birth of their daughter, Ella Cathleen, on Nov. 12, 2004. The family lives in Minneapolis, and Bridget continues her work for the Minnesota Supreme Court.

KRISTEN SALVATO HELSEL (B.B.A.) reported that she and husband James Helsel had a baby girl, Emelia Grace, in August 2004. She joined 2-year-old brother Josten Paul, who loves making her smile. They live in San Clemente, Calif.

RICHARD MACDONOUGH (LL.M.G.) is with the Fraser Forbes Co. and no longer practices law. The group specializes in locating and brokering residential and mixed-use redevelopment in the Washington, D.C., metropolitan area. He lives in Rockville, Md., with wife Julia and their two children, Joseph, 3, and Catherine, 1.


MICHELE (NOWICKI) NEWTON (B.A., M.ED. ’98) says she and husband Adam Newton (B.A. ’95) have “two beautiful daughters,” 2-year-old Zoë and 1-year-old Taylor. They are enjoying life in Hawaii, where Adam is a lieutenant commander in the Navy. Michele plans to “go back to work teaching … someday!”

JULIE (ANDERSON) O’BRIEN (B.A.) reports that she and husband Mike welcomed their first child, Grayson Clark, on Nov. 12, 2004. “We’re currently enjoying living in downtown San Diego,” Julie writes.

TIZA SERRANO-THOMPSON (J.D.) was promoted to partner in December 2004 at the civil litigation firm of Matheny Sears Linkert & Long in Sacramento. She specializes in personal injury defense, insurance coverage and business counseling, and has been happily married to husband Tom for the past six years.

SUZANNE TIBOR (B.A.) and husband Edwin Medina had their first child, Lillian Anstoice, on Sept. 26, 2004. They live in Diamond Bar, Calif., where Suzanne is an editor of educational children’s books.

TAMARA TUCKER-HAM (B.S., M.S.N. ’97) is the main health care provider for the medical office where she works in the East County of San Diego. She and her husband have an 8-month-old baby, recently bought a home and a new car, and enjoy riding Tamara’s horse. With all that going on, she says her USD education has served her well.

[1997]

ALEXANDRA (ZIRKEL) GASS (J.D.) and husband Sean had their first child, Tucker, on Feb. 3, 2005.

ANNIKA GREEN FROSTICK (J.D.) is a criminal prosecutor in the Vermont Attorney General’s Office and recently was cross-designated as a special assistant U.S. attorney. She had a baby boy, named Colby Thomas, on Oct. 6, 2004.

JOHN NICHOLSON (J.D.) was promoted to partner at Adamski Moroski Madden & Green at the beginning of 2005. His practice focuses on general business litigation.

MATTHEW ORZECH (J.D.) recently returned to Southern California along with wife Jamie and their three children: Matthew, 9; Mikessa, 6; and Michael, 4. Matt works as a vice president in the real estate division of City National Bank in the La Jolla neighborhood of San Diego.

ANDREA (CALLEN) PORTER (B.A.) and husband Rob welcomed their first daughter, Callen Elizabeth, on Dec. 31, 2004.

LISA (WEISS) ROSAYA (J.D.) is proud to announce that her son, Jackson Pierre, was born on Feb. 9. His older sister, Sabine, turned 3 on June 19.

CHERYL VERBER (M.A.) and her life partner, Pam, share a private practice psychotherapy office in the Mission Valley area of San Diego. “Our favorite place on earth is Cancun and vicinity,” Verber reports, saying the couple travels extensively.

DEREK YOSSKUHLER (J.D.) recently passed the California State Bar specialization exam for the field of family law.

[1998]


PIEAD GARCIA (ED.D) is director of systems of care for the County of San Diego and also recently was assigned the lead role as project manager for the development and implementation of the Mental Health Services Act for the county.

JUDITH LITZENBERGER (J.D. ’98) is chairwoman of the Military Law Committee for the San Diego County Bar Association, serves on the Walden Family Services board of directors, is a member of the Enright Inn of Court and has, in recent years, acted as a trainer for some National Institute for Trial Advocacy courses.

KATHLEEN TUTHILL MARINO (J.D.) and husband of six years Jeff had their first child, Vincent, on Aug. 27, 2004.

BETH MEISNITZER (B.A.) married Nate Sund (B.A. ’98) on June 18, 2004, in Las Vegas. They now live in Maple Grove, Minn., where Beth is a computer consultant and Nate is an attorney. Serving as a “virtual bridesmaid” at their wedding was Ciara Clayton (B.A. ’98).

DERRICK PARKER (M.F.A.) is the author of “the first” Big Nose Kids children’s book, which can be purchased at www.bignosekids.com.

LAURI THOMPSON-BRACKEN (J.D.) is a partner with the Las Vegas law firm of Quirk & Tratos, specializing in intellectual property, entertainment and Internet law. She is active in community issues and nonprofit charities, and has two children, 6-year-old Nikolas and 3-year-old Alexander.

ROHANEE ZAPANTA (B.A., J.D. ’02) is an attorney practicing in Chula Vista, Calif., where she serves low-income clients. Her fiance, Bernard Casillas (B.A. ’97), is a physician’s assistant who makes house calls to the terminally ill and homebound.

[1999]

JOE CHANDLER (J.D.) is an attorney with Ryley Carlock & Applewhite in Phoenix, where he practices real estate and mining law. He also is chairman of VinArte: The Art of Wine 2005, a benefit wine festival for the Phoenix Art Museum. For information, go to www.vinar-te.com.

MEGAN MCCREA (B.B.A.) is a licensed real estate broker in New York state. She was expecting to receive her master’s of science in hospitality, industry studies/hotel investments from New York University in May 2005.

LISA (RAVENSBERG) HALL (B.B.A.) celebrated her first anniversary of marriage to Jacob Hall on May 23, 2005. They were married in Laguna Beach, Calif., and now live in Long Beach, Calif.

SISTER NANCY SVETLECIC (M.A.) is a residential coordinator and counselor at the Community Research Foundation, a mental health treatment center in San Diego’s South Bay.
DENISE TESSIER-GLUZERMAN (L.L.M.G.) recently opened another law office in the city of Rancho Mirage, near Palm Springs, Calif., in addition to her law office in San Juan Capistrano, Calif. For the last few years, her law practice has handled real estate and unique family law issues, such as palimony, domestic partnership and “Russian bride” matters.

2000s

[2000]

CRISTINA BAHENA (B.A.) married Narisco Valenzuela Jr. on May 15, 2004, in The Immaculata. The couple honeymooned in Tahiti, Moorea and Bora Bora, and bought a home in San Diego. They both hope to travel while enjoying married life.

DAVID LASPALUTO (J.D.) married Nicole Wilkerson on Dec. 28, 2004.

AMALIA (RIVERA) LAWLESS (B.A.) and husband Stephen are proud to announce the birth of their first child, a beautiful woman named Emily Grace, who was born on Jan. 9, 2005.

MICHAEL MARKOV (M.A.) married a wonderful woman and, in the last couple years, finished earning his commercial certificate in helicopters.

DARRELL MOORE (L.L.M.T.) works for Inland Counties Legal Services, a nonprofit organization servicing Riverside and San Bernardino counties. He has been with the organization since 2003, and primarily assists people with housing problems, such as evictions and foreclosures. He says he loves his job. He and Barbara, his wife of 16 years, have five children, and they enjoy baseball, soccer games and swim meets.

MARISOL (DAVENPORT) PRESTON (B.A.) welcomed her daughter, Isabella Maria, into the world on Feb. 17, 2005.

[2001]

AMY BURKHARTSMeyer (B.A.) expected to graduate from medical school at Chicago College of Osteopathic Medicine in May 2005 and planned to move to Pennsylvania to start an emergency medicine residency program at St. Luke’s Hospital.

PATRICIA DEAN-COAKLEY (M.S.N.) works in the outpatient surgery department at Cook Children’s Hospital in Fort Worth, Texas. She works on the anesthesia team, which is composed of several anesthesiologists and eight pediatric nurse practitioners. Patricia functions in a management position, as the coordinator of the pediatric nurse practitioners. She enjoys her job and says the department is growing, creating the opportunity for her to grow professionally as an advanced nurse practitioner.

JAMES CHINH-LONG NGUYEN (J.D., M.B.A. ’02) is in private practice and works in the areas of personal injury, toxic mold and real estate.

ROBERT SCOFIELD (L.L.M.T.) recently got a job at a CPA firm in New York City.

HEATHER STANGLE (B.A.) says in 2004 she visited Sydney, Australia, for the second time. Thanks to the hospitality of a good friend with a great flat overlooking Harbor Bridge, she spent a long Thanksgiving weekend in a cool cabin on a beach that had the whitest sand in Australia. In 2004 Heather also flew to Washington, D.C., for the first time and explored the city by public transit. In 2005 she took an internship and is training to become a community college instructor. In early 2006 she hopes to travel to Thailand. “Still living in my own condo in San Diego and refusing to grow up or settle down,” Heather writes.

MARIA TURJA (B.B.A.) married Luis Bautista (B.A. ’01) on Aug. 7, 2004, in San Diego. The following alumni were in the wedding party: Stephanie Dunbar (B.A. ’01); Jennifer (Tuiolosega) Robinson (B.A. ’01); Kanoelani (Sing) Ching (B.A. ’01); Marina Cervantes (B.A. ’02); Ignacio Guzman (B.A. ’01); Noe Jaramillo (B.A. ’01); and Eddie Merino (B.A. ’01). Maria received her master’s degree and elementary teaching credential from Fordham University in New York and Luis expected to graduate from New York Medical College in May. Maria and Luis are the proud parents of their beautiful daughter, Anela Sewa Turja Bautista, who will turn 2 this year. The family planned to move in the summer back to San Diego, where Luis will be a Navy doctor at Camp Pendleton.

[2002]

LISA ANNE BOCZANY (J.D.) married Noel James Doran (J.D. ’02) on June 5, 2004, at Founders Chapel. Many USD alumni were in attendance: Smitha (Reddy) Arons (J.D. ’02), Jeremy Schroeder (J.D. ’02), Kevin Mower (J.D. ’02), Tammy Lee (J.D. ’02), Katie DuPont (B.A. ’00) and Victoria Alexander (J.D. ’02).

SARA CHIOCCA (B.A.) says after working for two years as a physical therapy aide in San Diego, in Fall 2005 she planned to enter Arcadia University in Philadelphia to obtain a doctor of physical therapy degree.

SIMONA CONSTANTINESCU (B.A.) has been working toward earning her juris doctorate at California Western School of Law. She expected to graduate in Spring 2005 and looked forward to starting an exciting legal career.

ANDREA FERRADA (B.A.) received a degree in nursing in 2004 and works as a registered nurse in the emergency/trauma room at California Hospital Medical Center. She is paying off her educational loans and enjoying her dream job. In two years, Andrea says she plans to become a family nurse practitioner and open her own clinics in underdeveloped countries.

AARON GRUCHOW (B.A.) is teaching high school on the island of Tinian, one of the Northern Mariana Islands. He is completing his M.B.A. through the University of Wisconsin at Eau Claire via the Internet and anticipates finishing in June 2006.

BETTINA HALVORSEN (M.A.) is a grant writer with an international public health organization, Project Concern International. In 2004 she traveled to Ghana and Nicaragua for proposal projects, and says the organization is currently involved in relief efforts for regions of India and Indonesia that were affected by the tsunami.

BENJAMIN RENDA (M.S.G.L.) is a lieutenant commander with the U.S. Navy, was transferred to Yokosuka, Japan, in April 2005. She has been on active duty for 16 years.

SCOTT COOLEDGE (M.S.G.L.) is the commanding officer of Patrol Squadron 46. He recently returned from a six-month deployment to Japan, where his squadron “flew more than 3,000 hours in support of CTF-72 and the global war on terror.”

MICHAEL R. KIESLING (J.D.) is serving as a law clerk in the litigation department of Sempra Energy in San Diego.

MY-LINH NGUYEN (M.A.) has been working part-time as a community college counselor while working on her doctorate in human services from Walden University. She anticipates completing the program in May 2006.

THOMAS ROSSI (M.B.A.) left his job as a market analyst for Ford Motor Company more than a year ago, and now is back in the real estate development business.

JENNIFER TORIO (B.A.) was married to Dominic Marquis (B.A. ’03) on July 24, 2004, in Founders Chapel by Monsignor Daniel Dillabough (B.A. ’70). The following alumni were in the wedding party: Kristin Edelhauser (B.A. ’03); Ashley Guggia (B.A. ’03); Zac Bunn (B.A. ’03) and Brian Torio (B.A. ’01). The couple recently bought a house in the Bay area, where Jennifer works in event planning and Dom is an accountant at PricewaterhouseCoopers.
Young girls are locked away in seedy hotels in the worst areas of Phnom Penh. They have been kidnapped, bought and sold, beaten and forced into prostitution. They are sex slaves.

While it’s only human nature to avert your attention when hearing about the atrocities that have made Cambodia infamous, turning away isn’t the style of Gregg Burgess ’98 (M.I.B.). Burgess, who moved with his wife and three kids to the country’s capital in 2000, is the director of a new center in Phnom Penh that helps girls rescued from brothels.

“It’s easy to say that it’s just too big a problem and nothing can be done,” Burgess says. “Well, there are things that can be done, and lives can be changed.”

Burgess changes lives every day through his center, run by World Hope International, which opened this summer to care for girls during the first critical months after they’re rescued. These children — as many as 30,000 throughout Cambodia, including some as young as 5 — have been beaten and raped. Some are addicted to drugs that were forced upon them to keep them compliant.

The assessment center provides caregivers, counselors, therapy, and sports and literacy programs. Workers also determine whether the girls, some of whom were sold into slavery by their own parents, should be placed in foster care or other shelter options.

Seeds for Burgess’ work were planted during the 1980s. It was then, as an undergraduate in Texas, that he helped Cambodian refugees being relocated from refugee bases in Thailand. His job was to find them shelter, food and clothing. “It really stuck with me for a long time,” he says.

So, just as many years ago he helped Cambodians who had escaped oppression to build a new life, today he’s offering a new way of life to these girls.

“As a Christian I look to God for answers,” Burgess says. “And God does answer our prayers, and He does do amazing things in people’s lives. So we have hope, and we work toward the day when slavery will end in Cambodia.”
ABOVE IT ALL  Campus icon Bishop Buddy remains serene while repairs to The Immaculata dome and bell tower, a joint project between USD and the Diocese of San Diego, proceed on schedule. Replacement tiles — blue from Italy and gold-leaf from Japan — will be in place by October.
Your planned gift to the University of San Diego will help us offer her the chance to realize her dreams. By designating a USD scholarship fund as a beneficiary in your will, living trust, insurance policy or IRA, you enhance the lives of future Toreros. For more information, contact the USD Office of Planned Giving at (619) 260-4523 or visit www.sandiego.edu/plannedgiving.