Nothing but Net

USD Women’s Basketball Head Coach

CINDY FISHER is tenacity, personified
BEYOND OURSELVES
Using our talents and ingenuity to help others

As new members of this very special campus community, my family reflected over the holidays on how grateful we are for the many blessings and privileges we have received in our lives. As we begin a new semester at USD, we are also thankful for the many remarkable people we have met and now call friends who work tirelessly to uphold the highest standards of academics, research, and character development for our students. The culture of care at USD was certainly apparent in the warm reception my family has received and in the amazing week of presidential inauguration events that took place in December. Highlights from presidential inauguration week are featured on page 4.

Perhaps many of you can recall the serenity of early morning walks across this beautiful campus. My days often begin with a walk through Tecolote Canyon, including a pause at one of my favorite spots to gaze back at the beauty of the campus and the dome of The Immaculata.

As a Catholic university, we are expected to look beyond our own immediate needs and personal goals, and find ways to use our talents and ingenuity to reach out to those who are marginalized and do not share in the benefits that many of us enjoy. This perspective has been demonstrated by our students, faculty, staff and alumni in so many meaningful ways during my first semester at USD.

This represents a different kind of beauty, seen through a different lens, and we only need to look beyond Tecolote Canyon to find it. This is what makes our Changemaker designation more than a name, but a fundamental expression of our commitment to the common good.

Many members of our alumni network took time out of their busy schedules to share their ideas for Envisioning 2024, our strategic planning process that challenges us to think boldly about where we see USD at its 75th anniversary in the year 2024. Perspectives were shared on areas of strength for Envisioning 2024, our strategic planning process that challenges us to think boldly about where

Many more friends of the University of San Diego will be sharing their ideas this spring as part of an exciting Torero Tour across the nation. Please mark your calendars and meet with me at one of 11 Torero Club reception locations featured on page 27.

Together, we will deliver on the vision of Bishop Charles Francis Buddy and Mother Rosalie Hill by enabling the University of San Diego to join the ranks of the great Catholic universities in the world!

— James T. Harris III, DEd
President
The only gift too small is no gift at all.

If together we give, together we grow. A donation of any amount can make a difference in the lives of future Toreros. No gift is too small to make an impact.

MAKE YOUR GIFT TODAY  sandiego.edu/give
16 / NOTHING BUT NET
USD Women’s Basketball Head Coach Cindy Fisher is tenacity, personified. Now in her 11th season, before her arrival the team had suffered five consecutive losing seasons. Though her first team went 9-19, since then, the Toreros have rattled off nine straight winning campaigns. Fisher says that as far back as she can remember, she’s been on the basketball court.

TORERO NEWS
4 / Community Celebration
An event-filled week brought the university community together, culminating in the inauguration of President James T. Harris III, DEd.

6 / From Start to Finish
Admissions, Career Development Center move into renovated shared space in Manchester Hall.

8 / Practical Idealism
School of Business Dean Jaime Alonso Gómez brings exemplary credentials to his new position.

10 / To Search and Find
Search Retreat encourages students to grow in their relationship with themselves, with others and with God.

12 / Author E. Hughes, PhD (1929-2015)
Heartfelt thoughts about USD’s much-beloved first president, who passed away at the age of 85 in Sept. 2015.

ATHLETICS
14 / The Precisionist
Tennis standout Uros Petronijevic is key to the team’s success. Thus far, he’s proven able to rise to the occasion every time he’s called upon.
20 / MEN ON A MISSION
Tucked among the dorms and apartments east of the main campus, adjacent to the athletic fields, is a tranquil piece of property that’s owned by the Roman Catholic Diocese of San Diego. This placid enclave near the lip of Tecolote Canyon is the diocesan pre-theology seminary at USD. This is where Catholic men officially begin their path to priesthood through a program of discernment and formation. It’s a tradition with a long and successful history.

THE NIGHTS ARE WARM AND THE DAYS ARE YOUNG.

ALUMNI NEWS
24 / Celebrating in Style
The 2015 Founders’ Gala was a resounding success; guests gave generously to ensure that undergraduate, graduate and law students can afford a USD education.

ALUMNI UPDATE
26 / Best and Brightest
The accomplishments of extraordinary alumni will be celebrated at the annual Alumni Honors event on April 30, 2016.

CLASS NOTES
For the better part of two decades, Jackson Muecke ’69 was Alcalá Park’s clown prince of conviviality. He sat down with USD Magazine to share his recollections. At least the ones fit for print.

35 / Classics, Reimagined
Janessa Leoné ’09 makes classic hats meant to hold up 50 or 60 years after they’re made. The idea is to create a sense of timelessness.
COMMUNITY CELEBRATION

Harris inauguration events span full week

After his first 123 days on the job, James T. Harris III, DEd, was inaugurated as the University of San Diego’s fourth president at a formal installation ceremony on Dec. 4, 2015. The preceding week kicked off with a Partners for Change Community Colloquium, featuring Ira Harkavy, PhD, the assistant vice president and founding director of the Netter Center for Community Partnerships at the University of Pennsylvania.

Torero Tuesday found alumni, parents and friends coming together to celebrate USD on the annual global day dedicated to giving back, resulting in more than $100,000 in donations that supported university programs and student-scholars.

On Wednesday, nearly 100 volunteers took part in an event dubbed “USD in CommUNITY.” This day of service at the Montgomery Middle School was highlighted by the renovation of the school’s community garden, including projects such as a large garden shed, undergrounding the irrigation system and rebuilding plant beds.

The week came to a crescendo with an Inauguration Mass in Founders Chapel on Thursday and the Installation Ceremony of Dr. Harris on Friday, which was held at the Jenny Craig Pavilion. Delegates from a number of Catholic colleges as well as USD trustees, executive officers, deans, faculty and community leaders took part in the formal processional, which was followed by the Presidential Address and a campus-wide reception.

Sunday was the culmination of the week, when USD met SDSU for the City Championship men’s basketball game at Petco Park. The Toreros won the day with a 53-48 upset of the then-nationally ranked Aztecs.

1) A reception following the Installation Ceremony included the entire campus community; 2) Ira Harkavy, PhD, addressed attendees of the Community Colloquium; 3) Dr. Harris joined nearly 100 volunteers working to renovate the Montgomery Middle School Community Garden; 4) Harris with Montgomery Middle School Education Specialist Emalyn Leppard ’98; 5) Harris and his wife, Mary, at the Inauguration Mass; 6) The Most Reverend Robert W. McElroy, Bishop of the Diocese of San Diego, presided over the Inauguration Mass; 7) Board of Trustees Chair Ron Fowler; 8) Harris was flanked by former presidents Alice Hayes (left) and Mary Lyons; 9) Petco Park was the setting of the City Championship men’s basketball game.
while every journey is different, one common element is universal: a start and a finish. Given that reverberations from major decisions such as choosing a college can ripple for years, USD is making a concerted effort to revamp the way that it delivers its own start-to-finish experience.

This spring, the Undergraduate and Graduate Admissions offices and the Career Development Center have been relocated to one shared building on campus. The newly renovated Manchester Hall serves as a resource-filled home base for prospective students and parents to begin their quest to learn about all USD has to offer. And it’s by design that career development services are close at hand.

“This shows the public, especially our prospective students, that we’re collaborating. They can visibly see, ‘Here’s the beginning, and here’s the end,’” explains Undergraduate Admissions Director Minh-Ha Hoang ’96 (BBA).

“We’re like bookends,” adds Robin Darmon, director for the Career Development Center, who is rightfully enthusiastic about the partnership.

“The importance of the career and professional development experience is threaded throughout the years of each student’s experience on campus,” Darmon says. “Even before they’ve committed to USD, students and parents realize this is a priority. Us being together is a natural fit. It just makes sense.”

Bringing the two offices together solved a number of issues. Hoang felt that the admissions office had outgrown its former space in Serra Hall. And previously, Darmon and her staff were located on the ground floor of the Hughes Administration Building, tucked away and not easily located by those who didn’t already know where to find them.

The freshly renovated building and the ensuing partnership enhanced both offices. Inside, visitors will find a mix of tradition and modernity. The space sends a unified message to prospective, current and past students to visit and linger. Alumni are encouraged to explore the services offered, whether looking for career opportunities or, as employers, seeking to potentially hire USD students.

“Naturally, a lot of people don’t think about a career until their junior or senior year, but that’s not how it should be,” Hoang says. “We want to reach them as early as possible. When I counsel families about their college decision, I’m very proud to show them our career outcomes. And I’m proud to showcase career development and our lifelong commitment to our alumni.”

The new space is welcoming and comfortable, technologically up-to-date and replete with useful resources.

“I’m excited for the future, for parents and prospective students to see the vibrancy of the space, to see recruiters coming in and out of the building, to watch our students hone their self-assessment skills,” Darmon says. “Our goal is to make this a student-friendly hub where students can hang out and do research, interact with recruiters, meet with a Peace Corps representative or hear a graduate school presentation.”
Kenneth Koo ’83 (BA) and his family gave USD $500,000 to establish the Kenneth Koo Endowed Professorship Fund in USD’s School of Business. Koo, chairman and CEO of Tai Chong Cheang Steamship Co. Ltd., received a bachelor’s degree in political science from USD in 1983. He joined his family’s business and represents the third generation in their 90-year-old shipping enterprise. Distributions from the professorship fund will be awarded to one or two emerging scholars from the School of Business each year. The awards will support faculty members who are new in their careers to solidify their research and teaching, and to build careers of distinction. Faculty members teaching supply chain, logistics, economics, finance, marketing or business ethics are eligible.

Parents Kevin Cadden and Kim Nelson have been generous donors to the university since their daughter, Mackenzie Cadden ’14 (BA), a psychology major, was a first-year student. Most recently, the couple’s gifts have supported the Cadden-Nelson Student Research Initiative for Psychology. The psychology department had long wanted to establish a fund that would give students the opportunity to further their research and present their work beyond the campus community. The Student Travel Awards for Research (STAR) program was launched, due to the donors’ generosity. STAR grants of up to $750 are designed to support student travel to professional conferences to present original research findings.

Clarity Design is giving the Shiley-Marcos School of Engineering $15,000 to sponsor two students’ senior design projects. Both of the engineering projects focus on creating new and more efficient ophthalmological equipment to be used in remote villages in Nepal. Students are designing two types of low-cost tonometers, used to measure intra-ocular pressure for glaucoma screenings in developing countries. Clarity Design hopes to send prototypes back to Nepal in Summer 2016.

William (Bill) F. Brennan ’96 (BBA) and Lauri A. Brennan ’95 (BA) have given $50,000 to create an endowment for scholarships. Distributions from the William and Lauri Brennan Endowed Scholarship Fund are to be used to provide annual scholarships or grants to deserving and qualified declared students of the School of Business who have extracurricular engagement, leadership, internship and/or involvement with a local, regional or national nonprofit or community outreach organization.

For the first time ever—in conjunction with the National Day of Giving, or Giving Tuesday—USD alumni, parents, friends and employees came together on a single day to raise more than $100,000 to support student scholars, academic programs, Torero Athletics and the greatest needs across campus. The online fundraising event, held on Dec. 1, was part of the weeklong celebration of the inauguration of USD’s fourth president, James T. Harris III, DEd. The total figures far exceeded expectations. To show their gratitude, student-athletes and athletics staff pledged 221 hours of service in the community. To celebrate their participation, donors filled Facebook and Twitter with photos of their time at USD and messages of Torero pride.
School of Business Dean Jaime Alonso Gómez is no stranger to USD. He’s been affiliated with the university for more than two decades.

With more than 30 years of experience as a professor, researcher and consultant, Jaime Alonso Gómez brings exemplary credentials to his new position as the dean of USD’s School of Business. In a recent conversation with USD Magazine, Gómez discussed the importance of building on the school’s strong foundation of innovation and international connectivity.

Q: Your professional successes are myriad, but you are quick to say that you are an educator first and foremost. When did you realize that was your calling?

A: Early in my career, I worked at home in Monterrey, Mexico and abroad as an industrial engineer. Chief among my job responsibilities was managing crews of steel and petrochemical workers. Over time, I found that I worried as much about the employees’ ability to advance and better their lives as I did about managing the engineering tasks at hand. How then, could I help them? It became increasingly clear to me that becoming an educator was the way. In and of itself, education is an active agent for peace and prosperity, for human dignity, and for a much better society.

Q: Often times, new deans have no previous experience at the school or university they are joining. That’s certainly not the case here. How long have you been affiliated with USD, and how does that help with this transition?

A: Time flies! I first came to USD during the 1992-93 academic year. I was serving as the founding dean of the Graduate School of Business Administration and Leadership at Tec de Monterrey in Mexico City. In preparation for the North American Free Trade Agreement integration, I worked with James Burns, dean of the School of Business at the time, to develop and implement a double MBA degree program through our two schools. To my knowledge, the program has graduated more than 200 people with dual degrees from USD and Tec de Monterrey, something I’m very proud of.

From an operational standpoint, my experience here expedites the learning process as dean. I’m familiar with the university and familiar with many of the faculty and staff at the School of Business, so that’s an obvious benefit.

Q: During your tenure as dean, Tec de Monterrey
DEATH IS UPON US: Nervous chatter and eager small talk fills the room. Phones are begrudgingly silenced and stored away. First-day nerves are palpable. Shortly after greeting the class, Professor Reimer-Barry announces, “Your first assignment is to write your eulogy. How would you be remembered if you died today?” Nervous laughter. A calm smile is her response.

ARE YOU AN OXYMORON? “Christian Changemaker.” Professor Reimer-Barry pauses. Students hold their collective breath. “Are we, as Christians, becoming people of courage? Or is that phrase an oxymoron?” A few heads nod in agreement as if to say, “Perhaps we can do better.”

THE DEFINITIVE DEFINITION OF AN UNDEFINABLE WORD: When asked what it means to be a Changemaker, students are eager to respond. “Someone who makes a positive difference.” “A person who helps others.” While delighting in each response, Professor Reimer-Barry finally adds, “Yes, but those definitions only scratch the surface. During this course we will define the term once and for all.”

FACING SADNESS: Students are instructed to walk around the room and look at the black and white images plastered across the wall. Forming a long, meandering line, they file by: a homeless man asking for change; two girls with an empty cup and no water to fill it; unemployed military veterans. The room is silent until Professor Reimer-Barry’s voice cuts through. “These are the problems we, as a society, face.”

CHOOSE YOUR OWN ADVENTURE: Syllabi are handed out and it becomes obvious this is not a typical class. Instead of required assignments, there is a map of possible options. Students can enter the Changemaker Challenge and earn 300 points, or they can write a paper about Pope Francis and earn 100. Better still, they can do both. The only requirement? Earn 1,000 points by the end of the semester. Class is dismissed. — Taylor Milam
TO SEARCH AND FIND

Retreat challenges students to unplug and live more authentically

by Elizabeth Creech ’16

For nearly two decades, University Ministry has offered the biannual Search Retreat, which encourages students to grow in their relationship with their truest selves, with others, and with God.

Taking place at Camp Wildwood in the idyllic rural hills of Ramona, Calif., the retreat includes student reflections, opportunities for quiet contemplation in a beautiful setting, small group discussions, free time and a variety of interactive community-building activities.

In a time when students are more and more connected technologically, the retreat offers a totally different way of engaging; in fact, mobile devices such as smart phones are not allowed during the weekend.

Student Coordinator Elizabeth Creech found her own Search deeply moving, and reflected on her experience upon returning to USD.

A DEEP CONNECTION
As I walked around campus this past week, I couldn’t help but notice many of my peers wearing their Search crosses around their necks. Searchers past and present wear these crosses as a physical reminder of their retreat experience, a symbol that they are part of a wide community of love and support. Every time I passed by a Searcher wearing their cross, I was greeted with a warm smile and felt deeply connected to my USD community.

Focused on the themes of prayer, witness, service and community, the Search Retreat gives students time and space to unplug from our busy everyday lives and take time to process big questions about identity and spirituality. Search is powerful because it creates the space for us students to be real with one another, to share our stories and to let others see our authentic selves. It forces us to think about who we are, what we believe and what we value.

As the student coordinator, I had the unique opportunity to watch Searchers participate in retreat activities. I was so humbled to journey alongside my peers as they experienced God’s love in tangible ways throughout the weekend.

WE ARE NEVER TRULY ALONE
While there are so many memorable moments from the retreat, one of my favorites was watching students read one another’s prayer requests by candlelight on Friday night. Modified to ensure anonymity and confidentiality, each of the 84 Searchers’ prayers were divided into categories by theme. A member of the Search leadership team would read a statement about one of those themes, and then
Searchers were invited to take a prayer from the basket if that statement resonated with their prayer requests during the semester.

The only light in the room came from candles held by members of the Search leadership team. It was so wonderful to watch the experience of Searchers taking a prayer and walking by the light of a candle to then read and reflect on a total stranger’s prayer request.

The activity was a beautiful reminder that we are never alone in our struggles. Everyone is going through something, and it is easier to carry that load when you share it with others. It’s okay to not have it all together all the time; sharing our struggles with one another helps us to feel more whole.

While the world contains much darkness that comes from pain and suffering, there is also always light. Light that comes from one another, from community, from the Body of Christ. God’s love is so evident in the people around us; sometimes we just need a reminder to be able to see it.

REAL, TANGIBLE RESULTS
The Search Retreat is that perfect reminder; it allows students to experience God’s love for the first or the thousandth time in real, tangible ways. It connects students to a community of support that extends far past the weekend experience. The Search community has given me some of my closest friends, countless memories of tears and laughter, and challenged me to live more authentically.

When I reflect back on my college career, my involvement with the Search Retreat will stand out as one of my favorite memories, providing a constant reminder that the best is always yet to come.

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**GIFT KEEPS GIVING**

Scholarship has lasted 25 years — and counting

by Krystn Shrieve

In their final year at USD, while thinking about what to leave behind to the students who would follow in their footsteps, four seniors made a decision that has been helping their fellow Toreros for a quarter century.

Sam Attisha, Cindy Basso, Kerry (O’Heany) and Dave Reiling, all members of the Class of 1989, knew they didn’t want to raise money to buy a piece of equipment, build a bench or plant a tree for their senior class gift. Instead, they established the Senior Class Legacy Scholarship, which is still alive today. In fact, the year 2015 marked its 25th anniversary.

“I knew immediately that we made the right decision,” Attisha says. “When you invest in people, they will go on to do great things. I’m proud that we were able to be part of what became a great tradition.”

Attisha was USD’s student body president in 1988-89. Basso was president of the Gamma Phi Beta sorority, head of the orientation team, founder of the business fraternity and winner of the Alcalá Award, along with Attisha. O’Heany was an orientation team leader and involved in the Alpha Delta Pi sorority. And Reiling was president of Sigma Pi fraternity, president of the interfraternity council, a resident advisor in DeSales Hall (later renamed Maher Hall), and joint owner of a local T-shirt company called Alcalá Sportsewear.

Basso said convincing her fellow classmates to donate to the scholarship fund was an easy pitch. That first year, approximately 40 seniors made pledges toward the scholarship. The participation rate from subsequent classes continued to increase; in recent years, it has hit a stunning 40 percent.

“Everything that’s successful starts out small,” Basso says. “You have to have an idea and believe in it. That’s what we did with the Senior Class Legacy Scholarship, and it’s what I’ve continued to do with everything in my life.”

The commitment of these four seniors, who are determined to hit their $15,000 goal and to cultivate a culture of philanthropy among students that continues once they’re alumni. That was the same philosophy Kerry (O’Heany) Reiling used when she approached students, asking them to contribute to the scholarship fund.

“That year, the idea was born and bred over winter break. We didn’t really hit the ground running until the spring,” she says. “But I found that everyone was willing to contribute. It wasn’t about how much they gave — it could have been $5 or $10. What was important is that they gave and that they continued to give.”

Dave Reiling says it was an easy sell among his friends and classmates as well.

“You feel a true connection to your alma mater when you’ve contributed,” Reiling says. “We told our classmates that they’d be helping students they knew — juniors who needed help in their final year. It made our gifts real.”

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**25 years**

**Senior Class Legacy**

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SPRING 2016
[in memoriam]

AUTHOR E. HUGHES (1929 – 2015)

Author “Art” E. Hughes, PhD, whose 24 years as the University of San Diego’s first president was highlighted by his leadership during a 1972 merger that created USD, passed away on Sept. 6, 2015, after a brief illness. He was 85.

His solid leadership, genuine dedication to the university and the great value and care he showed for all people, especially students, made him much beloved. Hughes’ passing is a significant loss for the university family and higher education community. Following are some heartfelt thoughts about the man and his legacy.

LEADER, MENTOR AND FRIEND

From the first letter that San Diego Bishop Charles Francis Buddy wrote in 1942 to Reverend Mother Rosalie Clifton Hill, vicar of the Western Vicariate of the Society of the Sacred Heart, a seven-year journey followed. Nurturing their dreams into reality required planning, negotiating and designing what would ultimately become the San Diego College for Women and the San Diego College for Men and School of Law.

After a reciprocal course agreement between the schools was signed in 1967 — encouraged by Vatican II’s position on mutual sharing efforts — the ’70s saw the birth of a new entity: The University of San Diego, organized much as we know it today. To lead this newly merged institution into the next decade, from a field of 237 applicants the Board of Trustees selected a 43-year-old provost from Northern Arizona University: one Author E. Hughes.

As the new leader of USD, Dr. Hughes was quick to emphasize a values-oriented approach to education that recognized the primacy of the university’s intellectual mission; namely a belief in God and the dignity of the human being, as well as concern for the complex and abstract concepts of loyalty, justice, freedom and fairness. Both Bishop Buddy and Reverend Mother Hill would have enthusiastically endorsed this path because it exemplified what both had envisioned as the most important mission and byproduct of a Catholic education. To the end of his life, Art believed this was his greatest contribution to our university.

Throughout his distinguished career, Art received many awards and accolades. He was deeply touched when the USD Alumni Association established the Author E. Hughes Career Achievement Awards on the occasion of his retirement 20 years ago. That annual event has now honored some 117 alumni who have achieved distinction in their careers, all in Art’s name.

When we remember our leader, our mentor and our friend, it is fitting to recall what made Art Hughes so unique among his peers. He was a man of great vision, compassion, warmth, humility and faith. And you have to admit that he really looked like a university president. In fact, one of my counterparts from SDSU once told me that they referred to him as “the president from central casting.”

In the many years that I worked with Art, I observed him in countless social situations. He had the unique quality of engaging you in conversation at a huge event that he and his wife, Marge, were likely hosting, and managed to make you feel like you were the most important person in the room. Whether he was addressing the Board of Trustees or a
A MAN OF FAITH

I first met Dr. Author Hughes when he arrived on campus with his family 43 years ago. Though I did not reside in San Diego while he was president of USD, during the past 19 years I had opportunities to be with Dr. Hughes on numerous occasions. One of the most recent was for a video taping regarding the university’s early history, during which he shared his thoughts on his presidency and the challenges and opportunities it presented.

Dr. Hughes served as the first president of the university for 24 years, a time of tremendous transition. As the new leader of USD, Dr. Hughes exemplified what Bishop Buddy and Mother Hill envisioned for a Catholic university in San Diego. With great leadership and courage he shaped this merged institution into a new entity.

Dr. Hughes had a particular style. He was above all a humble leader — a man of character, values and integrity. At his funeral, his son, Tim, spoke of three aspects of his father, which I think captured him well: faith, which defined the foundation of his character; friends, who formed the foundation of his community; and family, who provided true substance to his life.

These were all true. I found Art to be a man of faith, using all his gifts and talents to administer well, but trusting in God to show the way. He was steadfast in his beliefs, but flexible and ready to listen. He respected others, and others respected him. Easily approachable and at ease with everyone, he was, indeed, much regarded and loved by colleagues and friends.

All this was not without humor. He could easily laugh at the complications and challenges of the early years. Later in his life he enjoyed how he and the early administrators had to forge seemingly insurmountable obstacles and make limited resources go a long way. In retirement he could hold things lightly, offering credit to others.

We were indeed fortunate to have Dr. Author Hughes as the first president of the University of San Diego, and surely his treasured legacy continues to live in the university today.
— Virginia Rodee, ’57, ’74 (MA) RSCJ

STELLAR SENSE OF HUMOR

We were good friends with the Hughes family, so we knew that Art could be very warm, friendly and funny in addition to his professional demeanor.

We traveled together in Spain in the summer of 1978 when my daughter Kristin was six and his daughter Susan was eight. Because Dr. Hughes was president of USD, we were able to visit the archeological site under the Cathedral of Santiago de Compostela (St. James) and climb some stairs down to the first century. We then traveled to the south of Spain and visited Tangiers. Marge and I rode on camels while our husbands laughed. The boat crossing the Strait of Gibraltar broke down on the way back so we were adrift for several hours, but Art never lost his sense of humor.

He was a terrific role model as a president, husband and father.
— History Professor Iris Engstrand
forward momentum. That’s when things got interesting.

“Oh man, that third set against Wayne Montgomery, that’s the kind of tennis people pay top dollar to watch,” Keckley says. “Uros dug so deep in that third set. I was so fired up, I was having trouble keeping it together. He had to find another gear to win that match, and he did.”

In a sport where many of the top players rely heavily on height and power, the 5’9” Petronijevic is a study in precision and consistency, pinning his opponents behind the baseline with an arsenal of penetrating groundstrokes that keep even the strongest servers on their heels.

“A lot of this game is mental, and I know what my strengths and weaknesses on the court are,” Petronijevic says. “I try to keep opponents off balance. It seems simple, but it’s definitely easier said than done.”

Petronijevic’s career win-loss record at USD would suggest otherwise. He leads the team in career singles wins, both overall, and in the WCC (65 and 15, respectively, heading into the 2015-16 season).

“I really want to win conference one more time. It’s my senior year, and I really believe we are the best team in the conference going in,” Petronijevic says. “Stuff happens during the season, but if we can stay healthy, I really think we have a great shot at winning three in a row.”

by Mike Sauer

Newly minted USD Men’s Tennis Head Coach Ryan Keckley had only been on the job a few weeks when he figured out the winning recipe for the upcoming 2015-16 season: Serve Torero opponents a heaping helping of senior standout Uros Petronijevic, and watch them bite off more than they can chew.

“There aren’t a lot of players who are able to control a point solely off the accuracy of their groundstrokes, but Uros is definitely one of those players,” Keckley says. “He’s one of the best ball strikers I’ve ever seen in my life, a true team leader and a key to our success.”

A major contributor to USD’s current 19-match win streak in the West Coast Conference (WCC), Petronijevic will be heavily relied upon to keep the team focused on their goal of winning an unprecedented third straight WCC title in 2015-16. That’s sure to be no easy task, now that the Toreros are squarely in the crosshairs of every one of their WCC rivals.

“We’re the two-time defending champs, and we’re going to get everyone’s best shot,” Keckley says. “Uros is used to that kind of pressure, and he’s one of those rare individuals who rises to the occasion every time he’s called on.”

Keckley witnessed that toughness and tenacity firsthand in an early season match against University of Georgia standout Wayne Montgomery. After winning a tough first set in a tiebreaker, Petronijevic lost the second set decisively, 6-3, and seemingly all...
BRYANT CAPTURES PRESTIGIOUS AWARD

In November 2015, former University of San Diego Torero and current Chicago Cubs third baseman Kris Bryant was unanimously named the National League Rookie of the Year by the Baseball Writers Association of America. He received all 30 of the possible first-place votes for a total of 150 points.

The 23-year-old Bryant was a 2015 National League All-Star and led all major league rookies in several offensive categories, including 26 home runs (tied), 99 RBI, 31 doubles and 87 runs scored while placing second with 77 walks. He is only the second player in major league history to reach those impressive totals in homers, RBI, doubles, runs and walks while placing second with 77 walks.

He is only the second player in major league history to reach those impressive totals in homers, RBI, doubles, runs and walks while placing second with 77 walks.

GETTING TO KNOW ...

JACKIE AND DANIELLE TAYLOR

AGE: Jackie (left), 21; Danielle (right), 18

MAJORS: Jackie, biology; Danielle, undeclared

HOMETOWN: San Ramon, Calif. BIG FINS TO FILL: Older sister Jackie Taylor has firmly established herself as USD swimming and diving royalty, as she currently holds or shares four school records (50 and 100 freestyle, as well as the 400 medley relay and the 800 freestyle relay). “I’m sure Danielle will get them at some point, but I’d prefer she do it after I leave. I worked hard for those!” Danielle knows the bar has been set high, and she’s ready to stroke right over it. “She always gives me something to shoot for. I’d love to try and get those records before I’m done here. It gives me bragging rights at home!”

IT’S IN THE GENES: The Taylor sisters don’t have to go too many branches up the family tree to trace their exceptional athletic ability. “My dad (Michael Taylor) was a basketball player at Cal, and my mom (Mitsi) was a swimmer,” Jackie says. “Guess it’s a family thing.”

EXTRASENSORY: Whether it’s sharing a lane in practice, or torching the competition on race day, the Taylor girls have an almost preternatural connection in the water. Danielle feels it’s been there since they were in floaties. “I love swimming next to her. It’s not even like we plan it. We share lanes in the pool during practice all the time. We’ve started next to each other in a lot of meets, too. Whoa. When you think about it, it really is kinda weird!”
The girl, all of 7 or 8 years old, would walk outside her Cheyenne, Wyo., home, put chalk to cement, designing basketball plays. Then she would pick up her basketball and execute her creation, hoisting the ball to the driveway basket.

Capping her fantasy, the girl returned to the chalk, pretended it was a microphone and made like Marv Albert, broadcasting her exploits.

"In my life, as far back as I can remember, I was on the basketball court," says USD’s Women’s Basketball Head Coach Cindy Fisher.
Fisher, 51, is in her 11th season as the Toreros’ head coach. Before her arrival, USD had suffered five consecutive losing seasons. Fisher’s first team went 9-19. Since then, the Toreros have rattled off nine straight winning campaigns, advancing to the National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA) Tournament once and the Women’s National Invitation Tournament (WNIT) five times.

The Toreros are riding a streak of four straight seasons with at least 22 victories.

“I tell you, in game situations, X’s and O’s, she can outcoach anybody,” says Mary Falcosky, Fisher’s longtime No. 1 assistant.

The secret to Fisher’s success is a combination of many things: pursuing your passion, stiff-arming pain, preparation, refusing to accept the word “can’t” and creating a family environment.

“Coach Fisher,” says Amy Kame, who played at USD from 2010 to 2014 and now plays professionally in Australia, “she’s like a second mom to me.”

“Fisher was on foot when the two boys were making their way to run on the high school track. There were three kids and one bike. They alternated, two on the bike, one running. Fisher was on foot when the boys darted across a street.

“I followed them,” recalls Fisher. “Halfway across, I heard a car screech on its brakes and jumped back. I didn’t get out of the way quick enough. My foot caught under the tire. The car skidded a couple of feet.”

“Fisher spent the next month in a hospital, recovering while her shattered left ankle was being rebuilt.

That experience left an imprint: “When our players get hurt, I don’t have the sympathy for,” Fisher admits. “You go through something so traumatic at a young age and still play ...”

She doesn’t complete the sentence. “You want your players to be tough,” she adds. “You say, ‘It’ll be OK. You sprained an ankle. You’ll live.’

Now, ACLs I have a bit more sympathy for.”

Fisher, a 5-foot-6 point guard, played three varsity seasons at Cheyenne Central, directing the Indians to the state playoffs for the first time in school history. She played basketball for one and a half seasons in community college.

She wanted to continue playing at Kearney State (Neb.) but the summer before classes were to start, she slipped off a lifeguard tower, hurt her hip and accepted that her playing days were history.

“With the ankle, the knee [a dislocated kneecap in junior high], the hip, I think God was trying to tell me something,” says Fisher. “To move onto coaching.”

After 10 seasons as an assistant, Fisher landed the head-coaching job at Wyoming in 1998. She coached there five seasons, the Cowgirls increasing their win total each year. She recruited players in San Diego, played one tournament game at the USD Sports Center with its 1940s-era stage and said, “I’m going to coach there some day.”

What specifically, were the magnetic lures that drew her west?

“It was a beautiful campus,” says Fisher, sitting in her office just a bounce pass off the JCP floor. “I’m Catholic. I love The Immaculata. I just love everything about this university. It’s who I am. It’s small. It’s academic. Something drew me to this place.”

There are common traits to Fisher’s USD teams. They play in-your-face, aggressive defense. They run the floor. They’re athletic.

“When it’s all flowing,” says Fisher, “it’s just a beautiful game.”

As a coach, Fisher is as demanding as she is caring. “She’s not afraid to get in your face if you’re not doing what you’re supposed to be doing,” says Kame. On the flip side, Kame adds, “As a woman going through college, you’re going through some pretty personal times. Her door was always open.”

At practice one day in November, Fisher preached about not coasting. “Take some risks, put yourself out there,” she urged. “Be a little bit more. I go back to my childhood. I had a lot of things going against me. But nothing should hold you back. Not brains, not size, not relationships.”

Replies Kame, “She doesn’t want anybody to be mediocre.”

Fisher is the mother of two sons, Rocco, 3½, and Ryder, 21 months. And, of course, she’s also constantly raising 14 daughters, ranging from ages 17 to 22.

“I’m so blessed to be here at USD,” says Fisher. “Especially now, when I’m in the prime of my coaching life. I just love being a leader to these young women. It’s everything to me.”

sandiego.edu/video/fisher
Men on a Mission

Deciding whether or not to become a priest begins with a calling.
Of course, that’s just the first step.

by Karen Gross

Tucked among the dorms and apartments east of the main campus, adjacent to the athletic fields, partially obscured behind an automatic metal gate, sits a tranquil piece of property that’s owned by the Roman Catholic Diocese of San Diego. This placid enclave near the lip of Tecolote Canyon houses resident and visiting priests, Bishop Emeritus Robert Brom, and a small group of religious young men who live in a sprawling ranch house built in the 1970s.

Officially known as the St. Francis de Sales Center for Priests and Priestly Formation, this unassuming house is the diocesan pre-theology seminary at USD. It’s where Catholic men like Felipe Toscano, 21, officially begin their path to priesthood through a program of discernment and formation. Beyond San Diego’s active Catholic community, many people don’t even know it exists.

“I felt God invited me to the priesthood. I had the option to say yes or no,” Toscano says. “Saying no was a lot easier for me. I had to give up a lot to do this. But in trusting the Lord, I was able to discover that if I follow this invitation, I might actually find the best version of myself.”
A typical teenage boy, Toscana was a soccer fanatic who joined his Chula Vista church choir because of a girl, and he fell in love with God instead. No one could have predicted he would have chosen this path, least of all his parents, who were blindsided when he told them.

“I come from a Mexican family and it’s not common to have a priest in the family,” he says. “I was 18 when I first told my parents I was thinking of doing this. Dad stopped talking to me for two weeks. Mom was devastated.”

Ruben Zamudio, 23, was all set to become a border patrol agent when God called him unexpectedly. His answer drew a similarly negative reaction from his father. “He asked me, ‘What are you doing? Priests are alone when they’re old.’ That’s pretty typical of Latino families. When you make a decision like that, it’s pretty drastic.”

The picture is very different from the way it looked more than 50 years ago, when the seminary first opened.

“The buildings were still under construction when we went there in 1958,” recalls Msgr. Lawrence Purcell, who graduated in 1962 with a degree in philosophy and went on to study theology in Rome.

During his time there, he and his fellow seminarians occupied the entire building that is now known as Maher Hall, right in the heart of campus. There were about 50 men in all, one-half of whom would go on to ultimately be ordained as priests. “They opened the doors to many, and it was the training and the discipline of the seminary that sifted out people to find those with true vocations,” Msgr. Purcell says. “We were just kids, and to the degree that we ever grew up, we grew up together.”

Today, the candidates are generally older and more mature when they enter the program. Their numbers are much smaller, but their conviction and previous life experience result in a higher rate of ordination, according to Rev. Matt Sparh ’83, who’s been the center’s director since 2003 and is also the pastor of The Immaculata Church. But while the mission hasn’t changed, the program has had to.

“Most of the men we’re getting have college degrees and many have worked. They’ve been in relationships; they’ve had a career path. So they’re much more grounded in what they want to do.”

Among the five who currently live at St. Francis Center, only one already has a university degree. The other four — who range in age from 21 to 25 — are working toward their degrees either at USD or Mesa College. After graduating, they hope to continue on to pursue graduate work in theology at seminaries either in Rome, Camarillo (north of Los Angeles), or near Portland, Ore.

As part of a deal with the diocese and the university, students in the program get one-half off their tuition. Their room and board is paid through a loan from the diocese. In addition to full course loads, each has duties in the house and at The Immaculata. And Toscana — a junior at USD — is a starter on the university’s soccer team.

“It’s very difficult to manage all three things,” he says. “I have five classes, I have my duties at the seminary, and I teach at The Immaculata parish. And I have about 20 hours a week of soccer practice and travel.” But what sounds like a crushing schedule for any other student seems to energize him.

“It’s definitely unique for a lot of guys on the team to learn that next to them on the field is a guy who’s studying to become a priest,” he says. “But there have been many opportunities for me to evangelize or practice ministry on the soccer team in ways that I wouldn’t do in the church.”

In fact, the opportunity to mix freely with the general student population in classes, during meals, in clubs or in sports, is what many consider a real highlight of the program — beneficial to both the seminarians and the university.

“There’s something about being at a university and living on a university campus,” says Father Matt. “They’re interacting with men and women, people their own age. When people find out they are seminarians, they have to explain why they’re doing it.”

It’s a tradition with a long and successful history. In the 1980s, when Father Matt was a student, there were about 30 seminarians that were well known around campus, even fielding their own intramural teams. And in the late 1960s, when the seminarians still lived next door to The Immaculata, Michael Eyer ’71 was captain of the university’s football team and a fraternity member. His teammates used to call him “The Chaplain.”

“People would look at us a little differently, I think,” he remembers. “We had a spirituality about us.”

Although Eyer chose not to continue on to the priesthood, he did maintain very close ties with his classmates. Among them was Msgr. Daniel Dillabough ’70, USD’s vice president of Mission and Ministry, who says intermingling was and continues to be a key part of the discernment process.

“I think there was a very human interaction involved in the life of the university as a seminarian, even though we did have some of our separate requirements. This wasn’t some mysterious place where everybody was so holy that they didn’t relate to people.”

These days, with only a handful of men living at St. Francis Center, the seminarians definitely have less of a presence around campus. While they can and sometimes do eat meals with other students, they often cook together at the house, where they share a kitchen, a rec room, a flat-screen TV, and an easy camaraderie. The men pray together morning and evening, and eat a more formal dinner together every Tuesday night. Here they look like typical university students — clad casually in jeans and sneakers — sitting around a long table with their program leaders and advisors, sharing food and jokes.

Tuesday dinners usually get more serious after dessert, when the men take part in a program dealing with priestly formation. On one such night, Sister Aurora Lopez-Ornelas, the diocese’s director of vocations, gave a talk and PowerPoint presentation about living a consecrated life. Among the questions she asked the young men to consider: “Are you willing to surrender yourself in total obedience? What does your devotion to Christ cost you?” They listened intently and thoughtfully, sharing observations and ideas.

Toscana suggested that obedience exists in every relationship. Husbands and wives obey each other. Parents obey their children, and vice-versa. Obeying God, he argued, may sound impossible, but seen through that prism, it really isn’t.

Sitting in their living room later that evening, the men chatted about their choices. “I’m a bit nervous,” said Josue Jimenez, 24, who holds a degree in health and human services from Franciscan
University in Ohio. He hopes to move on to major seminary — an additional four years of theological studies — next year. “I thought I had my life planned out. Then God started molding me, inviting me to follow Him. It’s kind of like a marriage. I’m following and I don’t know where it’s going to lead in the end, but I’m trusting.”

“I discerned on my own for two years, but there’s only so much you can do by yourself,” added Matthew Tobin, 21.

“Coming here, everything is conducive to your discernment. I love the program. It’s honestly been one of the best experiences of my life.”

With numbers dwindling, the challenge facing the diocese — and the entire Church for that matter — is how to disseminate that message, and recruit more men into the program and the priesthood. San Diego Bishop Robert McElroy has made that a top priority; Father Matt says the matter is urgent. “To be sustainable, we need to be ordaining more priests.”

None of the five currently living at St. Francis can be certain they will continue to ordination. After watching them closely, their advisors will decide whether they should move on to the next, postgraduate step. On the flip side, any one of them might decide that the priesthood isn’t a good fit after all.

Toscano says either way, his time at the center will have been worthwhile. “The beauty of this whole experience is that I’m getting to learn more about who I am and who I will become.” And even his parents are coming around.

“What my mom came to realize is that, although I am her child, before I am hers I am God’s,” he says. “There are moments when my mom is very happy for me, and my dad as well. Especially now that I’m on the soccer team.”
More than 500 people attended the 2015 Founders’ Gala on Nov. 14, 2015. Guests gave generously to ensure that the most promising undergraduate, graduate and law students could experience a USD education. More than $685,000 was raised for the Founders’ Endowed Scholarship Fund, bringing the total raised since the biennial event was established in 2009 to more than $2 million. “Tonight is about our students,” said President James T. Harris III, who attended for the first time with his wife, Mary. “It’s about their hopes, their dreams, their thirst for knowledge and their passion to be Changemakers.” The next Founders’ Gala will take place in November 2017.
The 2015 Founders’ Gala was definitely a night to remember.

1) Thank you to all the 2015 Founders’ Gala Sponsors, including Coca-Cola, which served as the Legacy Sponsor; 2) Honorary co-chairs Andrew and Kim Busch with USD President Jim Harris and his wife, Mary Harris; 3) Emmy Award winner Xiomara Galindo served as the evening’s emcee; 4) Brian Reddington with USD Trustee Darlene Shiley; 5) Rockette and Rob Ewell; 6) Vanessa Herbert, USD Trustee Dan Herbert and USD Trustee Ann Navarra; 7) Auctioneer Ben Farrell kept the energy high; 8) USD Trustee James D. Power IV ’85 raises his paddle in support; 9) The Swarovski Sparkle Station; 10) The silent auction featured one-of-a-kind items and experiences; 11) Al and Maha Paulus with daughter and alumna Alexa ’12, and her fiancé, Luca Zapiello; 12) The dance floor was hopping at the after-party.
Alcalá Park welcomes its best, brightest and most renowned alumni home for Alumni Honors, which will be held on April 30. Each year, this on-campus event commemorates the exceptional achievements of illustrious alumni, recognized for their volunteer service, contributions to humanitarian causes, athletic excellence, outstanding career achievement or promise as emerging leaders in their fields.

Sam K. Attisha ’89 (BBA) is the recipient of the Mother Rosalie Clifton Hill Award, which is given to alumni who embody the mission and values of the university. Attisha served as vice president of Associated Students in 1988 and president of Associated Students in 1989. He also spearheaded the Senior Class Legacy with a small group of fellow classmates. He was a member of the Alumni Association Board from 1989 to 1995, various committees and served as Class of 1989 Reunion Chair.

Leigh Ann (Robinson) Brown ’08 (BA) is the 2016 inductee in the Chet and Marguerite Pagni Family Athletic Hall of Fame. She played a key role in leading the women’s soccer team to two NCAA Tournament appearances (2004, 2007) and to a total of 45 victories. Following her graduation, Brown was drafted by FC Gold Pride of the Women’s Professional Soccer league, and later won two championships as a member of the U.S. senior team.

The Honorable Dave Camp ’78 (JD) will receive the Hughes Career Achievement Award from USD celebrates stellar achievements at Alumni Honors
the School of Law. He serves as the senior policy advisor within PricewaterhouseCooper’s Washington National Tax Services practice. A member of Congress for more than 24 years, Camp is recognized for his leadership in advancing federal tax reform.

Janice Deaton, JD, ’10 (MA) will be the Joan B. Kroc School of Peace Studies’ recipient of the Hughes Career Achievement Award. She is a federal criminal defense attorney who is often court-appointed to represent low-income clients. Deaton is the training course director with Justice in Mexico’s OASIS initiative at USD, which supports Mexico’s constitutional reform to improve human rights for those accused of and victimized by crime in Mexico.

Vincent J. Kasperick ’84 (BBA) will receive the Hughes Career Achievement Award on behalf of the School of Business. He is the founder, president and CEO of AimLoan, a private mortgage company based in San Diego. Kasperick served on the board of Father Joe’s Villages for many years and was named interim CEO when Father Joe entered retirement. He supports several nonprofits throughout the region, including USD and its Burnham-Moores Center for Real Estate.

Maj. Gen. William M. Matz Jr. (Ret.) ’73 (MA) is the College of Arts and Sciences’ recipient of the Author E. Hughes Career Achievement Award. Matz is a U.S. Army combat veteran with a distinguished military career that spanned four decades. He has been awarded the Distinguished Service Cross, Silver Star and Purple Heart. In 2005, President Bush appointed him to the Veterans’ Disability Benefits Commission. He has also served as president of the National Association for Uniformed Services, which advocates for service members, veterans and their families.

Diana Combs Neebe ’08 (MEd) is receiving the Alumni Emerging Leader Award from the School of Leadership and Education Sciences. A high school English teacher and instructional technology peer coach at Sacred Heart Preparatory, Neebe is the coauthor of Power Up: Making the Shift to 1:1 Teaching and Learning. She was named the 2014 Outstanding Young Educator for the International Society for Technology in Education and is a Google for Education Certified Innovator.

Andrew Putnam ’03 (BS/BA) was chosen as an Alumni Emerging Leader by the Shiley-Marcos School of Engineering. Now a principal research hardware design engineer at Microsoft Research’s New Experiences and Technologies (NExT) team, his research focuses on expanding the boundaries of what’s possible in computing by improving the energy efficiency and performance of the data centers that power cloud computing.

Miguel D. Vasquez ’94 (BBA) will receive the Bishop Charles Francis Buddy Award, given to alumni exhibiting extraordinary contributions and commitment to humanitarian causes. He is CEO and chair of the California Foundation Fund, a nonprofit organization focused on breaking the cycle of poverty for the state’s low-income population.

Pablo Velez ’06 (PhD) will be given the Hughes Career Achievement Award by the Hahn School of Nursing and Health Science. He is the senior vice president and CEO of Sharp Chula Vista Medical Center, a 343-bed hospital located in San Diego’s South Bay. He says becoming a nurse is one of the greatest things he’s ever done.

To learn more, go to www.sandiego.edu/alumnihonors.

TORERO TOUR
Leading Change with President Harris

USD President James T. Harris III, DEd, is hitting the road this spring and will be traveling from city to city to meet and greet Toreros across the nation. Save the date to attend one of these special Torero Club receptions at a location near you:

Tuesday, March 1
Denver

Sunday, March 6
Las Vegas

Wednesday, March 30
Chicago

Tuesday, April 5
Seattle

Wednesday, April 6
San Francisco

Tuesday, April 26
Washington, D.C.

Wednesday, April 27
New York

Thursday, May 12
Phoenix

Tuesday, May 17
Orange County

Wednesday, May 18
Los Angeles

Thursday, May 19
San Diego

To learn more, go to torerotour.com or call (619) 260-4819.
All sports and all play make Jack a fun guy

"I love sports. Always have. Always will. I played baseball for John Cunningham when I first arrived at USD, and ended up playing nose tackle for the football team my last three years there. This was so long ago that you could be a nose tackle and weigh 235 pounds. I think that’s what receivers weigh these days. I also announced football, baseball and basketball games while I was director of campus recreation. I definitely had a full plate, but I loved it."

It was love at first slide

"It was 1965, and I was sitting in class at Brophy College Preparatory in Phoenix. There was an announcement over the loudspeaker that a recruiter named Father Eagan was on campus to show slides about the San Diego College for Men, and whoever wanted to get out of class next period to see those, could. My next class was algebra and I’m not a math guy, so I was outta there. Then I saw those slides of USD, the palm trees, the sunshine, and you could walk out on your deck from your room and see the Pacific Ocean. That was it. I was in."

For the better part of two decades as both a student and administrator, Jackson Muecke ’69 was Alcalá Park’s unquestioned crown prince of conviviality; a freewheeling force-of-nature committed to connecting his fellow Toreros with the benefits of participating in the university’s then-fledgling campus recreation program. And if ever there was a natural-born recreator, it was Muecke. Many of his madcap escapades have become the stuff of USD legend — but there was always a method to the mayhem. Muecke was, is and always will be an ambassador of Torero spirit, and USD Magazine recently had the chance to gather his recollections (at least the ones fit for print) on what a long, strange trip it’s been.

Waxing Nostalgic With Jackson Muecke

by Mike Sauer
If the job fits, take it

After graduation, Muecke began to trudge the well-worn path of the recent college graduate struggling to find a niche in the working world. As it turned out, the road was circular: “I came back to USD after spending some time in New Mexico trying to figure out if I was going to settle down with the girl I was dating at the time. It didn’t work out, which ended up being the best thing that could have happened. I got the job as campus recreation director, and the rest is history.”

Best thing about being campus recreation director?

“I got to drive around in my ’59 Cadillac with a bull horn, usually around 11:30 at night, yelling at all the coeds to close their books and come out and join me for some recreational fun, which, at that time, meant piling in a van and heading down to Pat and Mike’s Rock ‘N’ Roll Rink in Chula Vista. It started out slow, but got really popular pretty quickly. In fact, I got a call from Pat and Mike’s saying they couldn’t accommodate our numbers anymore.”

Worst thing about being campus recreation director?

“Trying to get everyone back to campus in one piece after a night out at Pat and Mike’s. We’d get back around 3 a.m., and everybody was pretty … well … you know. That certainly didn’t help class attendance the next morning.”

Do these flippers make my feet look big?

Getting students to lead active lifestyles was priority one for Muecke, and he wasn’t afraid to try — or wear — anything to make that happen. “We had scuba classes in the pool, and I wanted to get people to sign up. We didn’t get a great turnout at first, like, basically zero, so I decided to dress up in scuba gear one day (mask, snorkel, tanks, fins, the whole deal), and walk into the cafeteria. I walked through the line, carrying a sign, and people started to sign up. Sometimes you’ve got to go the extra mile to accomplish your goals.”

Winner, winner, chicken dinner

While Muecke’s made a host of meaningful contributions to his beloved alma mater, none have been as enduringly impactful as the USD Sports Banquet, which he started back in 1979 and has since become the principal (and most successful) fundraising event for the USD Athletics program. “I never thought the sports banquet would become what it has. We made $13,000 the first year, and we were thrilled to death. Now it makes between $150,000-$200,000 a year. I’m really proud of what it’s become, and a lot of good people have helped build it through consistent support. I missed one for my daughter’s wedding, but I still bought a ticket. So, technically, I haven’t missed any!”

People pleaser extraordinaire

In just a few short years, Muecke grew the USD recreation program from four or five sports to more than 30. Clearly he had a knack for bringing people together, and that talent did not go unnoticed by the other big man on campus, then-President Author Hughes. “I had just gotten married, and he wanted to see me at my earliest convenience. I immediately thought I was in trouble, because, well, Art really only called me when I was in trouble. But he congratulated me on my marriage and offered me the position of director of athletic fund development, which I happily accepted. Shortly thereafter, I became the alumni relations director as well. I thought more responsibility would mean more opportunity, but it actually meant I had to travel all the time. I was grateful, but I bit off way more than I could chew.”

All work and no play? No way!

Surprise! Muecke’s advice to future Toreros involves finding the right balance between being studious and social: “I’d tell them to work hard and play hard. It’s as simple as that. You can’t focus so much on academics that you don’t enjoy at least some component of the social experience at USD. If you do, you’re really missing out.”
1960s

[1960] KARENE EVENSON (BA) reported that Class of 1960 College for Women alumnae gathered to celebrate all of the 2015 homecoming activities together.

TIM WILBUR (BA) is retired and living in Oceanside, Calif., and in Camano Island, Wash.

[1962] PEGGY THOMPSON (BA) has been traveling and she says she coordinates weddings at her church. “Have been busy with family gatherings, especially my daughter, Dina’s, silver anniversary.”

ALMA (LUJAN) LYON (BA) shares the news that her husband of 47 years, Harvey Lyon, passed away April 13, 2015, at the age of 84.

JAMES TAVASCI (BBA) and his wife, Jeanne '63, have 22 grandchildren and four great-grandchildren. They live in San Juan Capistrano, Calif.

ARTHUR WICAL (BBA) writes, “Recently retired from the paperboard packaging industry after 50 fun and successful years. Carol and I plan on continuing our travel experiences (every state in the USA and 62 other countries).”

[1965] SARITA “TICA” EASTMAN (BA) graduated from the University of California, San Francisco, School of Medicine in 1969. She has been a developmental-behavioral pediatrician in San Diego for 40 years. Sarita married surgeon Brent Eastman in 1970 and they have three children. “Now living with Brent half the year (the warm months!) in Jackson Hole, Wyo.”

CATHY STEVES-MCDONNELL (BA) writes, “Mike '64 is still practicing law and I am busy supporting family, grandchildren and friends. Golfing is a great hobby also. There are now 10 of our family who are either attending USD or are alumni.”

MARILYN RIVAS (BA) was an elementary school teacher for the San Diego Unified School District for 33 years. She has a son, Sean, who is an attorney in Irvine, Calif. Marilyn lives in South Mission Beach, Calif.

KATHLEEN SINER (BA) says she walked 75 miles in five days on the Camino de Santiago in Spain in 2013. “An amazing journey of the mind, body and soul!” she says. “And a year later, classmate Mary Schaller and her husband, Marty, did the same thing. The 65ers are hanging in there!”

[1968] TOM LA PUZZA (BA) worked for more than 40 years for a U.S. Navy research and engineering laboratory on Point Loma in San Diego, and for 18 of those years, he was the public affairs officer. With his second retirement in 2010, he became an emeritus of the lab. His current effort is as the primary contributor to the publication celebrating the 75th anniversary of the lab.

[1969] MARY JEAN (ZOLEZZI) GIOTTA (BA) was a teacher in the Anaheim Union High School District for nearly 40 years. She and her husband, Peter, recently moved back to the San Diego area and live in Carlsbad. In the past year, Mary Jean attended her 45th USD reunion and her 50th reunion with the Academy of Our Lady of Peace.

1970s

[1971] MARIA ANDRADE JOHNSON (BA) is working toward a doctorate in educational leadership for social justice at Loyola Marymount University. “My area of research is digital equity, looking at how access to 1:1 technology positively impacts student agency and efficacy in lower socioeconomic populations,” she says. Maria is also developing job-embedded professional development models and technology-enhanced pedagogies. Microsoft has named Maria a Microsoft Innovative Educator Expert and a Certified Microsoft Master Trainer.

[1975] NEIL TORR (BA) celebrated his 40th reunion year with USD. He says his entertainment business, Epod Talking Photo Booth, will again be at USD events this academic year.

[1977] CHRISTINE BOLOGNA (JD) and John LaRocco ’77 report that their son, Jeffrey, is a second-year mechanical engineering student at USD and he is in the Naval Reserve Officer Training Corps.

MARSHALL (HOKE/HUEBNER) MCCOLL (MED) writes that she legally changed her last name. “No, it’s not my maiden name,” she says. “It belonged to my Scottish great-grandmother.”

[1978] HAROLD MCCARTHY (BA) and Julie (Peterson) ’78 are the proud parents of a USD legacy student. Their oldest son, Thomas, spent two years at St. John’s University in Collegeville, Minn., and he is now attending USD as a junior transfer student. He plans to start a USD cycling club. Harold and Julie’s youngest son, James, is a senior at St. Augustine High School. Julie is in her 37th year of teaching elementary school in the Diocese of San Diego.

[1979] ADRIENNE LEONARD (JD) has been in the telecommunications industry for more than 15 years. She is the senior corporate counsel at Level 3 Communications in Broomfield, Colo. She has three children: one who is a certified public accountant for KPMG in Charlotte, N.C.; one who is a second-year law student at University of Colorado Boulder; and one who aspires to be a professional photographer. Adrienne reported that she recently married Sam Brown.

JEFFERY TIPTON (BA) has been selling real estate for 16 years.

1980s

[1980] CARRIE GALVIN DERN (BBA) and her husband, John, recently completed their own gap year, exploring parts of the United States and Canada in addition to celebrating the wedding of their oldest daughter, Lindsay. In addition, they have two other daughters: Brittany, who lives in Colorado, and Shelby, who is a senior at USD. Settling back in the San Francisco Bay Area, Carrie and John are looking forward to re-engaging in real estate investment management and consulting in the hospitality and retail sectors through their company, Dern Advisory Services.

NICHOLAS KRALL (BA) performs with Marv Rosenberg’s Safaris, a doo-wop group, and with L.A. River Band, a rock/Americana group. He is the chair of Relay for Life of Sylmar and has appeared in many television series.

[1981] KAREN (DAVIDSON) BARNETT (BA) and her husband, Jerry, relocated from western Tennessee to northern Virginia. Their oldest child, Michael, started college in the fall at the University of Memphis and their youngest, Evan, is in his junior year of high school, where he is dual-enrolled at the local junior college.

GINGER HOEBEN (BSN) reports that she is doing missionary work in Mexico.

[1982] RUSSELL PARKMAN (JD) was recently elected to the National University faculty senate as chair of the Academic Budget Committee and he also was elected vice-chair of National University’s Undergraduate Council. Cynthia Parkman ’88 was promoted to associate professor and lead for nursing leadership at National University. “We both received an excellent education at USD that has been the basis for fine careers,” Russell says.

[1983] JAMES HITCHCOCK (BBA) writes, “Supporting Dr. Bolander’s excellent research for early cancer detection through my cancer foundation.”

[1984] MARY STORM (BBA) has been vice president of merchandise and expo for San Diego-based Competitor Group (Rock ‘n’ Roll Marathon, TriRock, Women’s Running Series) for 10 years. She recently started a consulting business that specializes in private-label merchandise and retail with fellow USD alumnus Bill Mondigo. The website is www.theretailstorm.com.

[1985] KELLEY HILL (BBA) has been working on becoming a certified property manager since 2005. “It takes 10 years of training to do this. I am very close,” she says. Kelley was educated through the Institute of Real Estate Management in Chicago.

[1986] CARLOS JUAREZ (MA) was awarded a Fulbright grant to spend the
Spring 2015 semester as the Fulbright-MCI Visiting Professor at Management Center Innsbruck in Austria. He was a Fulbright scholar to El Colegio de San Luis in San Luis Potosí, Mexico, in 2000 and to Masaryk University in Brno, Czech Republic, in 2003 and 2005.

[1987]
EILEEN WARRINGTON (MA) is a counselor for the San Diego Unified School District.

[1988]
MICHAEL CARAMBAS (BA) reports that, following a three-year overseas tour as commander, Fleet Coordinating Group, Yokosuka, Japan, he was assigned as a professor of naval science at Rice University and Prairie View A&M University, and as commanding officer, Naval Reserve Training Corps, Houston Consortium.

RATAN VAKIL (MBA) recently opened The Castle at Rockwall, a party venue. The website is www.thecastleatrockwall.com.

[1989]
CATHERINE (GIRARD) COBB (BBA) says that her son, John, was accepted to Notre Dame Catholic High School in Sherman Oaks, Calif. Her daughter, Kelly, is in the sixth grade at American Martyrs Catholic School in Manhattan Beach, Calif.

CURTIS DADIAN (BBA, MSEL ’01) reports that he is working hard to save and rebuild his business.

JOHN DASHER (BA) recently joined Niara, a security startup, as vice president of marketing.

CHRISTINA VIERRA McGILL (BA) relocated to Seattle, Wash., where she is the principal of Assumption-St. Bridget, a Catholic school. “Our kids have either finished college or are currently attending: Malori, Gonzaga University ’14; Elliott, Carroll College ’16; and Abbie, Saint Mary’s College of California ’18,” she says. “We are enjoying life in Seattle and all of the natural beauty that it has to offer!”

DAVID REILING (BA) and his wife, Kerry (O’Heany) ’89, are excited that their oldest child, Daniel, is in his first year at USD. “Another Torero in the family!” Kerry says. “We live in Minneapolis, but we are so comforted knowing that he will be at a place that we hold so dear to our hearts. Hope to see some fellow USD alumni at Homecoming/Parents Weekend!”

[1990]
J.J. LASTELICK (BBA) is a fully licensed protection specialist in the state of Texas.

JEANNINE PACIONI (JD) was appointed Monterey County assistant district attorney in October 2014. After graduation, she was a prosecutor in the Kern County District Attorney’s Office until she accepted a position with the Monterey County District Attorney’s Office in 1992. From 2001 to 2009, she took an eight-year leave of absence to raise her three children. Upon her return to the district attorney’s office, she prosecuted elder abuse, major felonies and sexual assault crimes.

[1991]  ⚽
KRISTINE ALLER (MBA) lives in Chanhassen, Minn. She is vice president of the central region for The Ken Blanchard Companies. Kristine is raising 17-year-old twin daughters.

KATHLEEN BORGESON (BA) reports that her oldest daughter is attending USD. Kathleen is a social worker for The Elizabeth Hospice.

JOSEPH MATTOX (EdD) serves as a subject-matter expert in leadership theory at Liberty University.

[1992]
CHRIS HOVE (MBA) and fellow alumni Doug Roberts and Derrick Eells met for a round of golf at the Country Club of Lincoln in Lincoln, Neb. “Even in Lincoln, there is a connection to the University of San Diego,” Chris says.

SCOTT KAWALL (BA) says his oldest daughter, Ashlee, is preparing for her second year of playing Division I softball at the University of Evansville in Indiana. Of his younger daughters, Madison recently helped her high school softball team to a second-place finish at the state championship and Lauren took fourth place at the national softball championships in Texas with her travel team. “Proud of their accomplishments but even prouder that they all made academic all-conference and high honors!” Scott says. “Celebrating 20-year anniversary with my wife, Kim, this year!”

JEFFREY LABOVITZ (MA) is chief of mission at the International Organization for Migration in Thailand and has been in the news recently as he was interviewed by CNN International, the Los Angeles Times, a German news agency and others.

CARRIE KRUEGER MAROVICH (BA) teaches eighth-grade language arts and social studies at Loomis Grammar School in Loomis, Calif.

[1993]
SCOTT MAXWELL (BBA) was named the director of development, western region, for Catholic Extension, a national fundraising organization that supports poor mission dioceses across the United States through programs and services investing in people, infrastructure and ministries.

SHANNON McANDREWS (MEd) completed a doctorate in organizational leadership at Pepperdine University.

SUZETTE (PAULLADA) VALLE ’83 (BA) reports that her first book, 101 Movies to See Before You Grow Up, is available on Amazon.com. After graduating from USD, Suzette earned a Master of Philosophy in Latin American Studies from Oxford University. She lived in England for five years, where she worked in finance before returning to the United States. Suzette writes for www.TheWrap.com and founded her own family entertainment blog, www.MamarazziKnowsBest.com. Her articles have been featured on the websites for Yahoo Movies, MSN Entertainment, Reuters and more. She recently celebrated her 25th wedding anniversary with her husband, Alejandro, and their two grown children.
NADIA PANDES (BBA, MBA ‘00) launched Kettle Steam weddings and events in September 2014. “It’s been wonderful assisting others to plan, coordinate and enjoy their most important and memorable events.”

ERIN (PACE) DERMOODY (BA) writes, “The Navy has finally moved my family and me back to the San Diego area after being away for nine years! It’s good to be home!”

TIMOTHY EARL (JD) was selected as a San Diego County Top Attorney for 2015 in insurance coverage by the San Diego Daily Transcript. Timothy is chairman of Sullivan Hill’s Insurance Coverage Practice Group. There, he concentrates on representing policyholders or insurers in disputes involving breach of contract, declaratory relief, bad faith, unlawful business practices and more.

BECKY MANGUAL (BA) reports that after an 18-year teaching career, she is now the director of alumni relations at Marylhurst University in Oregon. She continues to be active in theater and dance while raising her three kids.

LAURA McLennan (BA) has been married for 11 years and has two boys, ages 3 and 2, who are keeping her busy. Laura has worked for the Los Angeles City Council for 16 years.

COLLEEN (CRAWFORD) BOEHM (BBA) founded a group called Wholesome, Healthy & Traditional, which helps people learn how to get and stay healthy through diet and environmental changes. She also started a fundraising program at three local schools called The Traditional Table, which allows families to purchase organic, healthy foods from local farms and businesses while financially supporting their school. Colleen posts events and health information at www.awhatmom.com. She lives with her husband and two children, ages 7 and 10, in Sussex, Wis.

WADE GOCHNOUR (JD) concentrates on his practice in the areas of business law, commercial litigation and construction law with Howard & Howard. He was named to Mountain States Super Lawyers and Mountain States Rising Stars for 2015.

ALICIA MEJIA (BA, MA ‘03) is a consultant for a life sciences consulting company based in Irvine, Calif.

MARY JOY SOTIC (BS/BA) and her husband, Dennis Balagtas, founded Guam Surveyor in 2013. It is now the largest land surveying company in Guam, Mary Joy says.

BETHANY SUTTON (BA) was married, had a baby boy and moved to a new home, all in 2015. “It’s been a wonderful and busy year!” she says.

LISA STEPHENS (MSN) retired from the U.S. Navy in 2005 and is back in the Pacific Northwest. She is working at Naval Hospital Bremerton in the state of Washington. Her daughter, Hannah, attends Pacific Lutheran University.

GREGORY WONG (BA) was promoted to director of customer service with Honolulu Seawater Air Conditioning. He is responsible for all customer-related activities, including engineering analysis, contracting and support. Gregory and his wife, Caryn, have two daughters: Stella, 1, and Eva, 4.

BRIAN CONVERSE (BA) and his wife Lisa (Rundquist) ’00, welcomed a son, Ethan, on July 8. Ethan joins older brothers Andrew, 10, and Zachary, 8, as well as older sister, Daniella, 6. Brian writes multibillion-dollar proposals for a major international construction firm in Denver, Colo.

Tiffany (Rowe) Miller (BBA) moved to San Francisco three years ago and is working as director of business development for Kenshoo, a digital marketing platform.

JASON APOLINARIO (BBA) moved to Los Angeles from Buenos Aires in 2012. He works as a web producer and as a chef on the side.

KATHLEEN HUGHART (MA) works at the Uptown Community Service Center in San Diego’s North Park neighborhood.

MAURICIO PEREZ (BBA) is a broker and partner at Keller Williams Realty in Chula Vista, Calif.

LOUIS-MARIE PILLEBOUT (LLM) was appointed counsel at the Paris office of Davis Polk, a law firm based in New York City. He has extensive experience representing French and international clients, including private and listed companies as well as financial institutions, on complex commercial disputes, ad hoc and ICC arbitration and white-collar criminal matters.

JOHN SULLIVAN (BA) recently joined AMLI Residential, a national multifamily building developer/manager, as the national quality assurance and sustainability manager.

BEAU EPPERLY (BBA) is the founding partner at a San Francisco-based law firm with additional offices in Washington, D.C. The firm focuses on corporate, venture capital and entrepreneurial law.

MEGAN (LUJAN) FONSECA (BA) writes, “As a graduate from USD, I have been fortunate to travel the world. While at USD, I attained the necessary skills to apply myself in wealth management and co-head a high net worth team at Morgan Stanley. I have been blessed to work with and for amazing people.”

CHRISTOPHER NEUMANN (BBA) launched four charter schools in Los Angeles County after earning a doctorate at
the University of Southern California. Based on the success of the schools, she received grant funding from the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation and others to launch charter schools in San Diego. "Along with an amazing team of educators, I now am the CEO for Thrive Public Schools and serve students from all over San Diego," she says. The group has been named a Top 100 School Worth Visiting nationwide and it is a national Next Gen Learning model. Last year, more than 240 educators visited the schools. "Thanks, USD, for setting me on this path!" Nicole says.

MEGHAN (KAIN) BASARAB (BA) and her husband, Jesse, welcomed their second child, Finnegans James, on Jan. 27, 2015. Finnegans joins older brother, Connor Thomas. The family recently relocated to Redondo Beach, Calif., for career opportunities. Meghan and Jesse enjoy being close to the beach again.

KEITH BRUNO (JD) participated in a lawsuit that obtained a record verdict in Riverside (Calif.) Superior Court. In June 2015, the lawyers representing the family of a 33-year-old man who was stabbed to death by an underage drinker at a local restaurant received a $40 million verdict against the restaurant franchise. Keith and his wife, Angela Bruno, represented the father of the victim. Keith is recognized as a Super Lawyer and a National Trial Lawyers Top 100 trial attorney. Angela is a managing partner at Bruno/Nalu.

REBECCA (VARDA) CONDON (BA) welcomed her first child, Kathryn Grace, on Oct. 26, 2014.

PRENTICE LE CLAIR (BA) and his wife, Ingrid, moved from New York to Marin County in the San Francisco Bay Area three years ago. Ingrid is an educator and STEM and technology specialist in the Reed School District. Prentice recently joined Roemer Industries, where he handles domestic and international business development.

AURORA MADUENO (BA) is handling marketing for Canyon Villas, where she has worked for 12 years. She also just registered her company, Sueño Pay, an international prepaid debit platform.

[2003] BASIL CONSIDINE (BA) produced the opera The Clever Artifice of Harriet and Margaret for the 2015 Minnesota
and serves as chair of the firm’s franchise and distribution law practice group. Matthew is recognized as one of the top franchise lawyers in the country. He and his wife, Kirsten Jensen, have two kids: Hannah, 3, and Beau. 1. Kirsten is an OB-GYN at the University of California, Los Angeles.

DANIEL GUNNING ’05 and ERIN (BURKE) GUNNING ’05 joyfully welcomed their future Torero son, Caden Michael, in June 2015. Among many family members, he is especially doted upon by his Torero auntie, Meaghan (Burke) Carter ’02 and his three Carter cousins. Dan continues to love working for Wilson Turner Kosmo LLP as an employment litigator, and Erin enjoys being the alumni volunteer coordinator for the USD Alumni Association. (Volunteer today!) Caden is excited to experience Torero men’s basketball as a season ticket holder.

JESSICA (JEBERJAHN) JONES (BA) and her husband, Brandon, welcomed a daughter, Avery Elizabeth, on Aug. 18, 2015. Avery joins older sister, Peyton, 4.

THEODORE JUNG (MSRE) started a new banking job as a vice president of multifamily lending.

DANIEL MCARDLE-JAIMES (BA) reports that he and his husband, Ryan, moved from San Francisco to the Portland metro area last spring. He also reports that they celebrated their one-year wedding anniversary in April 2015.

ERICA LOVANO McCANN (BA), her husband, Robert, and their daughter, Giuliana, live in Alhambra, Calif. Erica is the director of academic honors and fellowships at the University of Southern California, and she is pursuing a doctorate in education.

HEATHER (BROWN) STARK (BA) reports that she married Ryan Stark on Dec. 6, 2014.

KALE STREETER (BBA) is an active duty Navy pilot based at Tinker Air Force Base in Oklahoma City, Okla.

CRYSTAL TRULL (MA) is a PhD student in the leadership studies program at USD’s School of Leadership and Education Sciences.

ROSANNE (AMARO) VALENZUELA (BA) and her husband, Brian ’05, welcomed a second son, Matias Amaro, on April 15, 2015, in San Diego. Matias joins older brother, Andres.

ROSE LAWRENCE (BA) is a licensed clinical professional counselor who recently opened a private practice in Oak Park, Ill. Rose works with couples and individuals who are going through life issues. She is also an adjunct professor for Roosevelt University’s graduate counseling program.

CAROLINE (BEASON) MASSEY (BBA) returned to San Diego in 2014. She and her husband, Jamie, welcomed their first child, Boone Lewis, in the same year. Caroline is licensed to practice law in Georgia and California; she has accepted a position with Parker Straus.

KELLY MOGHADAM (BA) reports that she and her husband, Cyrus, were married at Dromoland Castle in Ireland. Kelly and Cyrus have been together for 10 years. They met in San Diego while Kelly was attending USD.

BRANDON STANISLAWSKI (BA) is a diligence specialist at NBC Universal. Previously, he was with Freemantle Media.

RYDELL TODEICHENEEY (MSN, PhD ’13) completed the first year as a post-doctoral fellow at Arizona State University/ Mayo Clinic research affiliate emphasizing hepatitis C research among vulnerable populations.

ERICA BUCKLEY (JD) reports that she was married in November 2014. She was promoted to chief executive officer and president of Buckley & Associates — a personal injury law firm in Seattle — in January 2015.

PEIYI “PENNY” CHEN (BA) joined the Los Angeles office of Fisher & Phillips as an associate. Penny advises clients on employment compliance, internal investigations, discipline, terminations and reductions in force. Previously, she held positions at Gordon & Rees and at Meyer Law Corporation. Penny earned a JD degree from the University of Southern California Law School.

REBEKAH FIGUEROA (BAcc, MS ’09) is an audit-appraiser for the County of San Diego.

NOREEN (ARORA) GUERTIN (BBA) reports that she married Tyler Guertin in Woodstock, Vt., on July 25, 2015. The couple met on the first day of graduate school in 2009 at Emerson College in Boston. Noreen and Tyler live and work in Boston.

MIGUEL OLIVEIRA MARTINS (LLM) and his wife recently celebrated the arrival of a baby boy. Miguel has been an associate at Uria Menendez in Portugal since 2012.

BIANCA (SORIANO) NELSON (BA) graduated from San Diego State University in 2014 with a master’s degree in social work. She was recently promoted to psychiatric social worker II for Imperial County.
CLASSICS, REIMAGINED

A tip of the hat to Janessa Leoné

by Julene Snyder

The hat that inspired it all sounds downright delicious: “It’s rounded, made of fur felt, and is supple, worn-in and buttery. A cross between olive-green and gray, it was once a men’s dress hat. You can pinch it and reshape it; dress it up or dress it down.”

Spotted in a vintage Parisian shop on a trip that her parents gave her as a college graduation gift, the chapeau in question grabbed Janessa Leoné ’09 (BA) at first glimpse. “It really took my breath away,” she recalls. “It made me feel so confident when I wore it, and that led me to want to find out where it came from.”

Almost implausibly, she discovered that an Italian milliner who shared her surname made the hat in the 1940s. “I’m sure the story of the journey that brought it from Italy to Paris is amazing,” Leoné says. She began her own saga soon after. “I wanted to recreate the versatility of that hat,” she recalls. “I wanted to learn how to make classics that would hold up 50 or 60 years later. I’m after a sense of timelessness.”

Of course, discovering the hat was just the first step for Leoné. “I needed to learn everything: How do you make a hat? What’s the manufacturing process? I cold-called and Googled and met so many knowledgeable people.” As it turned out, Texan cowboys were an unexpected resource. “Hats play a huge significance in their identities.”

Since founding her eponymous company in 2012, Leoné has pursued a single-minded goal: “To create products that have the capability to tell a narrative of many generations, because they’re made well enough to withstand the stories themselves.” Her first collection was inspired by music. “The idea was to put a name to the faceless women who served as muses behind classic rock and roll songs. People like Bianca Jagger and Anita Pallenberg. I love the ’70s style.”

To say that her vision struck a chord is an understatement. The company, which was started in 2012 with $10,000 she’d saved from her postgraduation job as a nanny, projected upwards of $5 million in sales for 2015 and ships about 5,000 hats per month. Leoné takes pride in the fact that she still hasn’t brought in outside investors.

“I want to keep the company growing at a pace that I feel comfortable at,” she explains. “Every piece of this business is true and genuine to myself, and not bringing in outside funders lets me have the freedom to create the way I want to.”

Celebrities like Mary-Kate Olsen, Jessica Alba and Blake Lively have been photographed wearing her hats, which has certainly helped to create buzz, as has Leoné’s adept use of social media like Twitter and Instagram. “I see it as a direct gateway to my customers,” she explains. “I can share what my vision is and get their feedback directly.”

As far as next steps? Handbags and shoes are on the horizon, but the sky’s the limit: “Coco Chanel started as a milliner,” Leoné laughs. “That’s where I want to go.”
AADILA SABAT-ST. CLAIR ’08 (MA) completed her master’s studies at USD and then worked for an international nonprofit organization that serves pregnant and HIV-positive women in sub-Saharan Africa. She returned to South Africa in 2012 as part of an expert team to analyze socioeconomic issues in an under-resourced area of Durban. The needed services included access to schools, hospitals and clinics, as well as affordable housing and public transportation. The survey analysis was used to create a socioeconomic framework that included policy changes and recommendations to local government. She returned to the U.S. in 2014 and now works in the volunteer services department of a national blood bank.

TRICIA ROBSON (BA) is the assistant director of web and digital production at the Fine Arts Museums of San Francisco, which encompass both the Legion of Honor and de Young museums.

JUSTIN WEBSTER (BA) is an assistant professor in the Department of Mathematics at the College of Charleston, S.C.

JENNIFER YASMENT (BBA) reports that she is acting and modeling.

AMANDA (RAUSCH) KNAPP (BA, MA ’11) completed 3,000 hours for licensure at the Southern California Pain and Wellness Center, an eight-week outpatient chronic pain and illness rehabilitation program, and then she became the lead therapist at the facility. She combined her knowledge of therapy, Mindfulness-Based Stress Reduction (MBSR) and yoga to assist patients with severe pain, chronic illness and medication detoxification. Currently, Amanda teaches yoga at CorePowerYoga in Seattle, has a full-time private practice and is an agency supervisor for an internship program through USD. She is a member of the American Association of Marriage and Family Therapists and the Washington Mental Health Counselors Association.

BRITTANY STEFFEN (BA) finished graduate school at Seattle Pacific University in 2012 and opened a private marriage and family therapy practice in November 2012. She sees clients, is an account executive at Wellspring Employee Assistance Program and is an adjunct professor at Seattle Pacific University, teaching gender perspectives in family therapy. She says her USD bachelor’s degree in psychology, with a minor in gender studies, has served her well.

QIUWAN ZHAO (MA) worked most recently at NYU Shanghai as a major gift officer. In this role, she worked with academic units and leadership to plan, develop and close solicitations for major gifts to support student scholarships, financial aid, faculty fellowships and research. Prior to that, she was a legal representative and program manager for Habitat for Humanity China, where she worked closely with key government, foundation and corporate partners to develop resources to fund housing projects across mainland China.

LIZ (BUCKLEY) ZITO (BA) and her husband, Josh, welcomed a baby girl, Lucie Harper, on July 11, 2015.

MICHELLE DOMINGUEZ (BA) is a graduate student in a PhD in Higher Education program at the University of Nevada, Las Vegas. “Looking forward to participating in the Las Vegas alumni group!” Michelle says.

JESSICA FAHEY (BA) has been working in San Diego biotech since graduating from USD. She reports that she married fellow USD alum Liam Fahey ‘09 and they bought a house in Carlsbad, Calif. “We’re never leaving,” Jessica says. “We love it. We owe our lives and careers to our experiences and faculty at USD. Thank you!”

JUSTIN HARKNESS (BBA) manages Bloomberg’s hedge fund clients in Connecticut and Texas.

NABEIL HAZU (BA) started his own business working in technology.

CAITLIN HEYDE (BBA, BAcc ’10) recently joined Globalization Partners as the global finance manager in San Diego.

KATHARINE PETRICH (BA, MA ’13) is pursuing a doctorate in political science at Northeastern University.

ALEXANDRA RYNNE (BA) manages global content and social media strategy for LinkedIn Marketing Solutions, elevating the brand to marketers looking to grow their business and careers. She serves as the voice of the LinkedIn Marketing Solutions brand across all channels, guiding content marketing strategy as well as managing paid, owned and earned distribution and amplification.

MICHELLE SULLIVAN (MS), a former technology executive, is an executive coach and leadership development consultant with her own partnership at Dragonfly Consultants. She is also an educator at UCLA’s Anderson School of Management. Michelle serves as a board member for the International Coach Federation in Los Angeles.

JANINE WADDELL (BA) has been teaching the first grade in Berkeley, Calif., for four years.

ALEXANDRA BOLIN (BBA) is an
ALANA CALISE (BA) was promoted to infectious disease drug assistance program coordinator at the Community Research Initiative of New England, an independent, non-profit, community-based organization dedicated to HIV and Hepatitis C clinical research, treatment education and financial assistance for approved HIV drug treatments and health insurance coverage.

NICOLE DeFELICE (BA) recently celebrated her four-year work anniversary with HeBS Digital, a hotel digital technology, full-service digital marketing and website design agency. She is the account supervisor in the Las Vegas office, overseeing a team of five account managers, and she also manages her own portfolio of hotel clients.

AMANDA (FOBAR) HOGAN (BA) works in maternal health at Scripps Mercy Hospital in Chula Vista, Calif.

SHANNON (CAJKA) PATEL (BA) reports that she married Sameer Patel on March 30, 2013, in San Diego’s Balboa Park. She returned to school in the fall of 2015 to pursue a master’s degree in social work at San Diego State University.

ROB BREUNIG (JD, LLM ’13) joined the Nashville office of Adams and Reese as an associate. Previously, he served as an associate attorney in ERISA matters at Wolds Law Group in San Diego. In his current position, Rob advises employers and benefit plan trustees on a broad range of ERISA, PPACA, compensation and tax matters. He is admitted to practice in Tennessee, California and Nevada, and before the United States Tax Court. At USD, Rob served as the executive editor of the San Diego International Law Journal.

AUBREY EYROLLES (MBA) moved from San Diego to Dallas in April 2015. She is a regional director for Williams Financial Group.

DEIRDRE GRECCO (BA) says she is involved in the logistics, supply-chain management and overall compliance of imports and exports at her job in Dallas. “My experience studying abroad in both Europe and Asia during my college days at USD has really helped me to better understand and communicate with my clients and to fulfill their needs,” she says.

HEIDI HIRSCH (BA) is a second-year PhD student at Stanford University in the Earth System Science Department. She recently returned from seven weeks in the Republic of Palau, where she studied the potential for sea grass beds to mitigate the threat of ocean acidification. She also reports that her brother, Austin Hirsch, is a freshman at USD.

NATALIE JOHNSON (BBA) is a salon sales consultant for L’Oreal.

MONICA LIM (BA) is working in publishing for various sports and motorcar magazines.

DIANNE McCafferty (MSN) relocated to Ventura County, Calif., with her husband, Scott, and their two-year-old son, Miles. Dianne has a new position at Community Memorial Hospital.

HENRY PERAZZELLI (BBA) is an associate with JPMorgan Securities in Boston.

PETE WILKINSON (BBA) operates a home inspection business he started a year ago in San Diego.

CAROLINE BERGER (BAcc) works at the Gary and Mary West Foundation in San Diego. The private foundation funds nonprofits that help seniors age successfully, lower the cost of healthcare and provide K-9 service dogs to seniors, veterans, individuals with limited mobility and police K-9 units.

REBECA BIRD (BA) says that in the two years since graduating, she started as a reservation agent at Montage Laguna Beach and moved to a new job as a sales assistant at the Waterfront Beach Resort in Huntington Beach, Calif. She was promoted to a sales coordinator after five months with the company.

MARCUS CAPONE (MSGL) is cofounder of a tele-medicine app, Touchcare, and serves as vice president of business development. He also is owner of a new franchise, CycleBar.

SOPHIA CARRILLO (BA) is a student at Stanford Law School.
attending the Obergefell decision at the U.S. Supreme Court, Sophia wrote an article that was published online by the LGBTQ Policy Journal at Harvard Kennedy School, and was featured by SCOTUSblog’s Roundup.

GREGG CLIFTON (BBA) is in the global sports marketing consulting division of Wasserman Media Group. Previously, Gregg worked in partnership marketing at Fenway Sports Management, managing projects for clients such as the Boston Red Sox, LeBron James and Liverpool FC.

JULIE (GEHRKE) ETHAN (MA) cofounded Centric Consult with a fellow USD Peace and Justice Studies alumnus/colleague. She is an organizational development consultant working with nonprofit and private sector entities and her focus is on helping organizations thrive and improve their reach. She is published in trade magazines and most recently in The Peace Studies Journal. Julie holds a registered nurse license and has previous experience in direct care.

KASSI GRUNDER (MA) lives in San Diego and is an assistant regional director at the Anti-Defamation League as well as the founder of Evolution Consulting Group. Kassi has facilitated talking circles, mediations, summits and trainings for more than eight years. Much of her research is focused on transitional justice and restorative justice. In 2013, she spoke at the International Institute for Restorative Practices on the topic of masculinity and restorative practices. Prior to moving to San Diego, Kassi lived in Anchorage, Alaska, where she had long worked in the realm of social justice.

ERIN MARTINEK (BA) has worked as a sheriff’s deputy for the Washington County (Ore.) Sheriff’s Office for two years and was recently selected to become a defensive tactics instructor. “I’m using many things I learned in my education classes!” Erin says.

LILY MARUCCI (BA) is in her third year of dental school and working in a student clinic at Midwestern University in Glendale, Ariz. She expects to graduate in May 2017.

JOHN PATTERSON (MA) is a humanitarian assistance advisor for USAID’s Office of U.S. Foreign Disaster Assistance (OFDA). In his two years with OFDA, John has worked as the

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advisor to AFRICOM as part of the OFDA logistics team. He has also served on two Disaster Assistance Response Teams: deploying to the Philippines for Typhoon Yolanda and to Liberia for the West Africa Ebola response.

PRESSELY RANKIN (PhD) was recently promoted to director of dissertation research at City University of Seattle.

MATT ROBERT (BA) writes, “Working to find a meaningful career.” He is an active member of Surfrider Foundation, Ocean Conservancy and the San Diego World Affairs Council.

[2014] BRIANNA BRUINSMA (BA) writes, “I’ve been working at Lewis PR since March 2014 and absolutely love it!”

THOMAS COBBS (BBA) recently accepted a job with Elon Musk’s SpaceX in Hawthorne, Calif. He is in the procurement department, where he helps with machined commodity purchasing and long-term financial strategy for the Merlin rocket engines. “I am very excited to apply my talent toward the mission to terraform and colonize Mars,” he says.

BIANCA CRUZ (BA) set out on a month-long trip to Australia soon after graduating from USD. “I came back with a forever travel bug and a renewed vision on life,” she says. Bianca has been doing social media and marketing for local San Diego companies and she has started to explore entrepreneurial opportunities. She has started her own henna art brand, Wanderlove Creations, and is the marketing coordinator at PIA Agency, a creative agency focused on video advertising. “I love my creative, active lifestyle and have called Encinitas (Calif.) home for over five years now,” she says.

AFARIN DADKHAH (MA) is an independent consultant on projects addressing gender-based violence with a number of international nongovernmental organizations. Afarin focuses her research and work on women and youth empowerment as a means of peacebuilding. In the summer of 2013, she was an intern with the Middle East Program at the Woodrow Wilson Center in Washington, D.C. Afarin conducted extensive research on the status of women in the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) region, which she later used to write her master’s thesis on sexual violence against women in post-revolutionary Egypt. “I am extremely interested in programs that seek to empower women and promote gender equality in the MENA region,” she says.

MIRANDA DENNY (BAcc) is working full time and expects to move to Portland, Ore., for a new job.

PHOEBE GURROLA (BA) works in postproduction on Supergirl, a new television series on CBS.

HANNAH HOLQUIST (BA) says that after she graduated from USD, she worked for a franchise group in North San Diego County, where she helped them grow their social media and website as well as start up their public relations outreach and network. In February 2015, she accepted a job with Ketchum Public Relations in Los Angeles. “I am still working here and love the spontaneous, chaotic and challenging work environment,” she says. “I am definitely using everything I have learned from my communications professors and classes. Thanks to all of my great professors (shout out to Chung, Ghio and Lew), USD definitely grew me as a person and prepared me for the real world.”

CAMILLA JOHNSTON (BA) is pursuing a Master of Arts in Art Business at Sotheby’s Institute of Art and Claremont Graduate University. She also works for Art Collection Management, a firm that provides advising and management services for those who have purchased art as a financial asset.

NICKY RIORDAN (MA) works at the San Diego branch of Feeding America, a hunger relief organization that focuses on ending hunger with nutrition and advocacy.

[2015] EDWARD BUSHNELL (BAcc) works at a startup staffing/head-hunting firm that was founded by a USD alumnus and Edward’s fellow fraternity member.

SEAN DOWNEY (BBA) is a revenue analyst for Pacifica Companies in the senior living division.

CHRISTINE HACKETT (BA) is pursuing a Master of Public Affairs degree at the University of San Francisco. “I already miss San Diego and my (Pi) sisters more than ever!” she says. “I can’t wait to be reunited.”

HENRY HUANG (BS/BA) writes, “Honored to be accepted into law school to pursue a career in patent law.”

CHANEL KRUEGER (BA) was accepted to Seattle University’s School of Law.

CHRISTIAN MARTIN (BA) is a student in the sport management master’s degree program at the University of San Francisco.

KELLEY MCCLOSKEY (BBA) plays professional soccer for the Chicago Red Stars in the National Women’s Soccer League.

ROMMEL PINLAC (BA) is a manufacturing associate at BioLegend.

CHRIS RUIZ (MBA) is searching for job opportunities in procurement or supply chain management. Chris is transitioning from a government career to a commercial career in supply chain management.

NICOLE SCHUESSLER (PhD) recently earned a PhD and was promoted to director of Title IX and Equal Opportunity Employment programs at USD.

In Memoriam

ALANA CORDY-COLLINS, professor of anthropology, passed away on Aug. 16, 2015, after a long struggle with cancer. She is survived by her son, Arian Collins. Alana joined USD’s Department of Anthropology in 1980. During her tenure she had an incredible impact on the lives of her students and colleagues. In addition to being a stellar research-scholar with an international reputation, she was awarded two USD University Professorships, received the Mortar Board Outstanding Faculty Award twice and was awarded the Preceptorial Program’s Outstanding Preceptor Award for Superior Performance in Teaching and Advising. She also designed and organized the university’s American Indian Celebration, served as the curator and director of USD’s David W. May American Indian Collection and Gallery, and organized the Seventh World Mummy Conference. She will be missed by the College of Arts and Sciences as well as the entire university community.

LT. CMDR. WILLIAM KUEBLER ’96 (JD) passed away on July 17, 2015, after battling appendix cancer. After graduating from USD, he worked as an associate for a San Diego law firm and then served as an officer with the U.S. Navy Judge Advocate General’s Corps from March 1999 to the present. He earned an LLM degree in international and comparative law, with highest honors, from George Washington University School of Law. In July 2013, he reported to his last assignment as assistant professor and course director at the U.S. Naval Academy. He is survived by his wife, Dawn Kuebler, his son, William Kuebler Jr., family and friends.

SISTER GERTRUDE PATCH, RSCJ, passed away on Aug. 24, 2015. From 1958 to 1966, Sister Patch taught graduate and undergraduate English at the San Diego College for Women and also served as dean of students. She then was called upon to serve as president of the San Francisco College for Women, which became part of the University of San Francisco during her presidency. She served two terms on the USD Board of Trustees. Sister Patch is remembered as a beloved educator, a remarkable woman and a role model who influenced many students, alumni, faculty and administrators during her years of service at the College for Women and the University of San Diego.

Class Notes may be edited for length and clarity. Photos must be high resolution, so please adjust camera settings accordingly.

Engagements, pregnancies, personal email addresses and telephone numbers cannot be published.

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SIX USD GRADUATES HAVE BEEN HIRED BY ADOBE since March 2015, thanks to a wave of “Torero Treks” which have given students an up-close-and-personal look at the career paths and cultures of various employers. In Fall 2015, a group visited Silicon Valley companies — which included LinkedIn (pictured above), Adobe and EMC — that emphasize innovation and technology. “Fully 100 percent of the students who participated agreed that they have a better understanding of what prospective employers look for when hiring college graduates,” says Robin Darmon, director of the Career Development Center. “And these treks are opening up new doors professionally for students.”
Grandparents’ Weekend
Friday, Feb. 19 – Saturday, Feb. 20
www.sandiego.edu/parents

Love Is Here to Stay (And That’s Enough): Prints by Sister Corita
Thursday, Feb. 18 – Friday, May 13
Hoehn Family Galleries
www.sandiego.edu/galleries

Kyoto Prize Symposium
Thursday, March 17
10:30 a.m. – Noon
www.sandiego.edu/kyoto

Prints and Pinot
Thursday, March 31
5:30 p.m.
Hoehn Family Galleries
toreronetwork.sandiego.edu/prints2016

Creative Collaborations/Undergraduate Research Conference
Thursday, April 14
Hahn University Center
www.sandiego.edu/cc-urc

Alumni Honors
Saturday, April 30
6 p.m.
Shiley Theatre
www.sandiego.edu/alumnihonors

Graduate Commencement Ceremonies
Saturday, May 14 (Law)
9 a.m. – 11 a.m.
Saturday, May 21 (Graduate)
10 a.m. – 12 p.m.
www.sandiego.edu/commencement

Undergraduate Commencement Ceremonies
Sunday, May 22
(Undergraduate)
9 a.m. – 11 a.m.
(Business and Engineering)
2 p.m. – 4 p.m.
www.sandiego.edu/commencement

Save the date! Homecoming and Family Weekend will be October 7-9, 2016.
Save the Date
April 30, 2016

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