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Great potential and a solid foundation

The past 18 months have been a journey of discovery for me. My frequent interactions with our Torero family, local community members and friends of USD have been more than a blessing. These opportunities for listening and dialogue have been essential to helping me understand what distinguishes the University of San Diego from other great universities and where we need to set our priorities.

Last February, we launched the public phase of Leading Change: The Campaign for USD, which represents the most ambitious fundraising effort in the history of the university and builds upon the strong philanthropic momentum achieved by USD in recent years. We are more than two-thirds of the way toward our $300 million goal. The campaign supports essential capital projects, scholarships and financial aid for deserving students, athletics programs, the recruitment of high-caliber faculty and many other initiatives that advance academic excellence.

Building upon the liberal arts and our rich Catholic intellectual tradition, we are launching a new core curriculum, emphasizing the importance of developing within students critical thinking, advancing skills in writing and oral communications, and fostering independent thought, innovation, integrity and engaged citizenship.

In an effort to formalize our priorities for the future, we developed Envisioning 2024, a bold new strategic plan approved by our Board of Trustees in September that capitalizes on the university’s recent progress and aligns new strategic goals with current strengths as the university looks ahead to its 75th anniversary in the year 2024. Some of the exciting initiatives identified in Envisioning 2024 include building upon the university’s diverse and inclusive community, enhancing our global outreach, expanding sustainability initiatives and further developing USD’s role as an anchor institution of scholarship, teaching, learning and service.

As the youngest independent institution on the U.S. News & World Report list of Top 100 universities in the United States, USD has great potential and a solid foundation. Our founder, Bishop Buddy, once said that it would take 100 years to create a great Catholic university in San Diego. As we continue our progress through the Leading Change Campaign and follow the pathways outlined in our strategic plan, I am confident that we can achieve Bishop Buddy’s vision by our 75th anniversary in 2024, raising the profile of the university and elevating our standing throughout the world.

It’s an exciting time on our campus, and in this issue of USD Magazine, you’ll learn more about the many ways our community is helping to propel us forward on our journey as an engaged, contemporary Catholic university.

— James T. Harris III, DEd
President
20 / SET YOUR SOUL ON FIRE
Grow Great Girls, a program born at USD’s School of Leadership and Education Sciences, aims to empower young women to gain the skills they need to become leaders. Fostering confidence, overcoming social challenges and giving voice to girls helps to restart what’s been called a stalled revolution when it comes to gender equity.

F E A T U R E S
G A L V A N I Z I N G  Y O U N G  W O M E N  T O  A C T I O N.

DEPARTMENTS

TORERO NEWS
4 / Envisioning 2024
USD’s new strategic plan serves as a road map to support the historic mission of the university, while attracting and retaining the best students.

6 / Profoundly Beautiful
The University Galleries’ focus on impactful social justice photography is particularly meaningful, given USD’s Catholic identity.

8 / Now, More Than Ever
The Institute for Civil Civic Engagement aims to restore a sense of civility in political discourse, ideally helping us to come together as a country.

10 / Beauty, Goodness and Truth
The value of a liberal arts education is at the core of the new curriculum, which will lead students to meaningful, successful lives.

14 / It’s About the People
Ky Snyder looks back on 13 years as the university’s athletic director. In a word, it’s all about relationships.

TORERO ATHLETICS
12 / Powering Through
Collegiate All-America women’s rower Uche Anyanwu credits hard work, gratitude and teamwork for her success at the University of San Diego.
SPREADING JOY THROUGH MUSIC IS A PRIVILEGE.

16 / TO PROTECT AND SERVE  Helping to lessen racial tensions between law enforcement and the disenfranchised in the U.S. is part of the focus of USD’s Law Enforcement and Public Safety Leadership master’s program. Its students have a significant, hands-on impact on our communities.

24 / THE DAY BASEBALL LOST ITS MIND  Kris Bryant, the Torero-turned-Chicago Cub, is not only a world champion, he’s also a history-maker. Bryant is the first player ever, in consecutive seasons, to earn recognition as the nation’s best collegiate player, Baseball America’s Minor League Player of the Year, National League Rookie of the Year and National League Most Valuable Player.

CLASS NOTES
30 / A Joyful Noise  Founders Chapel Choir Director Annette Welsh ’79 has been a fixture on campus for decades, spreading her love of music to generations of students.

36 / Making the Connection  Regina Bernal ’13, the School of Business’ entrepreneurship manager, shares unique traits that help people get things done.

38 / R.I.P. Father Owen J. Mullen  The beloved university chaplain is remembered for his relationships with student-athletes and members of Greek Life.

40 / Community Builders  USD students find satisfaction in service work with neighbors in diverse communities.
The University of San Diego will celebrate its 75th anniversary in 2024. But there’s no need for a crystal ball to get a good idea of what USD will look like when it reaches its diamond milestone.

In September, USD’s Board of Trustees approved Envisioning 2024, a strategic plan that not only identifies specific principles that will guide and inform our decision-making, but also lays out a roadmap to provide guidance about how best to reach the end goal: to set the standard for a contemporary Catholic university in the 21st century.

USD President James T. Harris explains that Envisioning 2024 supports the historical mission of USD, while forging an academic environment to attract and retain the best students. The five organizing principles are: student and alumni success; global citizenship; culture of engagement; institutional effectiveness and prominent profile.

Six interconnected pathways will help USD set the standard as a contemporary Catholic university: anchor institution, engaged scholarship, change-making, access and inclusion, care for our common home, and liberal arts education for the 21st century.

“The principles and pathways we’ve articulated affect everyone in the USD community,” Harris says. “Essentially, it’s the collective vision of Bishop Buddy and Mother Hill brought to life in the context of the 21st century.”

The principles and pathways are supported by the current $300 million goal of Leading Change: The Campaign for USD and fully implementing a new core curriculum that reflects the university’s dedication to a liberal arts education in its Catholic intellectual tradition and develops critical competencies needed in the 21st century workforce. The university has also committed to campus infrastructure improvements to create new learning spaces, make way for new programs and attract the most promising students.

Harris says the crucial components of Envisioning 2024 are the principles and pathways that point the entire USD com-
munity toward our vision for our 75th anniversary in 2024.

“We’ll become an even more engaged university by becoming an anchor institution, developing partnerships with like-minded organizations to advance shared passions,” he says. “We’ll continue to challenge students to think in new ways, practice change-making, and create an environment where innovation and entrepreneurship lead to positive social impact.”

Harris says the pathways to being a contemporary Catholic institution mean that USD has to ensure access and inclusion by creating a welcoming, collaborative community, and that responding to Pope Francis’ call in his encyclical, Laudato Si’, compels us to care for our common home. Perhaps most crucial is ensuring that our students challenge ideas and discern significant truths about reality, faith and human existence.

Harris says that a vital element in the realization of Envisioning 2024 is the leadership of Vice President and Provost Andrew Allen, PhD, who heads the effort. Allen has agreed to take on new responsibilities as vice president for institutional effectiveness and strategic initiatives, and is charged with helping administrative and academic units align their efforts with the plan.

“Too many times, strategic plans become victims of institutional ineffectiveness,” Harris says. “It’s so easy to get lost in pointless meetings and circular discussion. Andy has accepted the responsibility to fight through that and ensure we stay on the pathways, and the pathways are still leading us toward individual goals. Envisioning 2024 is really a challenge to every member of the USD community to roll up his or her sleeves and work to take this university to the next chapter in its development as a prestigious international institution.”

For more, go to www.sandiego.edu/envisioning-2024.

**HE’S READY TO LEAD**

New board chair envisions USD’s future

by Ryan T. Blystone

On campus this past fall to talk to a group of students and staff about leadership and traits to build success, Donald Knauss (pictured) defined “leadership.”

“It’s about rallying people to a better future,” he said. “There’s a vision in that; and, as a leader, it poses the question: ‘How are you going to create a better future?’”

A member of USD’s Board of Trustees since 2008, Knauss has been a successful leader at companies including Procter & Gamble, Coca-Cola, Frito-Lay and, most recently, the Clorox Company. On July 1, 2016, Knauss took another significant leadership step when he was appointed the new USD Board of Trustees chairman, replacing Chair Emeritus Ron Fowler.

In just the past year, the board has been building a vision for USD’s future. It approved the Envisioning 2024 strategic plan put forth by USD President James Harris, and led by Envisioning 2024 Steering Committee Co-Chairs Vice President and Provost Andrew Allen and Associate Provost for Inclusion and Diversity Esteban del Rio. A new undergraduate core curriculum begins Fall 2017. Both shape the university’s educational and institutional vision.

“I don’t think there’s a more exciting time to be at USD,” Knauss said. “I like the mission, philosophy and feel of the school. I like the quality of the university’s leadership, faculty and students as well as the vitality on campus with students coming to a forward-thinking institution to drive intellectual curiosity.”

Particularly key for Knauss is the university’s dedication to a holistic educational experience.

“Globalization is very important,” he said. “It’s a competitive world out there. So regardless of what you want to do with your life, it’s about how you are positioning yourself. I believe that students come out of USD with not only the academic credentials, but also in a position to be effective.”

Knauss is eager to bring what he’s learned to his new role. He’s ready to lead.

“Real leaders take the people and assets they are entrusted with and make them more productive and valuable,” he said. “Real leaders can truly inspire people and make a real difference.”
Katelyn Allen transferred to USD in Fall 2015. She knew that she wanted to find a meaningful way to get involved, but she had no idea that she would wind up curating her own gallery exhibition.

A double major — art history and philosophy — Allen, a junior, has always been interested in the meaning behind art. When she met Director of University Galleries Derrick Cartwright she quickly learned that the intent, particularly in photography, can actually be paramount.

"Not all photographs are driven by compassion or empathy or a desire to make a difference in the world, but social justice photography absolutely is," Cartwright explains.

After meeting with him and others on the University Galleries team, Allen “instantly felt welcomed” and quickly signed on to become an intern. But this wasn’t an ordinary student internship; it was a true immersion.

“[I] like that we can have students so intimately involved in the process of selecting art and curating shows. It’s one of the things that makes USD special. Almost everything that we do at the gallery is rooted in the student experience,” says Cartwright.

With a goal of “exposing viewers to a glimpse of something that their own life experiences
don’t allow them to experience,” he assigned Allen an exciting task: curate a show.

For an aspiring professor and university gallery director, it was a dream come true, especially given the exhibition’s theme: social justice photography. As she carefully sifted through each piece owned by the university — even helping to acquire more works of art — Allen experienced a crash course in meaning.

“It became clear that social justice photography is trying to get the viewer to respond, to go out in the world and take action,” she says. “These pieces are supposed to evoke a reaction from the viewer.”

Last February, her curated exhibition, I Witness: Social Justice Documentary and Street Photography, opened in the Joan B. Kroc Institute for Peace and Justice. The show featured 20 images ranging from the Great Depression to the civil rights era to the current day.

Social justice artwork is particularly meaningful to USD’s Catholic identity.

“The Catholic Church has been such an ardent supporter of civil rights issues, not just the Farm Workers Movement but also the Selma voting rights march. There are photographs of the nuns marching alongside the protesters. It’s part of Catholic history,” Cartwright explains.

For Allen, one of the most rewarding parts of the project was the ability to incorporate student artwork in the adjacent gallery. “It’s great to be able to show the work of students and graduates who’ve been able to go out into the world and use their education in a meaningful way.”

Even though Allen’s curated exhibition has now closed, it’s just one more beginning for University Galleries. Cartwright is honing his own vision for the future.

“We really have the opportunity to build something meaningful. Everything that happens here is going to be fresh and impactful.”

[impactful]

HISTORY WITH CLASS

Longtime USD professor Iris Engstrand retires

by Timothy McKernan

History professor Iris Engstrand is retiring at the end of the academic year, her 48th at Alcalá Park.

“I don’t think anyone takes a job and thinks, ‘this is where I’ll be for the next five decades,’ but it worked out that way,” Engstrand says. “I’ve been privileged to see USD develop from the tiny colleges for women and men into a truly great university. It’s been such a blessing.”

Author of more than 20 books, Engstrand is an accomplished scholar of Latin American, Mexican and Spanish history and was recently awarded the Order of Isabel la Católica by the King of Spain for outstanding contributions to the history of Spain in the Americas.

Soon after joining the San Diego College for Men faculty in 1968, history department chair Ray Brandes asked Engstrand to organize a conference on San Diego history. That conference became the catalyst for a new specialty. Almost 50 years later, Engstand is perhaps the leading authority on the region’s history.


If it is difficult to imagine USD without Engstrand, maybe it’s because there has never been a USD without her. Engstrand joined the College for Men faculty four years before it merged with the College for Women and the School of Law to create the University of San Diego. She was part of the committee that selected Author E. Hughes to be president of the new institution.

“I was one of the very few women teaching at the College for Men,” Engstrand remembers. “I got a lot of support from Sister Helen Lorch and some of the other nuns; they even helped look after my daughter so I could teach. It’s easy to get sentimental now, but there were a lot of contentious issues that needed to be worked through. But all you have to do is look around to see it’s worked out pretty well.”

Engstrand’s life in retirement will have a familiar air.

In addition to continuing her work as editor of The Journal of San Diego History, Engstrand is a member of the Board of Directors of the San Diego Maritime Museum, a volunteer with the San Diego Natural History Museum and curator of centennial exhibits at Balboa Park and the San Diego Zoo. She’s also consulting for MGM on a movie about the apparition of the Virgin of Guadalupe.

And there is one other project keeping her busy. She’s working with Derrick Cartwright, USD’s director of university galleries, to team-teach a course on art and architecture.

“I love teaching,” she says. “I love the research and writing and everything that’s part of being a professor, but I’ve always loved teaching the most.”

See Engstrand talking about her career at sandiego.edu/video/engstrand.
[r e s p e c t]

NOW, MORE THAN EVER
USD institute is on a mission to restore civility to political discourse

Perhaps not since the days of Reconstruction following the Civil War has the American populous been so divided. One can hardly turn on the television news or read a news story without a vitriolic tirade of insults and accusations. How can citizens cut through the noise and understand an issue free of bias? How can we hold the media accountable for their role in the political process? And perhaps most important, how do we heal as a country?

Enter USD’s Institute for Civil Civic Engagement (ICCE).

Housed in the College of Arts and Science’s Political Science department, the mission of the institute is deceptively simple: restore a sense of civility in political discourse.

Director and co-creator Carl Luna, PhD, explains that now is the time to ensure that the next election cycle contains less invective and more constructive and thoughtful conversation.

“We’d like to get San Diego talking about civility now, so that by the elections of 2018 and 2020 we can raise the level of our civic debate to match the better angels of our nature rather than see it stay in the gutter of trolling social media,” Luna says.

The institute works to engage USD students and alumni at multiple levels. The signature event is the annual Restoring Respect conference, held every spring at USD’s Kroc Institute for Peace and Justice. The ICCE is expanding the 2017 conference into a two-day regional event (April 18-19), which will include panels and presentations on student leadership and civic engagement by and for USD and
other area college and high school students. USD students are also urged to intern with the institute, organizing and conducting events and managing the institute’s social media.

Moving forward, Luna cautions that change must occur on a basic and fundamental level; of paramount importance is learning not to demonize either side of the political spectrum.

“A large majority of Americans would be more upset if their child married someone from the other party than if they married someone from a different religious or race. If the other party is evil or morally bankrupt, you don’t want or need to compromise with them — instead we have the politics of total conquest,” Luna explains. “That’s a recipe for the very gridlock that leaves us unable to address even basic issues at the national level like highway construction, let alone controversial issues like job creation and global warming.”

Moving forward, the institute hopes to grow its presence on campus and within the San Diego community by securing sufficient underwriting to support full- and part-time positions and by becoming a resource for effective civic engagement.

“Bringing in the active support and participation of USD alumni in our work is a top priority for 2017,” Luna says. Establishing a presence within the greater San Diego community would allow the ICCE to fully support USD’s role as an anchor institution.

“There has never been a better time for USD to take a leadership role in our society,” said President Harris not long after the election. “This is a moment when our university community can demonstrate that changemaking is not just an ideal, but an opportunity to lead and be positive agents in the world.”

sandiego.edu/video/luna

DIGITAL CHANGEMAKERS
Technology inspires possibilities

Creativity overcomes complacency. Innovation defeats stagnation. Enthusiasm conquers the status quo. The technological landscape continues to shift into ever-higher gear, and USD is at the forefront of harnessing the power of ideas to transform higher education.

The university’s annual Technology Showcase — the brainchild of Information Technology Services — shines a spotlight on the latest trends in teaching and learning. The 2017 event again brought together faculty, students and cutting-edge speakers and exhibitors, focusing on the theme of “Changemakers for the Digital Age.”

“The showcase is one simple way for faculty members to get exposed to the latest software and hardware,” explains Vice Provost and Chief Information Officer Chris Wessells. The event provides a one-stop technological shop for the entire campus community. Of particular value is the ability for faculty members to see presentations from peers, helping them envision how various types of technology can be integrated into the classroom.

“Often we hear, ‘Oh wow! I didn’t even know I had this technology available to me!’” Wessells says. “It also expands our technological infrastructure,” adds Senior Director of Academic Technology Services Shahra Meshkaty. “Over the years, the event has grown tremendously. We used to hold it in the basement and hallway of Maher Hall, and now we need all three forums at the Hahn University Center to accommodate the hundreds of participants.”


Vendors included Absolute Software, Apple, Blackboard, Dropbox, IBM, Sharp and the classroom multimedia integrator Southland Technology.

As the rapid-fire pace of technology continues to accelerate, it’s important for the university to keep up. “A few years ago, we invited students from High Tech High to attend the showcase and demonstrate how they use technology,” recalls Wessells. “It helped us to really understand how tech-savvy our incoming students are.” — Julene Snyder

GIFTS AT WORK

Luis and Sally Maizel have generously supported USD for years. They most recently gave a total of $100,000 to support the School of Business Entrepreneurship Program and its initiatives. Their gifts have allowed continuity and growth in the entrepreneurship program’s marquee extracurricular events, the USD Legacy Entrepreneurship Conference and the V2 Pitch Competition. Luis is currently both a member of the USD Board of Trustees and School of Business Board of Advisors.

Jeff Phair ’80 (JD) has joined the Levine family and members of the trial advocacy community to honor the late Harvey Levine by funding an endowed scholarship to benefit law students who embody the virtues of the former USD professor, particularly his interest in community service and trial advocacy. The scholarship will be funded through individuals as well as the proceeds of an annual reception featuring consumer trial advocacy luminaries. As the endowment grows, so will the impact on the lives of students who carry out the work of Levine and other pioneers in consumer litigation.

Steve ’86 (JD) and Lisa Altmann ’85 (JD) have generously provided initial funding for the law school’s new Center for Health Law Policy and Bioethics (CHLPB), helping to give San Diego a voice in biotechnology and medical technology policy. San Diego is at the forefront of many scientific breakthroughs, but advancement is often impeded due to ethical, legal and policy issues. The CHLPB will bring together experts from the medical, legal and academic industries to collaborate on finding viable solutions.
Value of liberal arts at the core of new curriculum

by Julene Snyder

There’s a change in the air. This fall, the Class of 2021 will choose their coursework based on USD’s new core curriculum, the most significant adjustment to the classes required by undergraduates since 1986.

Representing five years of work by faculty, students and the Board of Trustees, the new core is a student-centered recommitment to the value of a liberal arts education for all undergraduates, regardless of major. The impetus for the change was to give students fewer required classes outside of their chosen field of study, providing them with more space for electives and/or classes within their major or minor.

In the end, the focus remains squarely on the Catholic intellectual tradition, which is centered on the belief that serious, sustained intellectual reflection is essential to our lives.

“Our new core curriculum is the embodiment of our commitment to the liberal arts at USD. I am truly appreciative of our faculty for their tireless work to craft our new San Diego core,” says College of Arts and Science Dean Noelle Norton. “Our students will greatly benefit from the deliberate attention to the integration of ideas, diversity and inclusion. The skills students will acquire by completing the core will lead to meaningful, successful lives after graduation.”

A majority of faculty approved the new curriculum last spring; the University Senate subsequently made it official. Integrating learning goals across requirements and disciplines was a driving factor in the core revision. First-year students will participate in a yearlong living learning course experience and upper-division students will now take a course that integrates material from more than one discipline.

Another goal of crafting a smaller but more vibrant core inspired changes to English, logic, theology, social science and science requirements. The First-Year Writing Experience replaces the Composition and Literature requirement, and critical thinking is embedded throughout the entire core, instead of in just one logic course. While there is one less theology requirement, one of the remaining two must explore Catholic-christianity. The natural science requirement now incorporates a laboratory experience, and students must take two courses that explore issues of diversity, inclusion and social justice.

Special Assistant to the Dean Kristin Moran, PhD — who directed the efforts of the Core Planning Committee — is excited about the new direction. “What employers want to see most are students who can think critically, communicate efficiently and solve problems. Our students will have the ability in the new core to practice those skills.”

School of Business Dean Jaime Alonso Gómez concurs. “A foundation in liberal arts education is essential for our business students,” he says. “They gain multidisciplinary knowledge and critical thinking skills in addition to learning how to communicate effectively in dynamic contexts and situations, which helps them to develop as leaders. All of this enables business students to enrich their judgment and decision-making capabilities, forge a robust moral character and become responsible citizens.”
ON THE FRONT LINE
Legal Clinic protects the protectors

Founded in 2012, the USD School of Law Veterans Legal Clinic fills the critical unmet need of veterans for pro bono legal assistance, a need consistently identified by veterans themselves, according to the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA). Such services are crucial to ensure veterans make a successful transition to civilian life. A lack of legal assistance contributes to veterans’ homelessness, financial turmoil and serious mental health concerns.

The clinic’s managing attorney, Robert Muth (pictured), says the clinic is one-of-a-kind. “We are unique. There is no other law school legal clinic in the nation that handles such a diverse array of legal matters for veterans.”

Here, attorneys and law students shape policy to protect and secure veterans’ futures. They do so by providing expert free legal services — from advice to full representation — for veterans, active duty service members, reservists and their families. The focus is in three areas: GI Bill abuse by for-profit education companies, VA rating decision appeals, and military discharge characterization upgrades.

Recently, the clinic settled a class arbitration involving approximately 29,500 claimants. Partnering with two law firms, Duckor Spradling Metzger & Wynne of San Diego and Callahan Thompson, Sherman & Caudill LLP of Irvine, the clinic faced off against United Education Institute and IEC Corporation (collectively UEI), a for-profit school with campuses throughout the Southwest.

The clinic’s involvement in the matter originated after receiving complaints from veterans alleging they were deceptively induced to enroll at UEI, and believed they had wasted their post-9/11 GI Bill benefits at the for-profit school. Each student who opted-in to the class will receive approximately $1,100 as a result of the settlement.

“We continue to secure the future of our veterans through legal advocacy,” says Muth.

Toward that end, the clinic will continue to recruit, train and support pro bono attorneys. A new collaborative relationship with Jones Day will help the clinic to expand its reach in the community; the law firm has joined with the ABA to develop VetLex, a legal referral network to provide pro bono help to veterans.

USD is the youngest private university included on the 2017 U.S. News & World Report Best Colleges list, ranking 86th, up three positions from the previous year. Also of note, the Shiley-Marcos School of Engineering ranked 13th among engineering schools whose highest degree is a bachelor’s or master’s. USD’s School of Business ranking at 94th represents an improvement of 20 positions compared to the previous year’s results. “These rankings are an affirmation of USD’s world-class academic programs, award-winning faculty and thriving alumni network,” said President James T. Harris III. “Our commitment to the liberal arts and engaged scholarship develops graduates with the ability to write and speak effectively, construct and evaluate arguments, apply knowledge in real-world settings, make ethical decisions and work well in teams to confront humanity’s urgent challenges.”

The Character Education Resource Center (CERC) is devoted to supporting the positive character development of children and adults, particularly related to schools and social institutions. Housed in USD’s School of Leadership and Education Sciences, CERC’s annual Character Matters Conference is scheduled for June 22-23. While details are still being finalized, the conference is slated to be titled, “Character and Civic Education,” a timely topic, given the tenor of the recent election and its ongoing reverberations. The conference is aimed at teachers from all grades, school-based administrators and counselors, social workers, coaches, parents and caregivers, district office curriculums and undergraduates and graduate students in teacher-preparation programs. Learn more at www.sandiego.edu/soles/character-education-resource-center/summer-conference.php.

USD’s new Architecture Pavilion — a collaboration between undergraduate architecture students in the Department of Art, Architecture + Art History and award-winning architect Rob Quigley — opened this past fall. The new space, located north of Camino Hall, houses new indoor/outdoor student studios as well as seminar, lecture and exhibition areas. Built with a prefabricated steel structure and simple materials, the 2,100-square-foot pavilion is a flexible environment that can easily be transformed to fit a variety of uses, expanding the range of public events that can be hosted within it. “The building is an instructional model of passive environmental design,” Quigley says. “It was a delight to work with creative students to achieve this unusual building.”

Work on the Colachis Plaza project has begun. In early January, the project got under-way, with the aim of creating a beautiful pedestrian mall from The Immaculata to Copley Library, extending west from the existing Plaza de San Diego and Colachis Plaza. The new plaza will consist of a large functional oval lawn in the center to support student activities, a natural garden to the east and various gathering spaces to the west, including a grand fountain. Sustainable elements will be incorporated, and the project will significantly increase pedestrian walkways and eliminate vehicular traffic from Copley Library to The Immaculata. Work is scheduled to conclude in August 2017. Learn more and see a rendering at sandiego.edu/facilities/press.php.
Women’s rower Uche Anyanwu credits hard work for her success

by Don Norcross

Board games, horseshoes, grades … the sisters competed at everything.

“If I was ever beating her at anything, that was the end of the game,” recalls USD rower Uche Anyanwu, the younger sister.

“I was the emotional one. I’d toss the board game aside,” says older sister Nneka. “Competition was love, and we loved each other very much.”

Nneka sampled rowing first, dipping her toe in the water late in high school after a family friend invited her to watch the San Diego Crew Classic. Uche watched from the shore for a while.

“Then I did what little sisters do,” said Uche. “I joined in.”

The sisters, whose parents were born and raised in Nigeria, proved skilled with an oar in hand. Nneka earned second team All-America honors during her senior season at USD in 2015. Uche one-upped her sister, earning first team All-America honors in 2016 as a junior.

Pronounced Oo-chay On-YA-wu, her athletic story is fascinating. Uche played soccer and basketball in her youth. As a freshman at San Diego’s Westview High, she played junior varsity basketball, suffered a knee injury and never played basketball again. She did not play any sport at the high school varsity level.

Now she’s a collegiate All-America rower, powerful enough, her coach thinks, to one day compete for the national team.

“It just goes to show that working hard can give you the success you thrive on,” says Uche. “I never once thought this would happen to me.”

Her relationship with the sport was not love at first sight.

“Rowing is a difficult sport, so at first I butted heads with it,” she recalls. “It requires a mentality I didn’t have at the time.”

That mentality? “A toughness that requires you to embrace an endurance sport with sprinting elements. There were moments I loved it, and there were moments I truly hated it.”

Her rowing route proved circuitous. Initially, she attended USC for one semester before transferring to Alcalá Park. While she enjoyed the academic setting at USC, something was amiss. The environment on the team didn’t feel right. Also, as one of five siblings — there are two younger brothers and a younger sister — she longed for her family.

Reminded that Los Angeles is only two hours away, Uche says,
“Even that two hours was difficult for me. My siblings are my best friends.”

She had to work her way up the USD ladder, rowing in the Toreros’ No. 2 varsity eight boat as a freshman.

“She had a lot of strength but the stroke didn’t come easy for her,” said USD coach Kim Cupini. “USC didn’t give her time to learn that. She could easily have quit. But she stuck with it.”

There are few sports more physically taxing than rowing. For the spring season, the women typically row for three hours, four days a week, beginning at 6:30 a.m. on Mission Bay. The rowers make sure to soak up the little things in life, often stopping to watch the sun rise.

“We remind ourselves to be grateful for the experience,” says Uche.

The team lifts weights twice a week for an hour, plus trains on the ergometerrowing machine for 90 minutes, twice a week. The women are often tested on the ergometer, seeing how long it would take to row 2,000 meters.

Her best time is 6 minutes, 44 seconds, the fastest by a USD woman since 2001.

A business administration major, she’s not afraid to take the path less traveled. While she’s been encouraged to compete for the national team when her rowing career is complete at USD, she almost certainly will pass. Why? She’s ready to go to work. She’s thinking something in the software industry.

“It’s what I’ve dreamt of as a little girl,” she said. “I’ve always wanted to wear the pantsuit, go to work at 7 a.m., the whole shebang. I’m ready to follow my next passion.”

See a video about Uche and three other game-changing student-athletes at sandiego.edu/video/uche.

FILIP VITTEK

AGE: 23  HOMETOWN: Trnava, Slovakia

RÉSUMÉ: Vittek hit the ground running at USD, earning Male Torero Rookie of the Year honors as a first-year on the strength of his impressive 8-0 record against WCC rivals in doubles. He’s since amassed a career record of 67-31 (throughout the 2015-16 season) in doubles, and 64-29 in singles. DOUBLE THE FUN: Vittek loves to get to the net and end points quickly. That aggressive style makes him a natural for the doubles game: “I like it more than singles because the pace of the game is so much quicker. I also really like developing a strategy with my partner, and adjusting that strategy as you go. You’re using your body and your mind.” PAY IT FORWARD: When he arrived at Alcalá Park three years ago, it took Vittek a little while to adjust. Now, as senior and team leader, he’s happy to serve as a mentor. “You can see it with some of the young guys, especially the ones who are coming from other countries, like myself. We’re a family on and off the court, and it’s important to support the guys who may be struggling with the language and culture. I’ve been there.” MR. CLUTCH: “My favorite moment on the court at USD came a few years ago in the spring tournament we cohost with SDSU. We were in the final against Drake University, and if I won my singles match, we would win the tournament. I won, and the whole team rushed the court. I have video of that match that I still watch when I need that extra motivation. It was so cool.” sandiego.edu/video/vittek
**Q**: Can you specify a relationship that was particularly meaningful?

**A**: Of a high profile, one would be Josh Johnson. [Johnson was a USD record-setting quarterback, who this season played for the New York Giants, his seventh NFL team.]

Here was a scrawny young man who came from a rough background. His speech at his final football banquet had everybody crying. He was talking to his mother and he said, “I could never figure out why you would fall asleep at traffic lights. And now it’s dawned on me: It’s because you worked three jobs to help put me through USD.” He said, “Mom, it was worth it.”

Josh and his cousin [former Seahawks running back Marshawn Lynch] built a youth foundation in Oakland.

Our campus talks about Changemakers? Well, there’s a Changemaker.

**Q**: On the flip side, what are some of your disappointments?

**A**: Just not getting things done that we wanted to accomplish. There are facilities that still need to be built, operating budgets that need to be improved. There are more championships to be won.

**Q**: USD won 36 conference championships and advanced to the NCAA playoffs 62 times under your watch. What accomplishments make you most proud?

**A**: First, I would just go to relationships. That’s what this business is all about. Relationships with the student-athletes. And now, relationships with them as alumni. Games? I don’t remember the scores of games, not even this season. I feel sorry for people who judge success by a moment in time. It’s the arc of learning where the success really stems from.
He told me, “Ky, let’s look at this the right way. I don’t care how many games, how many championships we win. If we haven’t developed these young men to be good husbands, good fathers, the next CEOs, the next heads of government, if we’re not doing that, we lost. We blew the opportunity.”

To me, that was USD football. When his values aligned with ours, it became a no-brainer.

Is there a moment, an anecdote, that exemplifies what USD means to you?

In the early ’90s [when Snyder was USD’s director of athletic development], we were filming an NCAA spot, interviewing students in front of The Immaculata, having students say what the campus meant to them.

I remember this one young woman, she was just having an incredibly difficult time getting it out. And finally she just screamed, “Ahhh, there’s just something very special about this place.”

She paused, looked at me and said, “It’s the people.” And of course, I said to the camera-man, “Did we get that?”

To me, that’s USD. It’s about the people.

— Don Norcross
To Protect and Serve

Master’s program aims to teach police leaders to become Changemakers

by Allyson Meyer ’16

Too often the news is dominated by footage of violent confrontations between the public and the police — think Ferguson, New York, Baltimore. The all-too-familiar imagery — officers in riot gear facing off with anguished and angry protesters — fuels the narrative that the division between the two groups is insurmountable. The end result dehumanizes everyone involved, preventing the possibility of real understanding and change.

[Photography by Chris Park]
Helping to lessen the many tensions around race, law enforcement and the disenfranchised in the United States is the focus of the Law Enforcement and Public Safety Leadership (MS-LEPSL) master’s program, offered through Professional and Continuing Education at USD. The program, in place for less than a year, has exceeded expectations. The incoming student goal was surpassed by 315 percent, and enrollment continues to grow. Of the student body, 42 percent represent racial and ethnic groups that have been historically underrepresented as students at USD.

“This program directly engages some of the most important issues facing our country today,” says Erik Fritsvold, the program’s academic coordinator, as well as an associate professor in the Department of Sociology.

“Through the lens of social justice and ethical leadership, this program serves students who have a hands-on and significant impact on our communities.”

Designed following two-and-a-half years of surveys, research and interviews with law enforcement leaders, the program aims to connect academia to the real world.

“Our course on community engagement focuses on controversial use-of-force events, best practices and strategies in the wake of conflicts in cities like Baltimore and Ferguson, which have brought these issues into the national spotlight,” Fritsvold says.

“The faculty team for this course is uniquely positioned to address these issues. It includes two current police chiefs, a captain, a lieutenant and the president of the Black Police Officers’ Association.”

In addition to the program’s unique focus is the community it serves — rising and current law enforcement leaders.

“USD is beginning to put together strategies that grapple with the reality that only 15 percent of those enrolled in higher education fit the ‘traditional’ profile,” says Jason Lemon, dean of Professional and Continuing Education. “USD has so much to offer to the ‘nontraditional’ 85 percent of the higher education population that is seeking to advance their careers, enjoy new opportunities and make positive changes for themselves and their families.”

For Lemon, this new program signals USD’s effort to connect far beyond the immediate region and reach law enforcement leaders on the state and national levels.

“It’s not a typical criminal justice degree. We are offering a curriculum that targets those who desire to lead well, and by doing so, impact the culture and organization of their professional environments,” says Lemon.

“Our program is for those who already know the technical components of their work and who are ready to do something about the organizational, cultural and leadership elements of their professional settings.”

Lieutenant Edwin Brock, a San Diego Sheriff’s Department Communications Center watch commander, is enrolled in the program’s inaugural cohort. With 24 years of experience in law enforcement, this master’s program stood out to Brock because of its originality.

“I love the program because it’s something new,” says Brock. “The word ‘vanguard’ comes to mind.”

For Brock, the fact that USD is a Catholic institution means social justice values are incorporated throughout all aspects of the program. “God’s message is to love God and to love your neighbor,” says Brock. “Isn’t that what most police officers say? Protect and serve.”

Brock says that programs such as MS-LEPSL encourage law enforcement officials to reach out to their communities by offering students cutting-edge skills and tools that include and engage them in the conversation.

“USD has inspired us,” says Brock. “I’m not afraid to be a part of the discussion. Let’s move this forward. Let’s discuss this. Let’s find a winning scenario for everyone.”

For Tiffany Townsend, a Rancho San Diego Command area detective, the MS-LEPSL program is more than an education; it’s her future.

“I value knowledge. Learning to me is a way to freedom, a good life and joy,” says the 10-year law enforcement veteran. “Learning and gaining knowledge helps to open doors and avenues that weren’t visible before.”

Obtaining a master’s degree was something Townsend had always wanted to do, but finding
the right program was difficult. “I had wanted to go back to school for several years, but the timing seemed wrong and the degrees seemed off,” she says. “I would like to better myself and this is a good way to do it. This program presented itself as a great opportunity. It would be a shame not to take it.”

For Townsend, the chance to further her education aligned with her own role in the San Diego community.

“The dedication to ethical conduct and compassionate service is what law enforcement is, or should be, all about. I believe I provide a public service every time I go to work,” she says.

“We enforce fundamental ethics as a profession and we participate in continuous training to gain knowledge to help us better serve the communities we work for.”

For Jazzma Rainey, the MS-LEPSL program was the opportunity to receive the USD education she’d always wanted.

“Growing up in San Diego, I was already familiar with the prestige of a USD degree,” says Rainey (pictured, at right). “When I learned about the online program, there was no doubt in my mind that this was perfect for me.”

As a Customs and Border Protection Officer for the past 13 years, Rainey knew that she would gain advanced training in community policing strategies, ultimately allowing her to better serve others.

“Programs like this one reinforce the emotional, academic and ethical practices of what is considered ‘good policing’ by teaching the importance of professionalism, open-mindedness and the framework of ethical community-policing,” says Rainey.

“Learning about cultural and social issues that create a need for organizations like Black Lives Matter from an academic standpoint enables law enforcement personnel to engage with cultural and political movements with emotional intelligence and good moral conduct, even in the toughest situations.”

For Rainey, the fact that the MS-LEPSL program is at USD further signals the ability for progressive law enforcement to make a meaningful, lasting community impact.

“Law enforcement is on the other end of the spectrum to the traditional faith-based programs offered at USD. This program shows the university in a progressive light and sends a message of inclusion and diversity.”

W

hile there are no easy answers, there are some core touchstones that may help ensure success.

“One of the key components is having experienced practitioners,” says Benjamin Kelso, a MS-LEPSL professor and a lieutenant with the San Diego Police Department Internal Affairs unit. “Real life events come up as part of the modules we teach in the courses.”

A 27-year law enforcement veteran, Kelso (pictured, at left) is also the president of the San Diego Black Police Officers’ Association, a position he says is key in helping his students understand police-community relations.

“My role is to incorporate some of the experiences the president of the Black Police Officers’ Association has in day-to-day situations and to bring them into our discussions of law enforcement,” says Kelso. “It’s a benefit. It allows other perspectives to be brought up and discussed in scholarly settings, providing insights into community attitudes and feelings.”

For Kelso, understanding different perspectives begins with listening to and embracing all communities.

“We would like to believe we’ve reached a stage in the development of our nation where race is no longer a factor, but we know this is not the case. We have to continue to work to be more inclusive and try to establish a level playing field for all members of our society,” says Kelso.

“Movements like Black Lives Matter are a reaction to the old ways that law enforcement has done things. It’s a reemergence of the civil rights era. We want to see more accountability, transparency and fairness in the criminal justice system.”

Fritsvold and Lemon say the new MS-LEPSL program is the bridge between USD’s social justice teachings and community outreach efforts. It’s the link that allows forward movement towards accountability, transparency and fairness and community engagement by the university.

“USD is showing everyone who learns about this program that the principles of critical thinking, inquiry-focused learning, intensive engagement with curricular content, community engagement, access and inclusion, and caring for our communities are central to advanced education for the law enforcement and public safety communities,” says Lemon.

Fritsvold credits the program as further opening USD to under-demonstrated to nurture more culturally aware officers, who are better positioned to succeed in the increasingly multicultural communities of the U.S.”

Creating an inclusive society that’s protected by a fair criminal justice system is a lofty goal. To reach reconciliation and to overcome the void we see in our communities, education must have a real-world approach that teaches leadership and emphasizes social justice. USD is offering degree programs that really can make positive change possible. ♻

For more, go to sandiego.edu/ms-lepsl. Each September, the Law Enforcement Association Leadership Symposium is held at USD. The event provides relevant and immediately practical information to large police and sheriff associations. Go to sandiego.edu/leals.
On a sun-dappled Sunday afternoon this past fall, a sizable group of preteen and teenage girls and their moms gathered on the lawn beside Copley Library. Helping themselves to yoga mats, they launched into a series of stretches and poses led by a purposeful and poised high school sophomore, who, at age 15, is already a certified yoga instructor.
Her presence at an event aimed at inspiring girls to gain confidence and become leaders spoke for itself. She’s already a leader and wants other girls to know they can be, too. Grow Great Girls — the program that staged the workshop — was born at the School of Leadership and Education Sciences, the brainchild of Lorri Sulpizio, PhD, director of the Leadership Institute and founder and director of the Center for Women’s Leadership.

A longtime college and high school basketball coach, Sulpizio was already interested in personal development when her research led her to girls’ empowerment. “This piece around girls and women finding their voices and finding the courage to accomplish their goals, that just resonated,” she says. “Especially in a world that still has a lot of gender bias and continues to present a lot of obstacles for girls and women.”

Sulpizio found an eager partner in Ashley Adams BA ’10 — now a leadership studies master’s student — who was looking for an internship project. A bubbly and energetic force of optimism, Adams grew up among brothers, and says she only realized in hindsight that she had suppressed her spirit because she was a girl.

“On some level, I felt I couldn’t be as loud, as boisterous as my brothers were,” Adams says. “I wondered what I could have done in the past 25 years, had I not been so bogged down by my own fears and anxiety.”

Together, she and Sulpizio developed a strategy and assembled a team of other students and outside consultants. Their first event — a daylong leadership experience in August — attracted an overflow crowd of mothers and daughters, despite having no marketing budget and no official publicity campaign. Its success convinced them they were onto something important.

“I think the way we teach our girls, and the way society molds them, does not foster the confidence to lead them to do whatever they want to do,” Adams says. “Leadership is something that comes from the inside. We want girls to learn how to empower themselves.”

The mother-daughter relationship was a good place to start, Adams says, because mothers act as natural role models and can be consistent sources of support. But only if the lines of communication are clear and free of conflict. That can be especially challenging as girls approach the teenage years.

Brooke Henderson, 14, was skeptical when her mother, Frances, urged her to attend the August conference with her. But by the end of the day, she was convinced. “It was good, really good,” she says with a wide smile.

“I think it made me more open to talking to my mom about stuff. Before I was scared she wasn’t going to listen. Now I feel like she definitely understands more.”

Frances became emotional as she recalled one of the exercises, where the girls and their mothers each made a list of things they liked about the other. She was surprised to learn that Brooke admired qualities about her that she didn’t think she’d recognized. And she was further surprised that both their lists included many of the same words. “For example, she said I was kind,” Frances remembers. “I think she’s kind, but I didn’t know she saw me that way. I think she’s funny. She thought I was funny.”

Brooke also opened up about the social challenges she faces in ninth grade, where girls struggle to fit in among their female and male peers and are often made to feel like they’re not good enough. “If we’re not good enough to make a team, or we’re not pretty enough to have a boyfriend, or stuff like that. That’s the big thing right now,” she says, adding that the conference helped her share feelings with Frances she hadn’t felt like she could share before. “I think she might have learned that I’m not so comfortable with my body because I don’t like to talk about it,” she said. “She’s definitely more in tune with what I’m thinking.”

Now, when she’s having a bad day, Brooke says her mother is more likely to be forgiving and give her some space. And Brooke has learned techniques including affirmations that remind her she is good enough. That’s critical in a society where — as the past fall’s
The facts illuminate what some researchers call a stalled revolution. Women comprise more than one-half of the U.S. population, earning nearly 60 percent of all undergraduate and master's degrees. They earn nearly one-half of all medical degrees and law degrees.

But while women account for nearly one-half the country's labor force, their presence in leadership roles is scant. A mere five percent of CEOs at S&P 500 companies are women. The boards of those companies are only 20 percent female. At the nation's law firms, only one in five women is a partner. In higher education, women hold only about one-third of full professorships, and only one in four college presidents is a woman.

In legislatures across the country, women continue to be vastly outnumbered.

The wage gap persists as well. In a recent report, the World Economic Forum found that instead of narrowing, economic divergence actually widened over the past several decades. According to their recent Global Gender Gap report, women can now expect to wait another 170 years before they attain wage parity with men.

“If girls get a message that they aren’t good leaders or aren’t valued for their leadership, they are more likely to opt out,” says Lori Watson, PhD, chair of USD’s philosophy department and former director of the gender studies program. “Especially in the pre-teen group, where girls who assert themselves can be seen as bitchy or bossy. In that vulnerable age of wanting peer acceptance, girls may shy away from leadership to avoid gender stereotypes that don’t attach to boys in the same way.”

Grow Great Girls aims to address that societal message with an approach that gives girls the room to express themselves in a safe and accepting environment, while considering the idea of leadership in a unique way. “We don’t see leadership as something that you are, Sulpizio says. “We see it as something that you do. Anybody can do it. We take away the role piece, so you can be a leader without being a manager or a CEO.”

At the October workshop, yoga was followed by a session about goals and aspirations. As the participants shared their ideas, a slideshow at the front of the room featured a series of inspirational quotes. “Be fearless in pursuit of what sets your soul on fire” and “be who you are, not what the world wants you to be,” were among them.

In one group, Holly Evans and her daughter Emily, 13, shared goals and some giggles. “I’m going through a kind of career transition and I thought it would be neat to involve her as I start a new trajectory,” Holly says. The two had come from Riverside to attend the event, and both said they were happy they did.

“I figured out some goals for the future, like traveling the world and having horses,” Emily added. “And she showed me her goals. I feel closer to her. We can help each other achieve our goals and we can be more of a team.”

The program has shown so much promise that Sulpizio and Adams and their band of volunteers are taking it on the road, conducting workshops in schools involving girls and boys.

“I think this is a program that could really launch the name of the Leadership Institute and the Center for Women’s Leadership as well,” Adams predicts. “We had to cut off registration at our first event. That showed me there really is a need for this.”

The need may well be greater now, after an election in which the country’s first female major-party candidate lost to a man whose campaign was dogged by charges of sexism and xenophobia.

“The effects of the election on young girls and their future empowerment depends on how the current messages that demean women are mediated,” says Michelle Camacho, professor of sociology and special assistant to the provost. “The history of civil rights for women and marginalized groups is characterized by active resistance to social injustice. My hope is that we galvanize in young women our potential to mobilize against biases, racism and sexism.”

Against that backdrop, and with Grow Great Girls already well on its way, Lori Sulpizio has made funding a priority. She’s confident she’ll find supporters who’ll want to help build a model that can be used nationwide. Her goals may sound lofty, but her message to young girls is beautifully simple.

“Get to know your story,” she urges. “Understand it. Then you can write your own ending.”

sandiego.edu/video/girls
The Day Baseball lost its

Look out world: Kris Bryant is valuable, versatile,
The Day Baseball lost its

Look out world: Kris Bryant is valuable, versatile, and he's just getting started.

and he’s just getting started.
Perhaps more than any other sport, baseball loves its records. Baseball is the fantasy league of Euclid and Newton; a game of numbers and statistics. Baseball is Ted Williams hitting .406; Joe DiMaggio’s consecutive 56-game hitting streak; the seven no-hitters thrown by Nolan Ryan.

And when the Chicago Cubs won the World Series last fall in a much hyped and well-documented achievement 108 seasons in the making, baseball lost its mind.

At the center of the we-won-it-all dog pile that has become as much a part of baseball tradition as peanuts, popcorn and Cracker Jack, Cubs third baseman Kris Bryant celebrated the championship with his teammates. He would soon have another reason to celebrate: a milestone never before achieved in Major League Baseball.

MLB stats track back to 1870. In that time, no player has ever in consecutive seasons won the Golden Spikes Award — given to the best player in college baseball — Minor League Player of the Year and then Rookie of the Year and Most Valuable Player awards in the major leagues.

**Until Kris Bryant.**

It’s easy to look at Bryant’s gaudy numbers over that unprecedented stretch — and the .292 average, 38 home runs and 102 RBI he posted in that magical, mystical Cubs season are a good place to start — and conclude that Bryant’s bat won him the accolades. But in this particular case, the “V” in MVP stands for versatile as well as valuable.

Over the course of the 2016 season, Bryant played at all three outfield posts, every position on the infield except second base, and when the Cubs were visiting the crosstown White Sox of the American League, Bryant was the designated hitter. He’s only the second player ever to be named MVP after starting at least 30 games in the infield and 30 in the outfield. The other was Stan Musial in 1948.

Bryant not only has the “five tools” baseball gurus covet, he’s got a sixth baseball sense. His ability to run, field, throw, hit for average and hit for power is complemented by an intense competitive spirit.
Bryant’s father, Mike, recalls recognizing the talent in his youngest son. After practice of his older brother’s Little League team, five-year-old Kris got a chance to take a few swings at home plate. Dad was on the mound.

“The first ball I threw to Kris, over-hand, he launched it into the air — it had to go 30 feet into the outfield,” the elder Bryant told Baseball America. “On a Little League field, for a 5-year-old kid. He had this huge bat, like a 31-inch bat, and he was tiny. The ball just — it jumped. He just had something. At the age of 8, he started hitting them over the Little League fence, 200-foot fences, and as a 9-year-old, he was hitting tons of them. Home runs, man.”

At USD, Bryant hit some home runs, man. Including one that every Torero baseball player is going to forever hear about.

For the record: the Toreros lost that March 2013 game against the University of St. Louis. But for the legend: longtime USD baseball announcer Jack Murray swears Bryant’s eighth inning homer was 600 feet. (For context, Major League Baseball officially recognizes its longest home run at 540 feet; hit by Jose Canseco in 1989.) Mike Bryant says the ball was sailing over the light standards at Fowler Field “and was going up.”

Bryant arrived at Wrigley early, like he always does, but not to take his place in the parade. Only hours after winning the world championship and a full off-season before spring training, Kris Bryant did his regular workout, lifting weights and taking swings in the batting cage.

The announcement that surprised no one came two weeks after the World Series. Bryant was at his parents’ home in Las Vegas when word came that 29 of 30 voters had declared him to be the most valuable player in his league. Again. Flanked by his dad and his fiancé, Bryant hardly looked like the guy who should have the I’m-the-MVP speech down. He looked like he may very well have been the only earthling surprised by the honor.

The same baseball voices that only weeks before were questioning the young star’s ability to perform on the biggest stage now began to softly whisper the three holiest words in the game: Hall of Fame. Of course, such consideration in the first two years of a career is at least premature and at most ridiculous. But the Vegas native is a good bet. “It’s so humbling,” Bryant said. “I’ll continue to work harder than I ever have before, to hopefully sustain that and win more World Series.”

— Tim McKernan

The World Series did not start well for the league MVP. At one point, the Cubs were down 3-1 in the best-of-seven series. Bryant was 1-14 at the plate, with two — two! — costly throwing errors. The pressure of the World Series, baseball intelligencia began to whisper, was too much for the 24-year-old.

The Cubs needed three straight. Bryant tied Game Five with a home run, and the Cubs rallied to win. In the first inning of Game Six, Bryant found a curveball he liked — an 0-2 curveball he liked — and hit it 433 feet for the lead that became a Cub win.

The series-deciding Game Seven almost immediately entered the discussion of the greatest games ever played. The Cubs jumped out to a big lead, only to suffer through a Cleveland comeback that tied the score late in the game. Game Seven went to the 10th inning before the Cubs pushed across two runs. Cleveland again, rallied to close the gap to a single run. But they wouldn’t get it.

In the shorthand of the scorecard, it was a 5-3 putout. Kris Bryant saw the chopper off the bat of Cleveland Indian Michael Martinez bounce toward him and smiled. He gathered the ball. The smile became a grin. Kris Bryant tossed the ball to first base, and the grin became glee.

Two days later, tens of thousands of fans lined the streets of Chicago, from Wrigley Field to Grant Park, awaiting the Cubs’ victory parade.
EXTRAORDINARY LIVES
Honoring USD’s alumni who are leading change

by Krystn Shrieve

The University of San Diego’s Alumni Honors event recognizes 10 distinguished alumni, honoring them for their volunteer service, their contributions to humanitarian causes, their athletic excellence, their outstanding career achievement or the promise they show as emerging leaders.

Shannon Smith ’86 (BA, BBA) will receive the Mother Rosalie Clifton Hill Award, which is given to alumni who embody USD’s mission and values. Participating on the national Alumni Board of Directors and alumni committees in San Francisco and New York over the years has allowed Smith to collaborate with alumni from every era. Her efforts helped to establish the Alumni Endowed Scholarship Fund.

A. Barry La Forgia ’76 (JD) will be honored with the Bishop Charles Francis Buddy Award, given to alumni exhibiting extraordinary contributions and commitment to humanitarian causes. He is a former United States Air Force pilot, attorney and business owner. After participating in a mission trip to Peru, he started his own nonprofit, International Relief Teams, which is dedicated to alleviating human suffering worldwide.

Ali Troost ’11 (BA) is the 2017 inductee in the Chet and Marguerite Pagni Family Athletic Hall of Fame. Troost left a tremendous mark on the women’s volleyball program. During her career, she guided the Toreros to three WCC Championships and to four NCAA Tournament appearances. Following her senior sea-
son, the San Diego Hall of Champions recognized Troost as Amateur Star of the Year for 2010.

Michele L. Moore ’85 (BBA) is the School of Business’ recipient of the Author E. Hughes Career Achievement Award. She is a cofounder and former chief financial officer at Zemax LLC, an optical design software company. She has served on USD’s School of Business Advisory Board since 2014, and is vice chair of the school’s Leading Change Campaign committee. In 2012, Michele and her husband, Ken, established an endowed scholarship to support undergraduate business students.

Capt. (sel.) Heather C. King ’14 (PhD) will receive the Hughes Career Achievement Award on behalf of the Hahn School of Nursing and Health Science. During her long career in the Navy Nurse Corps, she served countless veterans. Since earning her PhD from USD, her research has focused on the care of military veterans and, to date, she has received more than $2.4 million in grant funding to conduct this important work.

His Honor Roosevelt Z. Willie, Bsc, LLB, ’11 (MA) will be given the Hughes Career Achievement Award by the Joan B. Kroc School of Peace Studies. As a judge in Liberia, one of his major roles is to assist in building and sustaining the peace. As president of the National Association of Trial Judges of Liberia (NATJL), he worked with stakeholders to concentrate on judicial ethics and to include human rights topics in the quarterly training of judges. For this work, Judge Willie received NATJL’s 2014 Award of Honor.

Michael Kaplan ’72 (JD) will be the School of Law’s recipient of the Hughes Career Achievement Award. He is co-owner, with his brother and sister, in the family business, ARKA Properties Group. ARKA is an industrial, commercial and residential property ownership and management company that operates throughout the United States. Kaplan is a member of USD’s School of Law Board of Visitors and a trustee emeritus for USD’s Board of Trustees.

Marsha McDonald ’86 (MA) will receive the Hughes Career Achievement Award from the School of Leadership and Education Sciences. She combined her teaching career with a background in marriage and family counseling and, during her tenure, helped originate the comprehensive elementary guidance program in the La Mesa-Spring Valley School District. She established an East County support group for parents of ADHD children and helped train more than 1,000 staff members in the Understanding Poverty program.

Julie Chavez ’94 (BA) is receiving the Alumni Emerging Leader Award from the College of Arts and Sciences. Leveraging her background as the founder and designer of Marie Chavez — a highly coveted jewelry line whose fans include A-list celebrities such as Julia Roberts, Jennifer Garner and Rosario Dawson — Chavez recently founded Chavez for Charity, a line of colorful bracelets that contributes to important humanitarian issues.

Matthew E. Craig ’03 (BS/BA), MBA was chosen as an Alumni Emerging Leader by the Shiley-Marcos School of Engineering. Craig was a student and football player when he began working at Walmart as an intern in his junior year. In 2003 and 2007 he received the Sam Walton Hero Award for Excellence and subsequently took a job leading store operations in the Lotus Supercenters in Shanghai. He was then named director of store operations for Meijer, and was presented with the Meijer Dynamic Leadership Award for Operational Excellence in 2013. Today he is Meijer’s regional vice president of the eastern region.

[envoys]

ALUMNI BOARD

Volunteers provide support to USD

Volunteers. Ambassadors. Cheerleaders. These words describe the people who serve as members of the University of San Diego Alumni Association Board of Directors. The alumni board has been an important source of USD support for more than 40 years. Members can serve up to three two-year terms and represent the various academic units and other constituencies from across the campus.

Pictured above is USD President James T. Harris III, DEd, alumni board member and co-chair of USD Wine Classic Nadia Pandes ’93, ’01 (MBA), alumni board member and USD Wine Classic co-chair Renee Fitzgerald ’06 (MA) and Charles Bass, senior director of Alumni Relations.

The 2016-17 board comprises more than 25 elected and appointed members, with class years ranging from 1969 to 2016. Board leadership includes Heather M. Dooley ’02, ’05 (MED) as president, Gerry Rodrigues ’97 as president-elect, Kim Alessio ’87 as chair of leadership, Christine Antoine ’02 as chair of regional planning, Paul Davis ’86, ’08 (MSEL) and Andres Melgar ’02 as chairs of philanthropy.

The board provides leadership in the areas of philanthropy, programming, outreach, communications and strategic planning. Members represent the alumni perspective in the community, on campus and with university faculty and administration.

In 2006, the Alumni Board created the Alumni Endowed Scholarship Fund (AESF), which provides much needed support for deserving students. To help build the endowment, a unique fundraising event was devised: the USD Wine Classic. Now in its eighth year, the Wine Classic has become one of the San Diego summer’s must-attend events. To date, more than $400,000 has been raised from event proceeds, helping push the AESF over the million-dollar mark.

More information can be found at alumni.sandiego.edu or at one of the Alumni Association’s many events.
A JOYFUL NOISE

Choir director celebrates the spirituality of song

by Julene Snyder

It sounds cinematic, but the moment Annette Welsh ’79 arrived on campus, she knew she was where she was meant to be. “We got out of our car, walked in front of Camino and Founders, the bells chimed, the birds went flying and I had this sense that I belonged here. I was at home.”

One of 11 children, the then-high school senior wasn’t sure that her family could afford to send her to the University of San Diego. “With joy and a little nervousness, I applied. But my mom knew all about applying for scholarships. I learned in late May that my first year was completely covered, so I was able to come.”

Being away from her close-knit family took some getting used to. But before long, living in a quad in Duchesne Hall — where the girls would do cartwheels and round-offs down the wide, carpeted hallway — helped Welsh make the adjustment. “It was a wonderful time,” she recalls, a bit dreamily.

Music had always been a big part of her life. “Our family sang everywhere we went. On car rides, we never turned on the radio. We would sing all the old songs our parents knew. ‘Home on the Range’ and ‘Oh, How Lovely is the Evening.’”

A love of nature prompted her to major in biology. “As a family, we used to take road trips to different national parks, so I thought, ‘I’ll be a park ranger.’” But music continued to loom large. “I started playing guitar, and was in the university choir, and joined an audition-based elite musical group on
Annette Welsh ’79 says that the choir’s role is to cause the assembly to want to sing. “If we can help people overcome a challenge with music, that’s great.”

make music. That’s just the way it is with me.”

That was 31 years ago, and Welsh has never regretted following her heart. All five of her children have since graduated from USD, and she’s touched the lives of hundreds of students.

Annette leads the Founders Chapel Choir on very high profile, university-wide events, like the All Faith Service and Baccalaurate Mass,” said Assistant Vice President for University Ministry Michael Lovette-Colyer in a glowing nomination letter recommending Welsh be named USD’s 2016 Employee of the Year (spoiler alert: she won).

Annette is completely dedicated to making sure all students feel welcome in the choir. It is truly remarkable how effective she is at this; the choir is always outstanding and oftentimes truly sublime.”

While the choir’s quality is important, Welsh makes a point of getting her students out of their comfort zone to perform for more marginalized members of the community. A profound example is the work that they do at Alvarado Parkway Institute. “It’s a lockdown psychiatric hospital,” she explains. “The students sing for people suffering from dementia, psychosis, alcohol and drug abuse, depression, Alzheimer’s. We go from ward to ward and sing.”

These outings have lingering impact: “The most acute patients are the ones suffering from psychosis. It’s not uncommon for them to come and stand right next to you and sing, or talk in your ear, or tell you that they’re the President or kneel in front of you and pray.”

And afterwards? Frequently, the choir goes out for pie.

“That’s when we talk about everything we saw. The director of the facility once wrote a note that I like to share with the students. She thanked us for coming and said, ‘They were happy all day after you left.’ That may not seem like a big thing, but given where they are, for them to have a happy day is a beautiful gift. I tell the students, ‘These are the things we get to do with music. We get to make someone happy all day.”

At a weekly rehearsal, a few dozen students trickle in to Founders Chapel at twilight. There is hugging, laughter, little waves to latecomers before voices are raised in song. In rounds, the men sing “Swing Low Sweet Chariot,” harmonizing with the women’s “When the Saints Go Marching In.” An island of peace and joy, Welsh stands among her circle of students.

“Amazing grace / how sweet the sound / that saved and set me free,” they sing. Earlier, Welsh had revealed a secret: “We sing it in rounds each week. We learned about life and music and commitment.”

After graduation, Welsh became a chemist for Bumble Bee Seafood, conducting quality assurance. “I was a chemist by day, musician by night,” she recalls.

A few years later, the phone rang: “I got a call on a Friday night from Mike McKay at USD. He and Father Owen Mullen wanted me to come in and interview for a job I didn’t even know existed. They wanted to move the chapel choir from being student-run to a bigger program. I was amazed.”

Even though it meant a substantial cut in pay to go from full-time chemist to part-time choir leader, Welsh didn’t hesitate. “Being a chemist wasn’t my heart’s work. Music was. I’ve always had to campus. It was a wonderful time: We learned about life and music and commitment.”

RICHARD GRAY (BA)

He is retired from federal service with the diplomatic corps and lives in Palm Springs, Calif. “Our three grown children have given us five grandchildren — three in California and two in Brazil,” says Richard Gray (BA). He retired in 2013 from A-dec, the largest dental equipment manufacturer in the United States, where she was Central and Eastern European territory manager. “I had the opportunity to successfully open the market for A-dec in 16 countries during Soviet times,” she says.

“I received an ‘order’ from the Czech Dental Association for my contribution in introducing infection control to Czech dentistry.” In 2003, the Russian Dental Association honored her contribution to Russian dentistry. Since retiring, Maria enjoys traveling with her husband, Luke, their daughters, Karina and Rochella, and their four grandchildren, ages 12 to 16. They live in Portland, Ore., where she is a board member for Portland Piano International and the European Art Council of the Portland Art Museum.

PELLISSA FAGIN (BA)

She has received many awards, including American Counselor of the Year and the Virginia Counselors Association Van Hoose Career and Service Award. “I am enjoying retirement with my husband of two years, traveling, reading, singing in my church choir and serving on various counseling boards,” she says.

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he adds. “It will be fun to revisit USD after so many years since 1966 graduation. I’m very thankful for being prepared by USD for an exciting life on four continents and various countries and cultures.”

[1969] 
LAWRENCE LACOMBE (BA) reports that he serves and supports Loyola High School, the Newman Club of Los Angeles, Verbum Dei High School, the Knights of Columbus Hollywood Council 2406, the Holy Name Society Union and Saint Vincent DePaul Society of Los Angeles. He adds that he donates to the USD Robert Brower Memorial Scholarship Endowment.

1970s

[1970] 
ROSEMARY MASTERTON JOHNSTON (BA, MA ’90) and Walt Johnston ’68 are retired and enjoying traveling, volunteering on several boards and spending time with their four adult children and nine grandchildren, all of whom live in San Diego. They are working on the USD alumni history video project, now in its sixth year.

[1975] 
SUSAN REDELINGS (BA) writes, “I’m retired, spoiling my grandchildren and loving life.”

[1976] 
MAUREEN CLARK (BA) lives in Tucson, Ariz., where she is a forensic accountant. She earned a Master of Accounting at the University of Arizona in 2000.

CARLA DEMAYO-RUIZ (BA) lives in Richmond, Va., with Joe, her husband of 37 years. She is a leadership development coach with Luck Companies and InnerWill Leadership Institute.

GARY WALSWICK (BBA) writes, “Where did 40 years go? Married the lovely Rosanne Stehly, who works the front office at a dental practice and tutors high school kids.” Their son, Mike, manages a granite business in San Diego; daughter Erica is a manager at Bank of America and married an engineer; and daughter Emma graduated with a degree in psychology and is traveling in Ireland, “where all redheads should

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go!” Gary says. “I finally escaped the title industry and got back into real estate, working commercial industrial for Keller Williams. I’m doing a good job staying ahead of Father Time, which isn’t easy at 62! Cheers!”

**1979**

ROB KASHEY (BA) returned from Japan and Korea, where he taught English as a Second Language for 17 years, and then taught at Edmunds Community College in Washington for eight years. “I love to fish, hike and write poetry,” he says. “I was a literature major, religious studies minor and still find both fascinating. I’ve had some success at writing and am published in journals, magazines, anthologies in print and online under the pen name Rayn Roberts.” Rob has several books of poetry found at Poetic Matrix, Amazon, Barnes and Noble, and Powell Books. “I would very much like to hear from other USD alumni; maybe reconnect with old friends. Life is good.”

**1980s**

**1980**

LINDA DUBROOF (JD) says that her husband, Tom, retired as a two-star admiral and they have moved to Naples, Fla., where they have a small consulting firm and play a lot of tennis.

**1981**

JANET HEATH (BA) is in the information technology department at Optum, a division of UnitedHealth Group in Orange County. “When I’m not working, you can find me out on the golf course!” Janet says.

**1982**

FRAN POLITO ALGYA (BBA), her husband, Chris, and daughter, Annie, have moved back to California. They have a son at the University of Arizona, a daughter at San Diego State University and their youngest daughter is a freshman at San Marcos High School. I am married and have an adorable son.” Fran says.

**1985**

EMILY SCHELL (BA, EdD ’03) is the executive director of the California International Studies Project (CISP), which is one of nine California Subject Matter Projects led by the University of California Office of the President. CISP’s statewide office, located at San Diego State University’s College of Education, oversees a professional development network for educators in six regions of California. CISP inspires and supports the development of global competence in PK-12 students.

**1986**

CHRIS CARR (BBA) reports that he lives in Seattle and has been happily married to his wife, Jackie, for 26 years. “We’re the proud parents of Alaya (attending Barnard College School of Columbia) and Jaylen, a high school senior,” he says. “Currently working at Starbucks as the EVP, Licensed Stores Americas.”

**1987**

DENISE WEBSTER (BBA) says that for the past 30 years, she has been raising her two children, James and Mia, focusing on a professional career in health and nutrition, traveling, engaging in public speaking and enjoying time with her family.

**1988**


**1990s**

**1991**

STEFANIE FILIPAN (BBA) owns and operates Stevens Steak and Seafood House restaurant in Commerce, Calif.

**1992**

GABRIELLE BRANT FREEMAN (BA) reports that her first book of poetry, *When She Was Bad*, was published by Press 53 in October 2016.

**1993**

SCOTT MAXWELL (BBA) says that he and his wife, Carol, are proud to announce the birth of their first grandchild, Xavier Scott Maxwell.

**1996**

NICOLE ALEXANDER (BA) is an attorney and the director of business and professional business development at McEroly, Deutsch, Mulaney and Carpenter. Nicole is married and has two stepdaughters.

**1997**

LAURA (CLARK) FEE (BA) reports that she celebrated the sacrament of marriage on June 11, 2016, when she married Joseph Fee at Holy Trinity Catholic Church in El Cajon, Calif. Bridesmaids included fellow alumnæ Sue (Tweedy) Martin, Julie (Lindgren) Blake and Karen Clark.

**1999**

PETER FAIST (LLM) is head of legal, Europe and Africa, for Trina Solar Group, a global leader in photovoltaic modules, solutions and services.

**2000s**

**2000**

JENNIFER MOLNAR (JD) returned to Baker & McKenzie as a partner in the North American tax practice, adding 16 years of experience providing tax planning and transactional advice to multinational corporations. She handles tax planning for international acquisitions, dispositions, reorganizations, joint ventures, Subpart F planning and restructurings, and she counsels clients on tax issues related to structuring, negotiating, documenting and reporting complex transactions. Jennifer was an associate at the firm from 2001 to 2006.

**2001**

HILARY ANDAYA (BA) teaches at ISF Academy in Hong Kong.

**2002**

DOUGLAS FINELL-CHIPANIC (LLM) has been regional general counsel (Europe, Middle East and Africa) for five years for a U.S. exploration mining company. She has managed a variety of legal issues, particularly compliance matters, and has traveled extensively in her work, particularly to African countries such as Mali, Burkina Faso, Ethiopia and Sierra Leone. Jasmina has developed extensive knowledge on how to manage legal affairs in Africa.

**2003**

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**2004**

JOHN VALENCE (BA) is the vice chancellor for workforce and organizational development for the Gross-
TIM MANTOANI, who photographed many of USD Magazine’s most memorable covers and feature stories, died at the age of 47 in October 2016. While the iconic images he shot remain with us — as do the memories of laughing in his studio, whether we were trying to capture the beauty of a bunny for the cover of our Fall 2012 issue, or building a shallow pool to feature swimmers/sisters Jackie and Danielle Taylor in our Spring 2016 issue — the loss of Tim is devastating. Our thoughts and prayers go out to his wife, Lynn, son, Lucas, long-time friend and partner, Marshall Williams and associate photographers, Chris Park and Zach Barron.

View a slideshow of some of Tim’s images for USD Magazine at sandiego.edu/video/mantoani
JAMES ARNDT (BA) reports, “Got married last spring and purchased a second house with my beautiful wife!”

ALEXANDRA BOLIN (BBA) is a process manager with the 777x engineering design program at The Boeing Company in Seattle.

CONOR CAWLEY (BA) is a writer and comedian. He works at Tech. Co, where he writes articles and hosts events for startups and entrepreneurs around the country. His background in comedy ranges from stand-up to sketch, and he runs a popular stand-up show in Chicago called Rat Pack Comedy. In his spare time, he says he “thinks about how to properly pronounce the word ‘colloquially.’”

KELSEY CHASE (BA, JD ’14) and Cameron Bohn ’12 met as undergraduates at USD and plan to marry in July 2017. Kelsey is an attorney in San Diego and Cami teaches second grade in San Diego.

SHANNEN CRAVENS (BA) successfully defended her thesis at the end of July 2016, earning her PhD in molecular biophysics from the Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine. She is now a postdoctoral researcher at the Perelman School of Medicine, University of Pennsylvania. Shannen is funded by a competitive NIH IRACDA fellowship, which provides her with training and opportunities for teaching at undergraduate institutions.

BROOKE DAWSON (BBA) is a real estate agent in the Southern California beach area with Team Noah Grassi at RE/MAX Coastal. “Helping buy and sell a slice of San Diego paradise!” she says.

JOEL DAY (MA) graduated in 2015 with a PhD in international affairs from the University of Denver and was recently appointed executive director for the City of San Diego, where he oversees the Human Relations Commission and International Affairs Board and advises the mayor and city council on human rights, inclusion and global engagement. Joel and his wife, Lauren, welcomed the arrival of their first child, Robert Adlai Day, in 2015.

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Nurturing teamwork between U.S. and Mexico

by Ryan T. Blystone

Regina Bernal doesn’t just come to work and put in her time. Rather, the School of Business’ entrepreneurship manager has many of the same traits as those with whom she works each day: Persistence. Motivation. Energy. Improvement. Positivity.

“Entrepreneurs have a lot of unique traits,” says Bernal ’13, a communication studies alumna. “My personality goes along very well with the people I work with. We get things done. We’re always thinking, always talking, and always communicating ideas — while trying to make them better. What I do goes way beyond the job. Being entrepreneurial is a way of life.”

Take, for instance, the TEDx-SanDiego talk, “Innovation Beyond Borders,” she gave at Copley Symphony Hall in October 2016. She was initially surprised by the invitation, but that quickly subsided, making way for full commitment.

“If you would’ve told me when I was taking a public speaking class at USD that one day I’d be giving a TEDx talk, I’d have said, ‘No way!’ But when opportunities you don’t envision for yourself are presented, you have to take the risk,” she says. “I was nervous, but then I thought about it. If you have the chance to be in front of 2,000 people and deliver a message, what would it be? Having your voice heard is an opportunity for leadership. There’s a lot of responsibility that goes with having such a big platform.”

A Mexico City native and California resident since age 6, Bernal calls the U.S.-Mexico border a “mega-region” of opportunity. She cites specific examples: Tijuana’s craft beer movement melding with San Diego’s lofty status in that niche; El Cajon’s prestigious Taylor Guitars, which employs a binational workforce in Mexico and on this side of the border; and the burgeoning popularity of Taco Tuesday, which celebrates one of Mexico’s favorite foods, becoming a staple of not just San Diego but the U.S. as a whole.

“I’m a product of this region,” she says. “USD’s campus is 20 minutes from another country. From my point of view, our interactions have always been a natural thing. To me, when I think about innovation and entrepreneurship, it doesn’t stop at the border. You can’t stop ideas from going back and forth. There’s real strength in building things together.”

Bernal is dedicated to creating and building platforms for others. She and Michael Lawless, USD’s lead professor for entrepreneurship, have built two must-attend annual campus events: the Venture Vetting (V2) Pitch Competition each spring and the USD Legacy Entrepreneurship Conference each fall. She supports women entrepreneurs via USD’s Entrepreneurship Club, represents the business school at entrepreneurship community events and volunteers for organizations that promote cross-border mentorship. And she juggles it all as a new student in USD’s leadership studies master’s program.

This approach dovetails nicely with USD’s designation as one of 37 Ashoka U Changemaker Campuses worldwide, and she’s used...
it a guide to her own career path.
“The whole idea of being a Changemaker, about making an impact, has always resonated with me,” she says. “When I started to evaluate how I was going to dedicate my time and talents, I was driven back to USD. And when I started working here and was around our students, I realized how much of an impact I could have.”

Listening, learning and working with professors, staff and students in the School of Business have all helped to solidify that realization. V2 and the Legacy Conference bring students and professional entrepreneurs to campus, while alumni return to share real workplace stories, give advice and serve as judges and angel investors for student ideas.

“What I really fell in love with were the people who create things,” she says. “The whole creative process in terms of coming up with an idea and actually building something is just incredible to me. When you’re hiring fellow Toreros, you’re creating something extra special.”

Her TEDx talk was inspired by what she and Lawless have done to expand V2’s reach — offering a binational track for Mexico-based university students.

“We’ve created a homegrown miracle with V2, but it really took a binational village to make it happen. We need universities, governments, entrepreneurs and investors. This is something we’ve done at USD, and it’s a symbol we can share with the world. We hope it can spill into other opportunities for collaboration.”

sandiego.edu/video/ bernal

VIVIEN FRANCIS (MA) is the founder and CEO of PilloveTalk, a line of pillowcases with empowering words and affirmations.

ALLYSON KENNETT (BA) earned a master’s degree in English literature from Queen Mary University of London a year after graduation. Allyson reports that she and her husband got married and they welcomed a baby girl in 2014 and a baby boy in December 2015. Allyson is a visiting professor teaching English.

STEPHANIE (WOOD) LANGUIS (BA) reports that she married Matt Languis in September 2015. Matt is a WCC athlete from the University of San Francisco. The wedding was held in Sonoma, Calif., with many Gamma Phi Beta friends Steph met in school. Steph and Matt live in Brooklyn, N.Y.

ELLEN LEONARD (MBA) writes, “Loving life in NYC. Working in ophthalmology specialty sales for Bausch & Lomb.”

ALEXANDER ONTIVEROS (BBA) is director of business development at a national security firm. “My degree was pivotal in equipping me with the tools to perform and become a successful leader at my company,” he says.

LARISA PATRICK (BA) is an executive assistant in the biology department at USD and she is pursuing a law degree at California Western School of Law in San Diego.

WILLIAM SCHMIDT (BA) is a writer. He worked as a journalist for a time, and is currently employed at classy.org. “I have a freelance career, too, where I write for Thrillist, Huff Post, San Diego Magazine, and numerous small clients,” he says.

ASIA SIMONELLI (BBA, IMBA ’11) writes, “In July 2016, I decided to take a break from the corporate world and take a solo backpacking trip to South America. So far, I’ve volunteered with the children of Quito and have built bamboo houses for those affected by the earthquake in Ecuador earlier this year. I don’t know how long I’ll be traveling, but I can already tell it has been one of the best decisions I’ve ever made. Sometimes you need to take a step back and make sure you’re on the right path. Listen to your heart and do something that is not only good for you, but that is also good for the larger community!”

BRI WANLASS (BA) was a plenary speaker at the Sixth Biennial Palliative Care Conference in Kampala, Uganda, in 2015. She presented her research on health surveillance for palliative care providers in Uganda and she recently completed a Master of Science in global health at the University of Notre Dame.

CASEY WILKINS (BBA) reports that he married Kelsi (Myers) Wilkins in 2016. In July 2016, he decided to take a break from the corporate world and take a solo backpacking trip to South America. So far, he has volunteered with the children of Quito and have built bamboo houses for those affected by the earthquake in Ecuador earlier this year. He doesn’t know how long he’ll be traveling, but he can already tell it has been one of the best decisions he’s ever made. Sometimes you need to take a step back and make sure you’re on the right path. Listen to your heart and do something that is not only good for you, but that is also good for the larger community!”

LUCIA REYES BENNETT ’62 (BSN) passed away in October of 2016 at the age of 93. A graduate of what was then known as the San Diego College for Women, Lucia was honored as a Golden Torero in 2012. She had a long career as a nurse, and was commissioned in the U.S. Navy Nurse Corps in 1950. She was married to her late husband, Francis Bridgeman Bennett ’62 (JD), for 51 years. Five of their six children are graduates of USD: Brigid Bennett ’80 (BA); the Honorable Francis Bennett II ’87 (BBA), ’90 (JD); Josephine Bennett ’81 (BBA), who served as president of the Alumni Association from 2009-2011; Mercedes Bennett ’79 (BA); and Monica Bennett ’85 (BA).

**KELSI (MYERS) WILKINS (BBA)** reports that she lives and works in Kirkland, Wash., with her husband, Casey Wilkins ‘11, who she married in January 2016.

[2013]

**CRAIG FOXHOVEN (BA)** is starting a beverage distribution business for Guayaki Yerba Mate in North America.

**KENDALL GILMORE (BA)** writes, “After graduating, I moved to Seattle for two years and am now back in Southern California working as an event planner!”

**TINA MEDINA (MA)** reports, “After dedicating 12 years to public education, I have changed careers in order to more specifically support youth and peacebuilding. I am the new program officer for WorldLink at (USD’s) Institute for Peace and Justice.”

**ANGELICA SLEIMAN (MEd)** is an associate principal in the Chula Vista Elementary School District. She is also in her third year of the PhD program in leadership studies at USD.

[2014]

**VIRGINIA BAUMAN-FOOTE (BA)** writes, “I enjoyed some nice hiking trips this summer to both Glacier Park and Yosemite.”

**BIANCA HARO (BA)** is a third-year PhD student in UCLA’s Graduate School of Education and Information Studies. “After my PhD, I hope to be in a tenure-track position, mentor students of color and dismantle the barriers that deny the access of higher education to first-generation, low income and underrepresented students,” she says.

**RYAN KLINT (MSGL, MS-SCM ’16)** graduated in 2016 from the MS-SCM program while working for Engility Corp. supporting the U.S. Navy.

**JESSICA McCARTHY (BA, BA ’14)** writes, “After completing a year of service with the Jesuit Volunteer Corps in Scranton, Pa., I am currently pursuing a master’s in theology and ministry at the Boston College School of Theology and Ministry.”

**CODY TESCHER (BA)** reports, “Sad to no longer be working with USD football, but excited for my new opportunity at UC Davis. Look forward to coming back to Torero Stadium in 2018!”

**SOPHIE VOGE (MA)** worked as an academic advocate for South Bay Community Services in Chula Vista, Calif., before graduating from USD. In the fall of 2016, she moved to Redlands, Calif., to begin her Doctorate of Education in leadership for educational justice. She is in her second year of study and works as a program specialist at Building a Generation in Redlands.

[2015]

**BRENDAN GEE (BS/BA)** began studies toward a Master of Advanced Studies degree in wireless embedded systems at the University of California, San Diego.

**LaPORCHA INGRAM (MA)** works at California State University, San Marcos, in the areas of student life, student affairs and student leadership.

**KYREN LYNCH (BBA)** is an assistant merchandiser at N.A. Gucci corporate.

**GABRIELLE MARTINEZ (BBA)** is a full-time legal researcher for a company that provides labor law products to businesses around the United States. She plans to attend law school next year.

**RACHEL OLINGER (MA)** is an associate marriage and family therapist at Lowry & Associates, a private practice in Oak Park, Ill. Rachel provides therapeutic services for children, adolescents and adults.

**JESUS SANCHEZ (MA)** directs the volunteer programs at San Diego LGBT Pride and is the vice president of the board of Gay Men’s Spiritual Retreat.

**WAYNE SMITH (BS/BA)** got his pilot’s license and has been working at GKN Aerospace for nearly a year.

[2016]

**KELLY BIRCH (BA)** has been working as a psychoeducational coach at a private institute where children and adolescents are treated
for a range of language and learning disabilities. Kelly is also applying to doctoral programs in clinical psychology.

**JACK GARRETT (MBA)** has a new consulting position in Philadelphia in which he provides real estate, design and construction advice to nonprofit organizations with capital programs east of the Mississippi.

**JENNA OWENS (BS/BA)** works for Clarity Design Inc., where she designs optical equipment intended for use in developing countries.

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**In Memoriam**

**PATRICIA M. HOWE** passed away peacefully on April 13, 2016 with her loved ones at her side. Her outstanding career in finance made her a pioneer for women in the marketplace; in fact, she was the first woman partner of a major New York Stock Exchange firm. In 1976, she was named one of the 100 top corporate women in the U.S. by *BusinessWeek* magazine. She was a member of the San Diego College for Women’s board of trustees from 1969-1972, and continued her service on the board of the University of San Diego from 1972-2010. She is survived by many nieces, nephews and cousins, including nieces Shannon Smith ’86 (BS, BBA) and Megan Evers ’93 (BA).

**RUFUS CALHOUN YOUNG ’65 (JD)** passed away on June 16, 2016. He received a BA in social science from SDSU, a JD from USD’s School of Law and an LLM, environmental law with highest honors, from George Washington University. Rufus served in the U.S. Marine Corps from 1965 to 1987, including as Assistant Chief of Staff, Staff Judge Advocate, Marine Corps Recruit Depot, San Diego. Military awards included the Navy Commendation medal. After retiring from the Marine Corps, he was a senior deputy city attorney for the city of San Jose and an attorney for Burke, Williams & Sorenson in Los Angeles, where he concluded his professional career in 2014. He was a frequent lecturer on environmental law topics and an ardent environmentalist. Survivors include his wife, Carole; daughters Cathy Peltz and Marilyn Ritchie; and seven grandchildren.

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COMMUNITY BUILDERS
Students engage with local Somalis

SOMALI FAMILY SERVICES’ DAY OF DIGNITY IS PART OF A NATIONWIDE EFFORT for people from diverse communities to come together and provide services to their neighbors in need. USD senior Darius Tenorio (pictured, at left, above) hopes to become a dentist. He got involved with the annual event through his service work with Somali Family Services. “I helped kids hand out flyers in their neighborhood to raise awareness for their Day of Dignity.” He says that the day itself was an amazing experience. “I was able to interact firsthand with the homeless and lower income East African families within the community. I gave basic oral hygiene advice — such as how to brush your teeth — to children and adults alike, while working alongside nurses and doctors.”

“Within the amazing organization that is Somali Family Services sits the Leaders in Our Neighborhood (LION) program, which has the main goal of supporting the East African youth in San Diego to build a community filled with educated members. Mustafa Sahid, a student at San Diego State University — who has an incredible passion for motivating the youth in his program — leads and inspires them.

My involvement began through the University of San Diego’s Health Inequities Fellows Program, which I was a part of in Fall 2016.

Through the program — which aims to provide students with a lens to better understand factors at play in regards to the state of health in our city, state and country — we picked a community outreach to join, and LION really struck a chord with me.

I love working with underrepresented youth, as I identify closely with them and wanted to help lead them, as I was led to succeed in my own college career. Throughout my time with LION, I bonded and became friends with many of the kids, and was able to give them advice and guidance in identifying possible future careers and steps needed to achieve their goal of pursuing a college education.

This spring, I’ll be continuing to work with Somali Family Services alongside Georgia Varetas ’17, another member of my Health Inequities fellowship. I cannot wait to see where these young minds go in pursuit of their dreams.”

— Darius Tenorio ’17
MARK YOUR CALENDAR

Grandparents’ Weekend
Friday, Feb. 24 – Saturday, Feb. 25
www.sandiego.edu/parents

Kyoto Prize Symposium
Thursday, March 16
10:30 a.m. – Noon
www.sandiego.edu/kyoto

Duncan McCosker: A Memorial Exhibition
Friday, March 17 – Friday, May 26
Fine Arts Gallery, KIPJ
www.sandiego.edu/galleries

Creative Collaborations/Undergraduate Research Conference
Tuesday, April 18 and Thursday, April 20
12 p.m. - 2 p.m.
Hahn University Center
www.sandiego.edu/cc-urc

Alumni Honors
Saturday, April 22
6 p.m.
Shiley Theatre
www.sandiego.edu/alumnihonors

Sports Banquet
Thursday, May 4
5:30 p.m.
Jenny Craig Pavilion
USDToreros.com

Graduate Commencement Ceremonies
Saturday, May 20 (Law)
9 a.m. – 11 a.m.
Saturday, May 27 (Graduate)
10 a.m. – 12 p.m.
www.sandiego.edu/commencement

Undergraduate Commencement Ceremonies
Sunday, May 28
(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 13-15, 2017.
Save the Date
April 22, 2017

Alumni Honors
University of San Diego

Inspiring Stories. Exceptional Achievements. One Alma Mater.

Save the date for the University of San Diego’s premier alumni event of the year.

www.sandiego.edu/alumnihonors
Enthusiastic and dedicated alumni at USD’s School of Law believe in passing the torch to the next generation of law students by funding scholarships. We hope you will do the same by creating a named and endowed scholarship, which will enable the law school to recruit and retain exceptional law students.

As one of the school’s top fundraising priorities, scholarships serve a vital role in ensuring the quality and diversity of future USD School of Law graduates. Funding a scholarship is an investment in students, our law school programs, the legal profession and the broader community.

“To fulfill my potential as a Changemaker, I knew that I wanted to stay at USD, since the institution instilled that notion in me as an undergraduate,” explains Juliana Mascari ’16 (BA), ’19 (JD). “The scholarship I received when I applied to law school gives me the freedom to pursue the legal career of my dreams in public service when I graduate.”

As part of Leading Change: The Campaign for USD, the law school is working with donors to create Legacy Endowed Scholarships. This unique funding option supports a current-use scholarship while building an endowed fund that — once fully funded — will continue to pay out a scholarship award to deserving student recipients.

The Legacy Endowed Scholarship honors the wishes of donors by enabling alumni, law firms and companies to directly support and sustain interests that are particularly meaningful to them. These scholarships can honor or memorialize a beloved family member, favorite law professor or focus attention to a cause that is important to you.

Creating a Legacy Endowed Scholarship is a smart way to ensure that your gift lasts a lifetime while also supporting the immediate needs of scholarship recipients at USD’s School of Law.

— Virginia Nelson ’79 (JD)
Law Campaign Co-Chair
The Academy for Catholic Teaching (ACT) is an innovative, three-year collaborative between the School of Leadership and Education Sciences (SOLES) and the Roman Catholic Diocese of San Diego. Beginning in the summer of 2017, the school’s learning and teaching department will offer its first master’s and credential program specifically for Catholic teacher candidates.

The purpose of this program is to overcome recent challenges faced by K-12 schools in the Roman Catholic Diocese of San Diego by improving the number of highly qualified teachers. “This partnership is a strong signal that the entire Catholic education body in the Diocese is working together to build greater collective capacity for the success of our schools,” says John Galvan, Diocese director. “We are looking for mission-driven candidates to catch fire with our Catholic education mission, we are grateful that the university is fueling such an initiative.”

ACT is centered on three essential pillars: The first, service through teaching, requires that participants commit to teaching three years in a Catholic K-12 school in the Diocese of San Diego. Upon completion of all certification requirements, ACT teachers will be eligible for a California teaching credential while having earned a Master of Arts degree from USD.

The second, living in community, seeks to ensure that participants create community both in the classroom and among their teaching peers. ACT seeks individuals who desire a strong community experience and professional growth by truly partnering with their peers. Participants will live in the local community and support each other as they undertake their classroom teaching assignments.

The third, spirituality, draws on the Catholic tradition of balancing lives of contemplation with action. To do this, participants are expected to proactively attend to their spiritual lives through both formal and informal practices. Activities to promote spiritual growth and development will include an annual retreat, international experience and facilitated activities. “Programs like this exemplify my belief that SOLES is a model school, and one that traditional education schools can transform into,” says SOLES Dean Nick Ladany, PhD. “This collaboration with the Diocese demonstrates that we are making an impact and expanding our reach within the greater San Diego community.”

— Dr. Kirsten Hanson Garcia ’07
— Todd Gutschow
SOLES Campaign Co-chairs
The School of Law, the Joan B. Kroc School of Peace Studies and the School of Leadership and Education Sciences (SOLES) joined forces this summer to research ways to combat human trafficking through educational and legislative measures aimed at reducing the demand for commercial sexual services. The Center for Education Policy and Law (CEPAL) — housed within SOLES — funded the research, which was led by Dr. Ami Carpenter of the Kroc School, who worked in close collaboration with Robert Fellmeth, Price Professor of Public Interest Law at the USD School of Law.

This study was made possible through gifts from the William D. Lynch Foundation for Children to the School of Law’s Children’s Advocacy Institute and the Dameyer Charitable Gift Fund to CEPAL.

The study focused on two pillars: (a) new legislation that addressed the need to stop the commercial sexual exploitation of children (CSEC) and (2) educational programs meant to shift public attitudes towards prostitution and cultural norms that devalue women and girls. California passed several new laws in 2016, including decriminalizing child prostitution (SB 1322), and adding sex trafficking prevention to the sexual health education curriculum (SB 1165).

While these bills are not without their critics, they represent important steps forward. Building on this momentum, the study proposed the pursuit of legislative measures aimed at reducing the demand for commercial sexual services and enhancing resources and services for CSEC victims.

With regard to the latter, the Children’s Advocacy Institute — which resides within the School of Law — will lead the effort to create a third track within the juvenile court system to address the unique needs of these victims.

The removal by SB 1322 of the criminal sanction and stigma is important, but it now creates a special need for defined placements and services to protect those victims from their previous exploiters and give them a safe path forward. This is a victim-centered approach that relies on relationship-building and, which recent research suggests, may produce better results in getting victims to testify against their trafficker.

The study also proposed an effort to promote the widespread adoption of sex-trafficking prevention curriculum in San Diego County Schools. Already there are several new initiatives underway; demonstrating their impacts will hopefully contribute to future efforts to set aside dedicated state or federal funding to scale up sex trafficking prevention in middle and high schools in San Diego County.

Work continues on both of these fronts, representing interests both inside and outside the judicial/law enforcement system. The key is wide consultation and consensus-building, which — thankfully — is something that all three schools know how to do.
Innovative Place to Educate Future Leaders

New high-tech classroom will be the recognized lecture theater for the San Diego legal community

The University of San Diego School of Law needs to update its technology and facilities to remain competitive in recruiting and training highly qualified students for the practice of law. The law school’s goal is to utilize technology more effectively as a teaching and learning tool in order to expand and enrich its curriculum, adapt instructional and assessment methods to the varied needs and skills of a more diverse student body and achieve efficiencies that will enable the school to control costs.

In addition, the adoption and use of new technologies in our classes and clinics will give students the tools they will need to practice successfully in both the public and private sectors.

Through capital contributions to the comprehensive campaign, the School of Law plans a 154-seat high functioning, multimedia, large capacity classroom as part of the planned improvements for Warren Hall. The proposed new, multimedia, integrated lecture hall and special events facility will enable multiple sections of students to be taught simultaneously, streamlining valuable resources, as well as serve as a center to host both law school and community events.

This innovative and interactive classroom and conference area will become the recognized center for USD’s School of Law and the San Diego legal community. Naming opportunities associated with this new lecture hall, conference space and other infrastructure improvements will enable generous benefactors to be recognized for their support in enhancing the legacy of USD’s School of Law and enabling the law school to continue to be a leader in innovative legal education.

Law Goal: $31.5 Million

Capital Projects $5.5M
Funding for capital projects is needed to update law school technology and facilities to enable the law school to continue to be innovative and compete for highly qualified students.

Endowment $20.5M
Building the endowment is vital to ensure that the law school will have the resources to train future generations of lawyers and leaders. To date, the law school has raised $5 million towards this endowment goal.

Current Use $5.5M
Given the law school’s pressing financial needs, especially to increase scholarship support, raising funding for current use has been a top priority and the law school has successfully raised $17 million to date. In addition to supporting scholarships, current use gifts support academic programs, centers and institutes, innovative teaching and research and the Fund for Excellence.

The School of Law has raised $22 million of its goal.