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Fall 2021

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UNIVERSITY OF SAN DIEGO

USD MAG

TOREROS TOGETHER

*As students return to campus,
a sense of joy, optimism and
community is evident at
the University of San Diego*

Fall 2021



DEAR TOREROS



“Beauty will attract them; goodness will lead them; but the truth will hold them.” This inspiring quote from Mother Rosalie Hill, RSCJ, describes her vision for higher education and reinforced what she ultimately thought the purpose of any college should be: the search for truth. But in order to attract students to the university she also believed our campus needed to be physically attractive and provide a living and learning environment that was a reflection of our Catholic intellectual tradition.

For many years, USD has followed this philosophy when we developed plans for new buildings and facilities on campus. Thanks to this approach, the university has developed a national reputation for both the quality of the education we provide our students and the beauty of our campus.

In 2016, as part of our strategic planning process, we invited an outside firm to

conduct an assessment of our campus facilities. While we knew the exterior beauty of our campus was second to none, we also knew we had accumulated deferred maintenance across campus that required our attention.

What we discovered was that it was time for a fresh approach to the maintenance of our buildings and a need for a rethinking of our facilities — a new and exciting time for growth, change and enlightenment. Thus, the Renaissance Plan was born.

During the months of the pandemic when many were working and learning remotely, our facilities operations team continued to actively work with contractors on the Renaissance Plan, which now has led to the renovation of some of the most cherished spaces on campus as well as the construction of new buildings in order to amplify learning and enhance the overall student experience.

The Renaissance Plan goal is multifaceted and will improve the top three space needs on campus: new classrooms, flexible study space and faculty offices. When the plan is completed, we will have cut university deferred maintenance in half and added more than 120,000 square feet of new academic space to our campus. These goals will be met in time for the 2022-23 academic year.

To date, we have completely renovated Copley Library with more than 1,000 seats, three classrooms, 29 new

collaborative study rooms, a faculty reading room, journals reading room, expanded archives and added air conditioning to the Mother Rosalie Hill Reading Room. The 36,000-square-foot Learning Commons has added 13 new state-of-the-art classrooms, nine collaborative study rooms, new and expanded space for the Writing Center and Honors Program and a town square that can host events, as well as an outdoor study space.

The restoration of Camino, Founders and Sacred Heart Halls added air conditioning to all academic spaces, upgraded ADA and other health and safety measures, added new seats and infrastructure to Shiley Theatre, air conditioning to Founders Chapel and upgraded housing to meet the expectations of today’s students.

The construction of the Knauss Center for Business Education and the renovation and enhancement of Olin Hall are the final projects in this phase of the Renaissance Plan. This initiative will nearly triple the business school space with new classrooms, a financial lab, a nexus theater, student services and centers — all in the same location.

The buildings will respect the 16th century Spanish architecture on the exterior — which led to USD being named the most beautiful campus in the nation by *The Princeton Review* — and demonstrates our commitment to students on the interior.

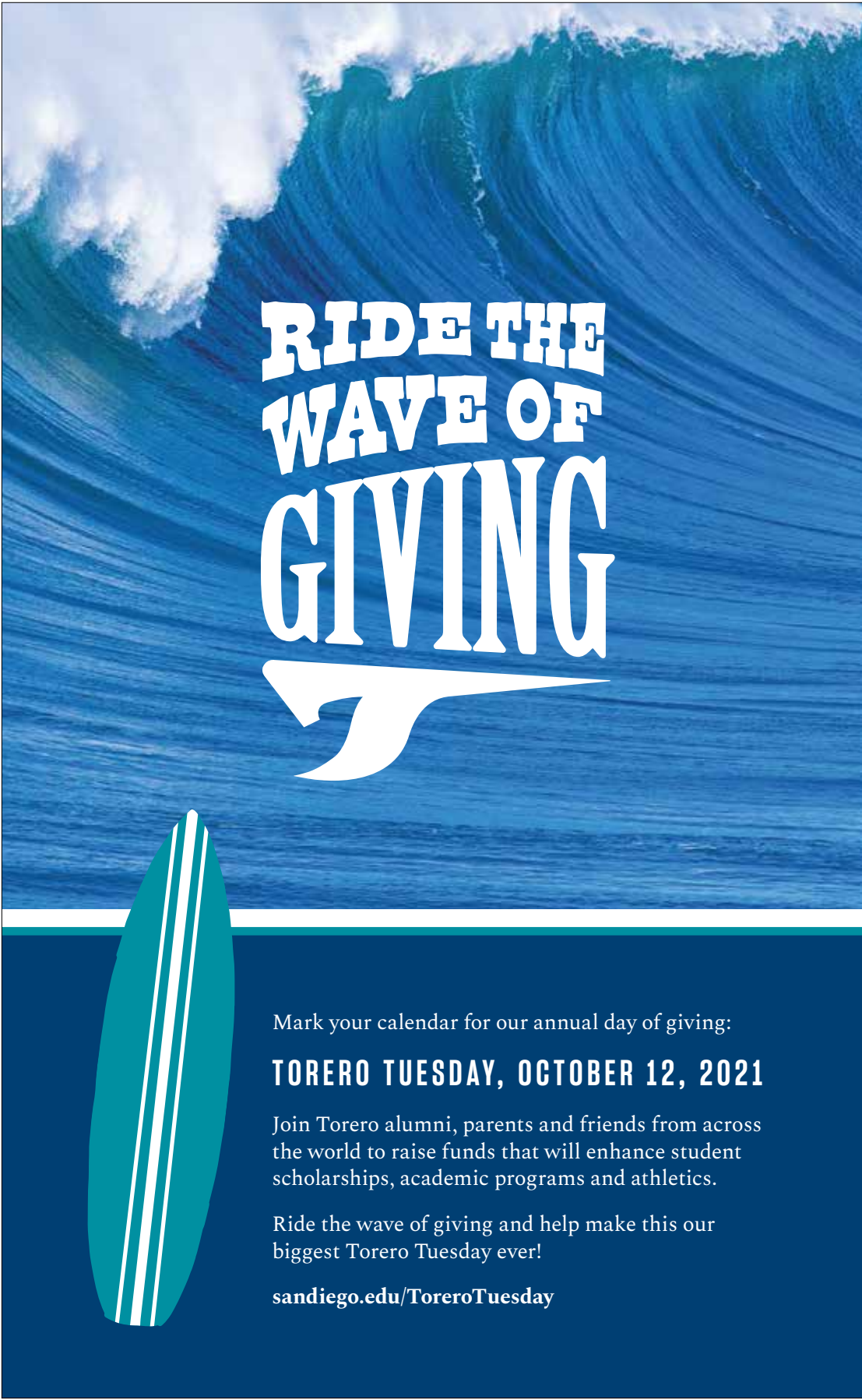
Construction related to the Renaissance Plan began in May 2019 beginning with the Learning Commons. The completion of this phase of the project meant that faculty members were able to teach remote classes from the Learning Commons in both Fall 2020 and Spring 2021. Many students utilized the study spaces during the same two semesters. During Summer 2021, first-year students moved into updated residence halls in Camino and Founders and faculty returned to refreshed and updated offices.

This exciting chapter in the life of the University of San Diego has been a collaborative effort: designers, builders, experts and the entire campus community joined together to make this ambitious effort a reality.

While these changes represent a new chapter in USD’s history, we are holding true to our values as a contemporary Catholic university that empowers innovative, confident, original thinkers who make positive contributions in places near and far.

Please consider visiting campus soon — perhaps by attending Homecoming and Family Week, which takes place October 12-17 — to see in person these exciting enhancements to our beautiful campus. We can’t wait to see you!

Peace,
James T. Harris III, DEd
President



RIDE THE WAVE OF GIVING

Mark your calendar for our annual day of giving:

TORERO TUESDAY, OCTOBER 12, 2021

Join Torero alumni, parents and friends from across the world to raise funds that will enhance student scholarships, academic programs and athletics.

Ride the wave of giving and help make this our biggest Torero Tuesday ever!

sandiego.edu/ToreroTuesday

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[class notes]

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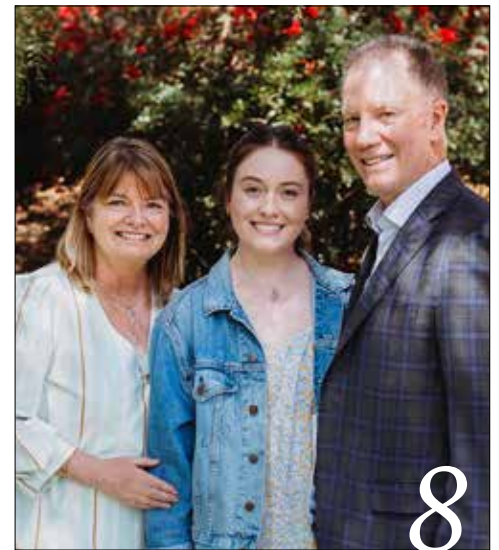
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[be blue go green]

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TORERO NEWS



BARBARA FERGUSON

[social justice]

ACTION AND UNDERSTANDING

Horizon Project launches to build a more inclusive campus

by *Julene Snyder*

In the spring of 2021, the University of San Diego announced the Horizon Project, an initiative designed to move USD into the forefront of Catholic higher education by following Pope Francis' guidance that as a Catholic community we must be more "open, expansive and welcoming."

The project's goals are ambitious but achievable: By the fall of 2026, the university will be recognized as a Hispanic-serving institution; be one of the 100 most diverse, independent universities in the country; be a leader among our national Catholic peer universities for percentage of students of color enrolled, percentage of Black

students enrolled and retention and graduation rates of students of color; and increase the number of full-time Black faculty within each of the professional schools and the College of Arts and Sciences.

On August 1, Regina Dixon-Reeves, PhD (pictured) was appointed as USD's vice provost for diversity, equity and inclusion.

She comes to the university from the University of Chicago, where she served as the assistant provost in the Office of the Provost.

"In my experience, most people are genuine when they say, 'I want diversity, I want inclusion, I want equity.' But they don't know how to implement it," says Dixon-Reeves. "I have an opportunity to really help people to think about how we do this work, how we do teaching and learning with an eye toward diversity, inclusion and equity. People at USD are committed to this work; they just need some help and ideas for how it might best be done."

I think I'm a really good person to do that. I'm an idea person."

To Dixon-Reeves' point, headway is already being made. "Over the past four years, we've made tremendous progress toward inclusive excellence," says USD President James Harris, DEd. "Today, we have the most diverse student body and faculty in our history, and the Horizon Project will propel those efforts to the next level."

A detailed online blueprint for the initiative lays out the call for action and stresses the effort will "deliberately focus our attention on three key elements to ensure we achieve inclusive excellence: people, policies and practices."

Key elements of the "people" project goal are as follows: Recruiting and retaining a more diverse student body; recruiting, hiring and retaining more diverse faculty members, administration and staff and expanding recruitment of the diverse members of the USD Board of Trustees.

Goals of the "policies" element include exploration of a test-blind admission policy beyond 2021, mandating campus-wide anti-racism and implicit bias training for the USD community and revising USD's policies on hate crimes and acts of intolerance.

The "practices" goal includes development and adoption of plans for diversity and inclusive excellence by every academic and administrative unit on campus, reviewing public safety protocols and enacting best practices for working with diverse populations, and recognizing the accomplishments of USD community members who promote and enhance diversity on campus.

"The Horizon Project is a movement for stewardship and requires collective action for change," says Harris.

And the time to continue making that change is now. 🌐

[motivated]

ETHICAL LEADERSHIP

Double alumna wants to change the world through business

by Allyson Meyer '16 (BA), '21 (MBA)

The beautiful campus may have attracted her to USD, but for Alexandra Steinhaus '15 (BA), '20 (MA), the stellar educational experience kept her here. She came to USD in Fall 2011 to pursue her undergraduate degree. On a whim, she took a course in the School of Business and it all clicked.

"I ended up in a marketing class. It was so much fun. I got to be creative but also strategic," she recalls. "What I really valued was they talked a lot about becoming an ethical leader."

Inspired by the pursuit of business as a force for good, Steinhaus knew she wanted to continue on this path. That's where the Master of Arts in Social Innovation (MASI) from the Joan B. Kroc School of Peace

Studies came in. She sees the program as a "perfect glove" that combines her love of business with social innovation.

In Spring 2020, this combination of undergraduate and graduate studies became an official program with the launch of the Kroc School combined degrees. The programs, which allow business and engineering undergraduates to earn credits towards a MASI or Master of Arts in Peace and Justice Studies degree, offer students a continuation of their changemaking education — an accelerated academic path and a career jump-start that sets them apart from peers.

"What's great about the MASI program is you can come in and out of it with any sector. It doesn't matter what industry you're in. What matters is that

you're trying to solve problems in new ways," says Steinhaus.

Having a background in business and innovation has positioned her for a career of ethical leadership. Currently an operations manager for MAKE Projects, Steinhaus is putting her business experience and passion for changemaking to good use, working for a social enterprise that supports the San Diego refugee community through job training programs.

"One of the biggest things I tell people when I think about USD is how it taught me to ask questions and to think critically," she says. "USD gave me so many different opportunities to learn new things, to try new things, to become a leader in a very safe space and so I'm very grateful." 🌐



BARBARA FERGUSON



BARBARA FERGUSON

[bighearted]

PAYING IT FORWARD

Alumni support namesake scholarships for future Toreros

by Elena Gomez

When Erin Alex Fullinwider '05 (BS/BA) graduated from the University of San Diego's electrical engineering department, she was one of three women studying in the program. But that wasn't a deterrent for her. In fact, today she's encouraging other women to get into engineering as the founder of a new namesake scholarship for female engineering students, dubbed the Erin Alex Fullinwider Scholarship.

"I had such an amazing experience at USD, and to

now be a part of other people's experience — especially women in engineering — feels really awesome," she says.

Faith Osei-Tutu (pictured) is one of the first recipients of the scholarship. The industrial and systems engineering third-year student says this extra financial support is allowing her to put her "best foot forward."

As Osei-Tutu continues her educational journey, she, like Fullinwider, is inspired to support other women to get into the STEM (science, technology,

engineering, math) industry.

"I'm the secretary for the National Society of Black Engineers. A big role for me next semester is to try to do outreach to high schools and middle schools for other black women to know they have an opportunity in the STEM field, because some people don't think it's an option," says Osei-Tutu.

The quest to share opportunities with those who come after them is a common theme. "I enjoyed my experience at USD. I loved it. I made a lot of great

friends and I wanted to give back a little bit. And I wanted to support the computer science program specifically," says Spencer McDonald '18 (BA), who earned his degree in computer science.

One of the highlights of McDonald's USD experience was studying abroad in China during his first year, alongside other computer science students.

It's a trip that has inspired him to start a scholarship program for computer science and engineering students who are planning to study abroad.

"It was probably one of the coolest, neatest experiences that I've had," he says. "The culture and lifestyle within China is so different than anything I'd experienced traveling other places or anywhere in the U.S. I think that's what got me to

want to start a study abroad-type scholarship toward the computer science program,” says McDonald, founder of the Spencer McDonald Scholarship.

Gabriel Goins, a senior integrated sustainable engineering student, is the first recipient of the scholarship and will be studying abroad in Cork, Ireland, in the fall of 2021. This will be Goins’ first trip abroad. He says he’s hoping to “learn about sustainability from another country’s perspective.”

Goins had planned to take out a loan to pay for this trip, but receiving this scholarship gives him more opportunities while he is overseas.

“Having this scholarship will actually help me just to go and have a good time. I was going to stay in Cork for the whole semester because I can’t afford to go anywhere else,” he says. “This actually gives me a lot more leverage so I can visit other places outside of Cork. I’m excited for that.”

Alumni-funded scholarships play an integral role in supporting future generations of Toreros. Foundation grants also play a large part in providing scholarships for students. For example, in the 2020-2021 academic year, there were nearly 80 different gifts from foundations, totaling more than \$1.2 million — ranging from small family foundations to employee matching funds.

These generous donations work together to help Toreros earn their degrees. And those who make these much-needed contributions see it as a gift, as well.

“We wanted to find someone who really needed this and otherwise wouldn’t have the opportunity to experience something new and different,” says McDonald. “It feels wonderful to find someone that fits that.”

 | sandiego.edu/give

[collaborative]

CLEAN AS A WHISTLE

Project provides hygiene services for those in need

by Allyson Meyer '16 (BA), '21 (MBA)

Five years ago, the nonprofit Think Dignity launched Fresh Start, the first mobile shower program in San Diego, serving those who are experiencing or are on the cusp of homelessness. Unfortunately, the COVID-19 pandemic meant these hygiene services were no longer safe to operate.

“We were at this moral impasse, whether to run a program and provide services and risk peoples’ health or completely shut down to the point where people don’t have access,” says Merlynn Watanabe '16 (MA), programs and operations manager with Think Dignity and a Joan B. Kroc School of Peace Studies alumna. “That’s where USD stepped in and was really thinking about how to create solutions that could support us.”

In the fall of 2020, Think Dignity partnered with the university through the Changemaker Challenge to brainstorm ways that Fresh Start could resume operations safely. With possible solutions proposed by the USD student body, Think Dignity enlisted the help of engineering graduate Matteo Hernandez '20 (BS/BA) to make this goal a reality.

“The student body came up with a solution to disinfect surfaces as well as remove as much air as possible,” says Hernandez. “That was my goal, to create a new air-handling system for the mobile showers as well as a misting system to ensure all surfaces were disinfected.”

That goal became reality this summer when Think Dignity once again opened the Fresh Start

shower doors with the new systems installed. Hernandez says his education uniquely assisted him in addressing this problem. “Within my engineering degree, I have a Bachelor of Science and a Bachelor of Arts,” he says. “So I’m able to look at the technical engineering side as well as understand the user’s needs.”

It’s this emphasis on human dignity that Watanabe sees as a cornerstone of a Changemaker education. “I was able to get where I am because of USD,” she says. “Now I’m able to join forces with USD to do more in the community and to really be the example and embodiment of what a Changemaker looks like in San Diego.”

 | sandiego.edu/mobile-showers



COURTESY OF CHANGEMAKER HUB



COURTESY OF THE JAMASBI FAMILY

[dedication]

COME MAKE A DIFFERENCE

Parents get involved in myriad ways at USD

by Cameran Biltucci

The heart of what comprises the University of San Diego is not only the efforts of the students, faculty and staff, but also that of the parents. Among USD's many engaged family members are three sets of parents who have one thing in common: their time, involvement and contributions have helped change the university for the better.

"Come make a difference" is Gary and Sharon Qualls' motto. The Qualls are from Orange County, California, and their

daughter, Julia '22 (BBA), is studying marketing and is a member of the cheer team.

This year, Gary and Sharon are co-presidents of the Parent Advisory Board. The Qualls say a key focus of the board is raising funds for at-risk students through the Torero Student Support Fund. They also contribute to the USD Food Pantry and the Torero Closet. The pantry offers food to students in need and the closet provides students access to professional clothes for job interviews.

"For all of us on the board, there is not a dry eye in the house when we get a student that had to rely on the Torero Pantry or the Torero Closet or benefitted from the scholarship," says Gary. "We are thrilled to help make their dreams come true."

Sharon says for people looking to get involved, there is a role for everyone. "You can be totally immersed in helping or involved in one-off events," she notes. For parents who may not be able to join the Parent Advisory Board, Sharon says a good way for par-

ents to get their toes wet is to become involved with the Parent Ambassador Program, which invites parents to serve as volunteers at different events across the country.

Daniel and Liz Caldwell live nearly 3,000 miles from campus in Fort Lauderdale, Florida. All three of their children have attended USD: Will '13 (BAc), Liz '15 (BA) and Chris '23.

Despite their distance from campus, the Caldwells are actively involved at USD. Both are members of the Parent Advisory Board, and Liz will be president of the board for the 2022-23 school year. "By getting involved, you can make a difference. Because USD is not so big, you can see things get done," says Liz.

Last year, the Caldwells donated \$10,000 that they wanted to see utilized right away. "With COVID,

Penelope and Babak Jamasbi (center) alongside their children, Alex, Leila and Kameron '23.

parents may have lost their jobs, and we are very blessed, so I wanted to give back.” Liz says it was heartwarming to see the impact of their donation, “We got a thank you email from three or four of the students, and I cried.”

The Caldwelles also regularly donate stays at their vacation homes and pieces of Daniel’s artwork as auction items for Casino Night and the Founders Gala, which takes place on November 13, 2021. Liz is excited to attend this year’s gala at Petco Park. “I went to the last one, and it was so amazing. It was one of the most beautiful events I have ever been to.”

She explains why the couple has chosen to be so involved at USD: “It’s the least we can do to give back to an institution that has taken very good care of our children. It gives us joy.”

Babak and Penelope Jamasbi live in Northern California’s Marin County. Their son, Kameron ’23, is studying business. They are new members of the Parent Advisory Board and recently created a \$50,000 endowed scholarship fund.

Babak is a physician and Penelope is a former nurse. The couple felt it was especially important to give back during the pandemic and support students in health studies, who in turn will be an essential part of their own communities.

Through the endowed fund, scholarships will be given each year to third- and fourth-year pre-health students as well as to graduate nursing students. “I want them to be able to finish and encourage them to stay in that field and not be discouraged by the cost,” says Babak.

“I think that giving a scholarship to a student is like giving them a high five. “You can do this, you’ve got this,” adds Penelope. 🌟

[self-motivated]

LIVING THE DREAM

Creating a career path that feels like play

by *Julene Snyder*

For all intents and purposes, USD senior Mitch Flippo is living the dream. The 21-year-old has crafted a career path doing what he loves: creating visual stories through video, photography and fashion while traveling the world as much as possible.

While Flippo — who’s produced music videos for rapper Macklemore, traveled on tour for producer and electronic dance music artist DJ Cesqueaux and filmed at various music festivals and concerts in pre-pandemic times — describes himself as “super-competitive,” he comes across as soft-spoken and deliberate.

Drawn to all things aquatic, the Seattle native knew as a teen that he wanted to attend college in Southern California due to his love of the ocean and “the sort of chill, laidback vibe compared to Seattle, where it rains 60% of the time.”

A trip to USD’s campus sealed the deal. “Once I visited, it was hard to get over the beauty of campus,” he says. A public speaking class as a first-year student inspired him to choose to major in communications, primarily because he found the class really fun.

Although he doesn’t consider himself a social media influencer, a video that he made of himself and his friends simultaneously surfing and playing basketball went viral with millions of views on his website, MitchFlippo.com. But when ESPN and other big athletic accounts promoted the video, the engagement and

views exploded exponentially.

“A lot of the stuff we did was surfing and watersports, which got a lot of views and engagement,” he explains. “So I started a clothing brand that I’d been working on, which I dropped online right when there was a lot of attention on us. It ended up taking off overnight, which was supercool.”

Once the lockdowns started to ease during the Spring 2021 semester, Flippo embraced the flexibility that remote learning provided. “It was kind of a

blessing in disguise for me,”

he says. He was able to travel to Mexico to do both fact finding and look for inspiration for his as yet unnamed clothing line, recently spending two months in Mexico City, Baja and Tulum.

It’s been a learning curve, for sure, but he’s excited to see what comes next. “I don’t know what the new normal is,” he admits. “I think we all have to take things day by day, but I think things are starting to settle down. I’m excited to see San Diego how it used to be.” 🌟



COURTESY OF MITCH FLIPPO



[faith in action]

MORE THAN ENOUGH

The spiritual journey continues for Rachel Freeman

by Julene Snyder

When Rachel Freeman '09 (BA) was growing up, her family life was strictly secular. “I grew up very assimilated into mainstream culture,” she recalls. “When I was 11, my dad gave me a choice of having a sweet 16 party or studying for a Bat Mitzvah. But I had no connection to Judaism as a kid, so I said, ‘I’m going to do a sweet 16 party and have all my friends come. No one has to know I’m Jewish.’”

Freeman says even as a child, she always had a lot on her mind. She started writing short stories at the age of 7; by the time she was 11, she wrote more poetry than prose. “I’ve expressed myself through writing my whole life,” she says. While she doesn’t talk about it very often, she hosted a “for teens, by teens” television program for local public access, and won an Emmy award.

But even though she kept

her poems private for years, she found herself yearning for spirituality and connection. For Freeman, it turns out that choosing to attend the University of San Diego helped to light her path. “I was at a Catholic school when I found my Jewish identity,” she says with a laugh.

A sociology major, Freeman declared a second major in ethnic studies, with a concentration in community policy and justice.

“We were doing a lot of work in the Kumeyay Garden, back when all of the awareness around native plants was being recognized on campus,” she recalls. “For me, it became accepting the differences through tikkun olam, a Jewish idea that means ‘to repair the world.’ That’s how I started living my life through Judaism. I was kind of a lost soul who was really trying to find my place.”

Over time, spirituality has become central to Freeman’s worldview. “No matter what somebody believes, we’re interconnected and part of the human spirit. To me, it doesn’t matter if somebody goes to a mosque or a church or a temple. Foundationally, we are human beings who have basic needs and

want to feel connection and love for and with each other.”

She attributes much of her identity formation to USD. “Had I not actually explored the ethnic studies major, I don’t know if I would be as connected to Judaism. Ethnic studies gave me a platform to explore and express my ethnoreligious background,” she says.

But it took time to find her way. A birthright trip to Israel senior year didn’t offer any easy answers. “I had a lot of identity issues and questions about organized religion after that trip,” Freeman recalls. She began restricting food and exercising to such an extent that between her return from Israel during spring semester and the following holiday season, she lost 60 pounds. “I dropped weight really fast, and it was hard on my body. I was trying everything to avoid everything in front of me,” she says.

“Food and exercise addiction are easy to hide. But you need food to live. If you have an addiction to something else, the whole point of recovery is to give it up. But if you give up food, you die. It becomes your deepest, darkest secret. You have to let someone in, in order to help you.”

Freeman is the first to admit to being an overachiever, even when it comes to her recovery. “After graduation, I got into a grad program for marriage and family therapy, because like any addict, I thought I could help

myself. It was not a good fit for me.” But what turned out to be a perfect fit was what she calls a five-week “Jewish sleepaway art camp” which was lifesaving.

“One night, a recovery group from the addiction treatment center Beit T’Shuvah performed, and I fell in love with it.” So much so that she performed one of her poems in front of 60 people. “It was the first time I actually came out publicly about my eating disorder,” Freeman says. “It was super empowering.” So much so that she decided to seek a publisher for a book of her highly personal poetry. Until then, she hadn’t shared those poems with anyone.

“We had to make a collage and rename what we thought God or a higher power was,” she explains. “My higher power is my hunger — my hunger for life, my hunger to always do something more, my actual literal hunger — that’s what drove me to do everything.” And that’s the name of her first volume: *The Hunger*.

Freeman is still driven. She’s written a follow-up book, *Still Hungry*, and is seeking a publisher. She works full time as a special education teacher, and recently completed an accelerated master’s degree/ administrative credential program in just a year. As she looks to the future, she’s not afraid to dream big. “I would love to turn my poetry and story of recovery into a miniseries for a streaming platform,” she admits.

In the meantime, Freeman — who identifies as “culturally Jewish” — is all about finding healthier ways to satisfy her yearnings. Her advice to others is simple. “Celebrate individuality, and know that you have a voice. It took me 10 years to put out what I had because I was too scared of what others would think. You’ve got to allow people the space to express who they are and what their needs are.”



[AROUND THE PARK]

New VP for Student Affairs

Charlotte Johnson, JD, is USD’s new vice president for student affairs. Most recently, she served as the vice president and dean of students at Scripps College in Claremont, California. Previously, she was the chief student affairs officer at Dartmouth College and Colgate University. She replaces Carmen Vazquez, MSW, CSW, who stepped down as vice president for student affairs at the end of the 2020-21 academic year.



Hoehn Family Galleries Exhibit

Celebrated architect Ernest Born trained his eye through drawing and printmaking. *Ernest Born: The Architect’s Eye* will display Born’s interwar etchings and lithographs, many inspired by his studies of iconic structures across the globe, including the Chrysler Building, Notre-Dame Cathedral and St. Mark’s in Venice. An exhibit will be shown from October 1-December 10, 2021, at the Hoehn Family Galleries on campus.



Brock Ungricht Named Top Baseball Coach

A dynamic leader and the architect of one of the West Coast’s top college baseball offenses, Brock Ungricht has been named the next head coach of San Diego baseball, replacing Rich Hill, who resigned to become head coach at Hawaii. The fourth head coach in program history and the third in USD’s Division I era, Ungricht served as an assistant coach and the recruiting coordinator for the Toreros for the past three seasons.



Legal Clinics Turn 50

This year, the USD School of Law’s legal clinics celebrate their 50th anniversary. “Notwithstanding the unprecedented challenges presented by the pandemic, during the past year, clinic faculty, staff and students met the moment and ensured that we continued to provide excellent legal training for our students and high-quality legal services to those most in need in our community,” says Faculty Director and Professor of Law Robert Muth.



TORERO ATHLETICS



COURTESY OF USD ATHLETICS DEPARTMENT

[cutting edge]

REACHING A NEW LEVEL

New golf facility a game changer

by Mike Sauer

What do managing a successful private equity portfolio and hitting a perfect 7-iron have in common? The way Paul Purcell '97 (BA) sees it, both require focus, commitment and a touch of fearlessness.

"There's lots of different ways to approach business, just like there are lots of different ways to

approach the game of golf," he says. "In both instances, preparation puts you in the position to succeed, but you still have to be willing to take the shot. You miss 100% of the shots you don't take in life, business and golf."

It's been 28 years since Purcell travelled the roughly 2,000 miles from his native Illinois to attend USD. He loved the idea of spend-

ing his winter mornings in shorts rather than snowshoes, and the self-proclaimed "golf nut" would have the chance to play his favorite game 12 months a year — studies permitting, of course.

"My brother and I played a bunch back then, and what I remember most is the social aspect of it; how much fun we had hanging out together, playing with our friends. Getting the chance to connect with people is one of my favorite things about the game."

As a member of the USD Board of Trustees, Purcell is committed to providing future Toreros that same opportunity;

a generous lead gift of \$2 million has made that possible. In partnership with USD, and with the guidance and input of USD Men's Golf Head Coach Chris Riley, Purcell's gift establishes a new on-campus golf training resource. The Purcell Family Short-Game Practice Facility was designed by San Diego native and golfing icon Phil Mickelson.

"Having our own dedicated golf facility will be a game changer," Riley says. "It will give us something that other top-25 collegiate programs have: an on-campus site that serves as an indoor and outdoor classroom

for our players. Showing that we support our scholar-athletes in this way will give us an advantage in recruiting top talent and in helping them to succeed.”

The 1.4-acre facility will be located in the northeast quadrant of campus, centered in the hub of USD athletic facilities.

This will provide USD golfers with opportunities to strengthen what Purcell sees as the difference-making skills in modern-day golf. “These days, the equipment is so advanced it seems like everyone can hit the ball 300 yards. That’s great, but it also shortens a lot of courses to the point where the major keys to success are how well you can chip and putt. This facility will give USD golfers the opportunity to really hone those skills.”

The facility will be comprised of a 3,000 square-foot clubhouse that includes a locker room, lounge, indoor/outdoor hospitality space, study/conference areas, a hitting bay and golf lab featuring cutting-edge technology and equipment.

“As a result of the generosity of the Purcell family, and a strong commitment from the University of San Diego, I could not be more thrilled to be designing a state-of-the-art on campus golf practice facility for the Toreros,” says Mickelson. “Every detail of this new facility will be designed to improve the scholar-athlete golfer, provide an environment to promote team unity, instill competition and position USD to compete for future West Coast Conference and national championships.”

In addition to the significant impact the facility will have on the Torero golf program, the university intends, through partnerships with Pro Kids, First Tee and other local organizations, to strengthen its commitment to serving anchor communities like Linda Vista, Logan Heights and City Heights. 📍



ZACHARY BARRON

GETTING TO KNOW ... MYAH PACE

CREDENTIALS: Women’s basketball guard Myah Pace led the Toreros in scoring with 11.8 points per game during the 2020-21 season. She also earned WCC All-Academic honors for her impressive classroom accomplishments and serves as a team captain, a responsibility she doesn’t take lightly. “Our team has always had really great leaders, both on the court and in the locker room. I’ve learned so much during my time here, and I want to make sure I share that knowledge with the younger players. They’ll be the ones to carry that leadership legacy forward.” **JUMP AROUND:** Pace and her teammates like to ease the tension with some impromptu dance contests as a pregame ritual, and she’s amazed by their smooth moves. “Oh my, we’ve got some really good dancers on our team. It can get really tense and serious sometimes, but we’re also really goofy together. It’s nice to have that balance where we can feed off each other’s energy in a fun and positive way.” **THE HANDS THAT BUILD:** Pace has been passionate about architecture for as long as she can remember. Her family moved a lot in her younger years, and while her siblings would squabble over who got the bigger room, Pace was asking about each house’s structure and design. “We lived in six different states, and I was always paying attention to how things looked in our area: houses, buildings, community spaces, everything. I love architecture because it gives me the opportunity to help plan and build. I look forward to having that opportunity as a professional where I can help create spaces that can strengthen and support underserved communities.” — *Mike Sauer*

NOT JUST BUSINESS

NEW KNAUSS CENTER WILL NEARLY TRIPLE





AS USUAL

THE SCHOOL'S SPACE

by Krystn Shrive

The University of San Diego has experienced a true Renaissance.

In 2019, the university launched one of the most ambitious capital improvement plans in its history. Known as the Renaissance Plan, it called for a new beginning, a rebirth for four of the original and most cherished spaces on campus, as well as the construction of two entirely new buildings to enhance learning.

As part of the plan, USD opened the Learning Commons — a two-story, 36,000-square-foot building on the west end of campus that's home to 13 flexible smart classrooms, a dynamic Town Square and an outdoor plaza. USD also renovated Copley Library, which features new study and instruction spaces, seminar and reading rooms, event and outdoor settings and individual seating for 1,000 users.

Next came the restoration of Camino Hall, Founders Hall and Sacred Heart Hall, where resident halls and lounges were renovated and the buildings were brought back to their original glory.

In April of 2021, USD broke ground on the final component of the Renaissance Plan — a new, 120,000 square-foot complex called the Knauss Center for Business Education, named for Don Knauss, chair of USD's Board of Trustees and former CEO of Clorox, and his wife, Ellie.

Located just off the Paseo de Colachis, in the heart of Alcalá Park's academic corridor, the Knauss Center for Business Education is one of the first buildings visitors will see as they crest the hill at the west entrance of campus.

"It is an incredible honor and blessing to play a key role in making this new, world-class business center and complex a reality," Don Knauss says.

The new complex nearly triples the business school's space.

The Free Enterprise Institute Suite houses the new Catalyzer Incubator, a maker space with state-of-the-art technology to help seed student startups, as well as The Brink Small Business Development Center, where faculty and industry thought leaders mentor hundreds of San Diego small businesses.

The Student Success Center serves as a hub for all student-support programs — including advising, career services, mentoring and internships. There's also the Torero One Button production suite, a state-of-the-art production studio for creating mock interviews, videos, podcasts and other tools to help students develop their personal brands — all with the touch of one button.

The Nexus Theatre can be used as a classroom or, using moveable walls, can be transformed into the perfect space for large meetings or events.

The Data Analytics Lab is designed to develop advanced business analytics skills by giving students the opportunity to train on tools used by big data thought leaders.

The complex features many flexible spaces, including new, active-learning classrooms with cutting-edge technology and furniture that can be completely reconfigured to better serve group dynamics.

Finally, there's a business advisory suite to gather industry partners, advisory boards and supporters to brainstorm innovative ideas that will help the School of Business become a leading business school in the country.

"Traditional business schools have the feel of a monolith — they're staid, traditional with a lot of private spaces that are not to be broached, if you will," says Tim Keane, PhD, dean of the School of Business, and the visionary behind the new facility. "This new complex is more like

business of today where we're encouraging collaboration. We thrive on it. That's where innovation comes from."

During his senior year, Carl Dumesle '21 (MBA) hosted a virtual tour so people could picture the new space, with the help of architectural renderings and digital fly-throughs. What excites him most is the new Free Enterprise Institute Suite, where USD's Catalyzer Incubator will help get businesses off the ground.



In 2019, Dumesle and his classmate, Bria d'Amours, won a \$45,000 prize during the inaugural Fowler Business Concept Challenge, which was hosted by the then equally new Entrepreneurship and Innovation Catalyzer.

Their winning business concept, called Housing for Undergraduates and Graduate Students (or HUGS), would make it easier for international students or students from out of state to find housing locally.

"I can see this space being a go-to for students to ignite their innovative spirit," says Dumesle. "For the first time, there will be a dedicated space where like-minded students can meet potential co-founders who will help create or pivot their startups. This is something I always wished I had

during my time at USD and am thrilled to see the outcome!"

Although Dumesle wishes the Knauss Center for Business Education had been completed before he graduated, he promises he'll be back to visit once it opens during the fall of 2022.

"I expected to feel like I'd be missing out, but the fact the complex is being built makes me proud as an alumnus," Dumesle says. "I'm eager to walk through the doors of the Knauss Center and witness innovation in the making — from students collabo-

rating in the common areas to teams drawing plans on whiteboards and practicing their pitches for one of our competitions. The Nexus Theatre will be home to the start of the next generation of high-profile tech innovations in San Diego, guaranteed."

The School of Business complex has been part of the university's master plan for years, but it took time to secure the initial funding needed to move forward. Trustee Kim Busch and her family helped create that momentum.

"When I joined the Board of Trustees, I discovered that the initiative to build a new business school had been stalled for some years, but believed that a little nudge was needed to get that

initiative started and build momentum," Busch says. "Our family thought it would be a great legacy and we made that initial gift to get the momentum going for the Knauss Center for Business Education."

Adding to the momentum most recently was Board of Trustees Treasurer Robert R. Dean '94 (BBA) and his wife, Trina. They funded what will be known as the Daniel Rivetti and Dennis Zocco Finance Lab, named in honor of Dean's favorite professors.

"I believe that the new Finance Lab will allow students to experience the tools — such as information, technology, data sets and software — that are currently used every day in corporations, in investment companies and on Wall Street," Dean says. "Although the classroom environment can be a wonderful place to learn theories and work in group settings, there is nothing that can replace what will be a state-of-the-art workspace that gives real-life experiences and what will feel like on-the-job training."

David Light, PhD, an associate dean and professor of marketing in the School of Business, who served on several building planning committees over the years, is thrilled to watch from the window of his office on the third floor of Olin Hall as construction progresses.

"The excitement of seeing it being built — and knowing it will be completed next summer — exceeds all other feelings," Light says. "The building is designed to be open and inviting. The desire is to ensure students and employees feel a part of something bigger. The building opens to a courtyard between the new building and Olin Hall to take advantage of the wonderful San Diego weather and provide more casual collaboration opportunities. Classrooms and offices have glass walls facing the courtyard, which is intended to

encourage a feeling of openness for engagement with students, faculty and administrative staff."

In addition to all the new spaces, Olin Hall will also undergo renovation.

The renovated Olin Hall will feature the San Diego Café, which will offer locally grown specialties and a 24-hour grab-and-go market. It will also be home to the school's Centers of Distinction — including the Burnham-Moores Center for Real Estate, ranked as the No. 1 real estate program in the country.

"Olin Hall has served the business school and university well for 37 years. To see it modernized and made more accessible will be especially rewarding," Light says.

"The renovated Olin Hall will have more open space for students, faculty and administrative personnel. The centers — with their open floorplans and the café, which opens to the courtyard — will be attractive locations for students, faculty and employees to congregate and engage in casual discussions. The chance to easily mingle and interact with others has been a missing element in the business school. It's exciting to envision how this will play out."

Reflecting a nationwide tide of interest in the corporate world, the School of Business Administration was established in 1972 and became the fastest growing academic unit at the University of San Diego.

James M. Burns, DBA, a Harvard Business School graduate, joined USD's faculty as a professor of management in 1974. In 1975, when the school's founding dean, Clement I. Nouri, stepped down, Dr. Burns took the helm and served as dean for more than two decades. His initial focus was to grow and strengthen the faculty and to prepare the school for accreditation. In his early years, the number of faculty more than dou-



bled from seven to 17, and graduate enrollment went from zero to 100 within his first four years.

Undergraduate enrollment grew from 230 to 460 within five years. In 1980, the undergraduate program was accredited, followed by the graduate program in 1981.

In 1984, Olin Hall opened its doors. The school has since outgrown Olin Hall, and its faculty, staff and programs reside in six different buildings across campus.

“The opportunity to bring together all employees of the School of Business is incredibly exciting. This will be the first time in 15 years that all business faculty and administrative personnel will be housed in the same complex,” Light says. “The ability for all academic departments’ faculty and student support personnel to personally interact will allow a heightened level of service to our students. The Knauss Center for Business Education will greatly enhance the ability to deliver the value proposition

we promise to our students.”

Rich Yousko '87 (BBA) started as a student at USD in the fall of 1983, before Olin Hall opened. He remembers taking his microeconomics class with Professor Charlie Holt in a trailer near the east entrance of campus, where the Degheri Alumni Center is now located. He was impressed with Olin Hall when it opened.

“Olin was brand new. The tiered seating was new to me and so cool,” Yousko says, as memories came flooding back. “The place was clean and even smelled new. I remember the computers in the lab downstairs in the basement — with their floppy disks, the green flashing prompt and the fear you felt at the end of writing your paper that the document didn’t save.

“I remember professors of impact,” he recalls, “including Dan Rivetti, who taught finance and was probably the first real social networker, before social network-

ing was a thing, and Johanna Hunsaker, who taught organizational communication.”

Yousko has many fond memories of his time in Olin Hall, the classes he took, the friends he met, the networking and connections he made.

“One of my memories is camping out behind Olin to get our business classes,” he says. “In order to secure our business classes, we had to literally camp out the night before — no Internet yet!”

The renovation of Olin Hall began in late summer of 2021. Construction on the Knauss Center for Business Education, located just west of Olin Hall, commenced in December 2020.

By mid-September, the interior framing will be in place and some of the drywall will be hung. The mechanical, electrical and plumbing will be in place, along with audio visual equipment, insulation and fire stops.

Roofing also will be completed.

Throughout the fall semester, construction will continue with the completion of drywall, plastering and ceilings. Light fixtures and elevators will be installed and interior finishes, such as carpeting, terrazzo, tiles and final painting, will begin. The installation of casework and doors will begin in December, along with the installation of stone on the exterior.

“The Knauss Center for Business Education and Olin Hall are the final projects in the Renaissance Plan,” says USD’s Vice President of Operations Ky Snyder. “The Renaissance Plan goal is multifaceted. Its goals were to address our top three space needs on campus: new classrooms, increased flexible study space and faculty offices, and the growing deferred maintenance issues in our academic spaces. These goals will be met in time for the 2022-23 academic year.”

So, what’s next on the horizon? Only time will tell. 🌐



OUR JOB IS TO



CELEBRATING THE 10-YEAR ANNIVERSARY OF USD'S CHANGEMAKER DESIGNATION

by Allyson Meyer '16 (BA), '21 (MBA)

Education is an adventure, as well as a gift, bringing with it huge responsibility. Over the past decade, many things have

and a professor of political science and international relations. "It's a set of actions we are encouraging students, faculty

room and in our communities. "We believe it starts with self-awareness in understanding your own place in society, your own

educational mission as a unique opportunity to foster an interest in changemaking among students. "Often, I feel like traditional

SERVE OTHERS

changed on the University of San Diego campus. Buildings have been constructed, programs have been established and students have passed through campus doors. There has, however, been a constant commitment to changemaking.

In 2011, USD was designated as an Ashoka U Changemaker Campus, recognized as an institution of higher education committed to creating a space for exploration, innovation and activation. That same year, the USD Changemaker Hub was established as a campus-wide, collaborative resource to foster change throughout the university. This year marks its 10-year anniversary.

"At USD, changemaking first and foremost is a practice," says Mike Williams '92 (BA), JD, PhD, the director of the Changemaker Hub for the past seven years

The past 18 months have required unprecedented amounts of resilience and grace from the Torero community.

and staff to take to address some of the most important urgent challenges in the world and to have a positive impact."

As an integral part of the fabric of the institution, changemaking is evident in how students, alumni, faculty and staff live out the university's mission.

"We're doing the work we've been doing since I was a student here," says Williams, who, as an undergraduate alumnus, majored in political science. "The designation came as a recognition of what we were already doing on and off campus."

It's this designation that puts USD in an elite group of 51 Changemaker Campuses worldwide, recognized as a university committed to fostering positive change on a global scale.

What changemaking looks like on an individual basis may be different from person to person, but what sets USD apart from other institutions is the active pursuit of a curriculum that explores positive change both in the class-

room and in our communities. "We want you to learn about the topics you are interested in. It's about getting involved and having a collective impact with your fellow students, with faculty and with community members to address those issues that matter to you."

For Juan Carlos "JC" Rivas '19 (PhD), the associate director of the Changemaker Hub, changemaking is about the small steps taken daily to make a positive difference in our communities.

"It's a practice, like going to the gym every day," he says. "You don't get strong in one day. You actually need to bring in different things with you to practice. When you're trying to practice changemaking, I always tell people to bring their values, their beliefs, their skills and then work and collaborate with others to actually make a difference in what they care about."

Rivas, who has been with the Changemaker Hub since its creation in 2011, sees USD's

academic settings ask students to wait until they graduate to put into practice everything that they learned in the classroom," he says. "What we're trying to do at USD is during your time here, you have the opportunity to engage with the community, to engage with one another and to put a lot of the theories you are learning in the classroom into practice."

In the decade since the 2011 designation, a lot has been accomplished by the university community. The Changemaker Hub has partnered with campus collaborators on hundreds of projects, working directly with thousands of students and dozens of community partners to bring about change.

Just in the past few years, changemaking efforts have addressed unique challenges facing our communities.

Student-initiated sustainability efforts have led to the pilot reusable container program in the Student Life Pavilion. Faculty research on homelessness and



Members of USD's Changemaker Student Committee learn about local social enterprises by visiting Kitchens for Good, an organization which uses food to transform lives.

food insecurity has led to the establishment of the Urgent Challenges Collective. Collaborations with community partners have helped bring COVID-19 vaccinations to underrepresented communities.

In the past 10 years, programs have also been established to address changemaking in USD's curriculum. In Fall 2016, USD's Joan B. Kroc School of Peace Studies launched the Master of Arts in Social Innovation (MASI) program, aimed at providing students with a deeper understanding of societal challenges and equipping them with the tools to develop innovative solutions. In Fall 2017, the College of Arts and Science launched a minor in changemaking, geared towards undergraduate students interested in social change through community engagement.

The nationwide event, My Story — which was founded on the USD campus in 2014 — continues to bring the university community together for nights of empathy and storytelling. The 2020 Changemaker Challenge encouraged students to use their imagination to generate ideas to address homelessness in the San Diego/Tijuana region. The year-long Changemaker Faculty Fellows Development Program establishes interdisciplinary faculty groups to address team building, changemaking and social innovation in the classroom.

The past decade has also shown how changemaking has continued beyond USD's borders. Immersion trips to Uganda, South Africa and Jamaica have broadened student awareness of global issues related to clean water, education and development, and the impact the colonial system has had on communities around the world. USD has also been involved in cross-border collaborations that address peacebuilding, justice sys-

tem reforms and immigration.

"What we've accomplished over the past 10 years has been pretty remarkable," admits Williams.

That said, it's clear that there are no plans to slow down on any of these initiatives. "In my opinion, every student going to any university should not just learn and not just think about issues. They also need to be active," says

Williams. "As a Changemaker Campus, we need to walk that talk and it's important because it's showing students that we believe their educational experience is directly aligned with our mission — our liberal arts mission, our Catholic mission and our changemaking mission."

"One of the reasons I wanted to work at USD was I've always enjoyed seeing these aha moments in the journey of growth students experience," says Rivas. "For me, getting to watch that from the first year to when they become seniors, seeing them evolve and learn and dive into whatever their passions might be, that's what I love about the changemaking journey — that every student goes through it and no journey is ever the same."

Each year, the university is greeted with a new cohort of incoming students, motivated by the Changemaker mission to pursue their educational path here at USD. This mission is so intricately connected to a student's experience that prospective applicants are asked to provide their own views on changemaking, already beginning to contemplate their own aha moments.





Students like Vicenta Martinez Govea '21 can select appropriate professional business attire at the Torero Closet for job interviews.

orate with someone else. They are getting to experience what collective impact looks like. To me, success is in the process.”

As USD celebrates the 10-year anniversary of its designation as a Changemaker Campus, both Williams and Rivas are reflecting on all that has been accomplished. Each is grateful for the opportunities presented to them over the past decade.

For Rivas, his motivation from day one has been the students he’s been fortunate enough to work with. “We are a Changemaker Campus because the students make it so,” he says. “What makes us a Changemaker Campus is that we, as an institution, continue to practice every day to become a better institution for everybody and an institution that provides opportunity and equity as well as inclusivity for all of us.”

“It’s making me a better citizen,” admits Williams, who couldn’t have imagined 10 years ago he’d be so closely connected with the Changemaker Hub and the changemaking mission of the university. It’s been a rewarding experience and one he wouldn’t change for anything.

And as he looks ahead to what the future holds, Williams is motivated by a desire to continue to bring about change in our communities.

“A decade from now, I would like the community members of San Diego, when they hear about USD, or when they come drive up the hill to us, to know we’re an institution that is willing to collaborate with anyone in the community on urgent challenges,” he says. “That we’re willing to devote our resources, our time and our skills to that. That we are a place that is dedicated to not just learning, but to taking positive action in the community. And that we are the kind of place you can come to for collaborations that make a difference.” 🌱

“I have always felt that progress lies within helping those in need, and I believe students are some of the most motivated participants in furthering this progression,” wrote one 2021 applicant.

For another prospective student, being part of the Changemaker community is essential to solving societal issues. “I wanted to become a part of the path toward solving these issues so everyone can look forward to a better future. I would take this opportunity in a heartbeat, because it’s important for me to be aware of the imperfections of the world to gain and understand our personal values and find our place in the world.”

At the heart of changemaking is USD’s mission rooted in Catholic Social Thought. “My goal as a Changemaker would be to improve the lives of others by focusing on the greater good,” wrote another applicant. “As Catholics, our job is to serve others just as Jesus did. Jesus found ways to feed the hungry and lead more Christians to help and follow Him. Today, as social entrepreneurs, we can start businesses and movements that benefit our brothers and sisters, not

just ourselves. After all, that is what Catholicism is based on.”

For Rivas, these prospective students exhibit the curiosity and motivation that inspire him in the work he does.

“We all enter changemaking at different times in our lives,” he says. For him, success is seen in the daily application of these practices. “They’re learning the patience that it will take for them to make change in any particular setting. They are learning what it takes to collab-



Laurie Rowen '04 (JD) and Erin Giglia '01 (JD) shared tips on how to work from home with kids during COVID-19 school closures.

Celebrating the Class of '61

Golden Toreros look back on their time at USD 60 years later

In the beginning ...

"Our class of '61 first gathered in the fall of 1957. We met surrounded by the smell of still-wet plaster and the sound of jackhammers announcing ongoing construction. Called the Pioneers, we and the few classes before us would watch a very special history unfold."

— *Sandra M. (Cassell) Farrell '61 (BA)*



Dressing to the nines

"1961 seems only a short time ago when I think back to my wonderful years at the San Diego College for Women, but in reality it's been 60 years! Mother Aimée Rossi and Mother Catherine McShane were two of the nuns whose advice I valued and still remember to this day. They seemed to be so 'current.' Bishop Buddy hired me to work at the Men's College Library, in charge of periodicals. That was a job I loved and was grateful for. He also had the campus employees for a Christmas dinner at his campus residence, which I loved. We dressed to the nines!" — *Tippy (Gary) Thibodeau '61 (BA)*



A different time

"I recall leading academic and religious processions in cap and gown with my identical twin sister [Mary Orradre '61] for three years. As Mary and I were graduating, we had a meeting with Mother Murphy. She asked us what we thought of the idea of combining the men's and women's colleges. We said it was the right move. I'm sure there was lots of input into that decision, but we were glad we could have a very small part of it too."

— *Martha (Fiorino) Dowell '61 (BA)*



Talk about small class size ...

"Most of the College for Men students were transfers from around the country, and we had a tremendous group of athletes for our football team and other sports. With fewer than 300 students in our classes, we all got to know each other very well."

— *Dennis Halloran '61 (BBA)*



Magic happened

"When the San Diego College for Women was completed, boarders arrived with luggage while wearing hats and gloves. All classes on our side of the street were for women only, and dorm life had its own culture: no food, lights out at 10 p.m. and a pay phone at each corner of the dorm floor. Yet, in what by today's standards may seem spartan, magic happened. Casual teenage acquaintances would develop into cherished lifelong friendships. We were in one another's weddings, celebrating each other's children, attended funerals. The bonds are many and deep, so blessed are we." — *Sandra M. (Cassell) Farrell '61 (BA)*





The nuns have it

"If there was one specific memory that sums up my experience at USD, it was the dedication that the Religious of the Sacred Heart nuns had to their students. Four years with the nuns enabled us to understand time management and hit the ground running. All of the nuns had an influence on me, but Mothers McShane, Murphy, Reilly, Furay and Rossi stand out. Mother McShane was my no-nonsense history professor: the good, the bad and the ugly were part of her curriculum." — *Mary (Fiorino) Orradre '61 (BA)*

A near miss

"I attended the College for Men from 1957-1961. Most of today's campus was under construction, including The Immaculata. I recall seeing a wind gust that almost caused the helicopter that was lifting the cross to the church bell tower to crash." — *Thomas Whelan '61 (BBA)*



Spoiler: The nun won

"I will never forget Mother McShane's encounter with the Navy: she won (of course). It was early December, and the Christmas Ball was near. Two days before the event, Mother McShane learned three of four of her senior girls' dates were deploying on maneuvers the day before the dance. (Mother was the senior class councilor.)

She tersely said 'I will see about that!' The ship departed the day after the dance." — *Mary (Fiorino) Orradre '61 (BA)*

That's just ducky

"I remember raising a duck in our embryology class from an egg to a mature duckling. We had 12 fertilized eggs and only one hatched. We studied the various stages of the duck's development. I took Junior home to Everett, Washington, at the end of the school year. She lived a good life there." — *Martha (Fiorino) Dowell '61 (BA)*



Pitchers and peanuts

"I was awarded best actor for my portrayal of Elwood P. Dowd in *Harvey*, which was memorable among the plays I did. Our hang-out off campus was the Dutch Mill, where we crammed for a lot of exams between pitchers and peanuts; only a few students had cars and it was within walking distance. I still have lifelong friends that I keep in touch with, and that is the most rewarding aspect of life at USD."

— *Dennis Halloran '61 (BBA)*



The show must go on

"Yearly musicals with the College for Men were always fun. One memory I will never forget is that I had an attack of appendicitis while working backstage at one of the Women's College annual musicals, *Pirates of Penzance*. I went off to the hospital for an emergency appendectomy and the show went on very nicely without me!"

— *Tippy (Gary) Thibodeau '61 (BA)*



Miracles abound(ed)

"Through the kaleidoscope, visions appear. Pink geraniums blaze across Marian Way in riotous color; a small plane, attempting to lower the cross on The Immaculata's dome, is caught in a downdraft and scares us — while singing, in academic dress — witless! Nuns, semi-cloistered and in full habit, go by the name Mother and touch our lives and our futures in ways both beautiful and profound. We were the lucky ones. We knew the voices of both Bishop Buddy and Reverend Mother Hill. When I explore the campus now, their presence is so strong that they seem like companions as I walk. Together, we marvel at the wonder called USD." — *Sandra M. Cassell Farrell '61 (BA)*



CLASS NOTES



DANIEL TELLES '21 (MBA)

[poignant]

QUITE A LOVE STORY

Father and daughter take the walk of a lifetime

by Cameran Biltucci

From an early age, Whitney Buzbee '21 (MSN) knew she wanted to become a nurse. Her grandmother was an emergency room nurse who later developed Alzheimer's disease — and that heartbreaking

circumstance was primarily how Buzbee knew her.

“Caring for her and helping my family care for her when she was progressing in the disease really opened up my eyes to the caregivers and nurses taking care

of her. That was my light into nursing,” says Buzbee. Although her experience with her grandmother made a big impact, a high school anatomy class finalized her path. “I was amazed at what the human body could do.”

Fast forward to March of 2020. Buzbee was attending USD's Hahn School of Nursing and Health Science to earn a Master of Science in nursing, specializing as a family nurse practitioner, while also working as a nurse at a local hospital. That's when the coronavirus pandemic hit.

“We had started to hear about COVID, but didn't know the extent of it yet. I got a phone call one day saying I had been exposed,” she recalls. She began her quarantine, and a few days

later developed symptoms. “I started to have a sore throat, cough, nausea and fatigue. I couldn’t tell if it was my mind playing tricks on me and I was just overly cautious and sensitive, or if this was really COVID.” She got tested and learned she was positive for the virus.

At the time, Buzbee was staying with her parents. She quarantined in her room and kept as much distance from her parents as possible but, unfortunately, they both contracted the virus too. Her mother was asymptomatic, but her father got the worst of it. He was admitted to the hospital and had to get intubated. His stay at the hospital stretched for 72 days.

“It was a very scary time. We had no idea what was going to happen,” says Buzbee.

Following his discharge, he was put into an acute rehabilitation facility where she could only speak with him for short periods of time over Zoom. He was released from the rehab facility in July, about a month before Buzbee and her then-fiancé were set to get married. At the time, her father couldn’t walk or eat on his own. Initially, the plan was for her father to use a wheelchair to guide her down the aisle.

“He was told, ‘You may never walk again, you may never eat again, and you may never talk again.’ He just took that and was like ‘Watch me,’” says Buzbee. Her father started intense physical therapy and within a month, he gained enough strength to use a walker. “It was about three days before the wedding, we asked him, ‘OK, do you want to try and walk down the aisle for the wedding?’ He said, ‘Yeah.’”

Buzbee wanted to keep this huge milestone a secret from her future husband.

“He would call and ask,

‘How is he doing today?’ We would give him little progress notes, but we decided to keep how well he was doing from him.” When the day of the August 2020 wedding came, her father surprised the groom. All eyes were on the back of the church, where Buzbee stood next to her father who was seated in a wheelchair. He then slowly rose from his seat and escorted her to the front of the church with the aid of a walker.

“He was able to walk me down the aisle,” recalls a teary-eyed Buzbee. “That was the longest distance he had ever gone. It was huge and everyone was shocked. It was also a nice way to get the focus off of me and onto my dad, which I enjoyed. It was a great moment, and that’s what I take most out of my wedding day — him walking me down the aisle.”

For Buzbee, the way that others helped to make that moment possible was profoundly moving. “The way people came together during a time of uncertainty; well, it was untracked territory.”

Since the wedding, her dad has continued to improve. In fact, she says he’s in better health now than he has ever been in his life. “This has really changed our whole perspective on life. Not just health, but really appreciating everything that we have.”

Buzbee says this whole experience has empowered her on her path in nursing. “I feel honored to be able to be in a position where I can care for those who are sick, who are scared, and who need that extra support. It’s an honor to care for those people. Not for one second did I question my profession and think, ‘Did I make a huge mistake?’ If anything, it just really made me proud of what I chose.” 🧠

▶ sandiego.edu/buzbee

1960s

[1960]

RONALD HOUSE (BA), '64 (JD) spent 25 years as house counsel for the San Diego Regional Center for Developmental Disabilities.

[1969]

JOHN MCCOY (BA) writes, “After serving two terms, I recently transitioned off of the USD Alumni Board.” He is president of the Oceanside Theatre Company and looks forward to COVID restrictions being lifted and producing professional live theater on the stage at the Brooks Theater in Oceanside, California. John resides in Carlsbad, California with his wife, Michele “Micki” (Trahan) McCoy, who is also a Golden Torero. The couple have a daughter and son and six grandchildren.

1970s

[1973]

DEBBIE (SHATTUCK) BURKE (BA) has published six thrillers set in Big Sky Country, where she lives. She is a regular blogger at *The Kill Zone*, a popular crime-writing site, and is on staff with *Montana Senior News*.

KEVIN TOOHEY (BA) recently retired after 52 years in the transportation industry, including airlines and railroads.

[1976] 🎓

JAMES FERGUSON (BA) retired from Tucson Unified Schools after 42 years as a teacher, counselor and coach. He led Santa Rita High School boys’ basketball program in Tucson, Arizona, to six state championship appearances and two state championships. He was inducted into the Pima County Athletic Hall of Fame in 2012.

[1977]

HEATHER WISHIK (JD) writes: “I retired in June of 2020 from The Nature Conservancy, where I was the chief diversity and inclusion officer for four years and senior adviser to the CEO for the last year, leading a global culture transformation effort. I am now writing (poetry and memoir) and making art (collage, printmaking) and enjoying my retirement. My spouse of 39 years, Susan, and I are wintering in our summer home in

Vermont to avoid the chaos of COVID in Florida where we have lived for the last four years. Our son, Gabriel, who is an internal medicine doctor with a specialty in addiction medicine, has just returned to the U.S. from Mozambique where he was working for Doctors Without Borders, setting up the country’s first methadone and harm reduction clinic.”

[1979]

ADRIENNE LEONARD (JD) writes, “I have retired from the corporate world, having worked in the legal department of telecommunications companies for nearly 20 years, and am now happily working for my husband in his commercial real estate business in Colorado. My twin daughters are both engaged and both plan to marry in 2022, one in the spring and one in the fall! It’ll be a fun and busy year ahead!”

1980s

[1981] 🎓

MARJORIE CUTTING (MA) writes, “I left high school at 17 to work as a costumier with the Royal Ballet in London and other theater companies. When I was 25, the London School of Economics (LSE) had a special entrance exam and program for students whose education had been disrupted by WWII. After four years with LSE and London University and a teaching degree, I moved to San Diego with my husband and 10-month-old son. While my husband pursued his PhD at UCSD, I went back to making costumes and eventually owned the San Diego Costume Company. After becoming a citizen, I pursued my master’s at USD and began teaching in Escondido. Eventually, I returned to the costume business, moved to Wisconsin and began designing costumes for the Ringling Theatre and the University of Wisconsin Baraboo/Sauk Campus. Now at the age of 87, I have published a book titled *A Woman’s Journey: Out of the Cave of Self into the Heart of God*. I loved my time at USD and the beautiful campus.” She is working on her first graphic novel and has a website at studioffsprings.com.

JOHN SPITTERS (BA) splits his time between the San Francisco Bay Area and Haverford, Pennsylvania. He founded a software company to help families deal with traumas and hard-

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ships. His wife works in health care in Pennsylvania; his stepson, Christopher, is a Valley Forge Military Academy and Menlo College alumnus, former head football coach at ASA College in Brooklyn, New York, and is now defensive assistant coach at the University of Albany (New York).

[1984]

JACK ADELMAN (JD) writes, “After retiring, we lived in Israel for 10 years, attending a Biblical archaeology course that was given by the government for tour guides.”

BOB GAGLIONE (JD) recently completed his service at the Department of Labor in Washington, D.C., as a deputy director of the Office of Federal Contract Compliance Programs. He has returned to San Diego and resumed his career as an arbitrator for the American Arbitration Association.

[1985]

JILL (BRADLEY) APPLGATE (BBA) retired on October 1, 2020 from a 36-year career with American Airlines.

[1986]

STEVEN WAHL (BBA) writes, “2021 has been a busy year. I started a new role with Marel Power (an exciting startup in the energy space). I moved from California to South Carolina and joined Silicon Catalyst as an adviser. I’m beginning my fourth year on the advisory board of the Fowler Global Social Innovation Challenge, a solid program that supports students to stretch themselves as true entrepreneurs, changing the world by improving the lives of mankind.”

[1987]

MAUREEN POLIMADEI (BA) was recently promoted to director of development and communications at San Diego Second Chance. Second Chance offers specialized workforce readiness training, sober-living housing, educational programs and support services essential to helping justice-involved youth and adults on their path to self-sufficiency.

1990s

[1991]

ROBERT JACKSON (BA) writes, “I am finishing my 10th book, *Hester and Her Adventures with Merlin*.”

I have my life story, *No Rest for the Brave*, in film development.” Learn more at norestforthebrave.com.

[1994]

TIMOTHY EARL (JD) has been recognized by *San Diego Magazine* as a 2021 top lawyer in San Diego in the field of insurance. He is the chair of Sullivan Hill’s construction and insurance practice group and practices primarily in the areas of construction litigation, insurance coverage and business litigation.

[1995]

JAVIER GUERRERO (BA) is president and CEO of Coastal Roots Farm, a nonprofit community farm in Encinitas, providing equitable access to fresh organic nutrient-dense food, and equitable access to environmental education programming for schools, groups and the community. Learn more at coastalrootsfarm.org.

ANNA LEAVER (BA) got a new job as PR manager for the Enterprise Partners group at NVIDIA Corporation in Silicon Valley.

[1996] 📖

BILL BRENNAN (BBA) joined CMR Risk & Insurance as a principal in 2020 after 24 years at Barney & Barney/Marsh & McLennan. He is actively involved in many philanthropic organizations, including Big Brothers Big Sisters, USD’s School of Business, Alpha Project and the Daisy Miracle Foundation at UCSD. Bill reports that he currently lives in Mission Hills in San Diego with his wife, Lauri ’95 (BA), and two daughters.

CAPTAIN J. STEVE CORREIA (BA) moved so that he could assume command of Naval Network Warfare Command in Suffolk, Virginia, in July 2021.

DAVID CROSS (MA) reports that he recently remarried and moved to Oregon.

NICOLE C. SHELTON (BA), ’99 (MEd) writes, “After earning my JD and serving as a district-level special education coordinator in Central California, I am currently the executive director with Advocacy Associates Inc., a private educational advocacy and consulting firm in San Diego. Our practice serves families who have children and young adults with and without special needs, as well as those with

mental health challenges. We also conduct professional learning and community programming regarding special education, distance learning and mental health.” She added that she has become a hiking enthusiast and planned to summit Kilimanjaro in June 2021.

[1998]

ANTHONY CAMPAGNA (JD) was appointed to the San Diego Superior Court on December 8, 2020.

KRISTI NICHOLS (BA) was promoted to director of archaeology, collections and historical research for Alamo Trust, Inc. in January of 2020. Alamo Trust is the nonprofit that manages the daily operations of The Alamo. In this role, she oversees the archaeological investigations at The Alamo, as well as the care of the historic site’s museum collection.

[1999]

MONICA PHELPS KLUGE (BA), ’07 (MS) writes, “Kindness, passion and love for yourself and others will lead you in a successful, fulfilling and exciting life! Blessings and love to all USD generations!”

2000s

[2000]

JOSIE MOORE (BA) reports that she got married in February 2018 and took command at Information Warfare Training Command Monterey in July 2020.

[2001] 📖

RON GERMAINE (EdD) relocated to Abbotsford, BC, Canada to be near family. In 2020, he published a historical novel for teens titled *Improbable Connections: A Mayflower Story*.

NICOLE JOHNSON (BA), ’03 (MEd) is the CEO of TetraCore Consulting, LLC., a certified 100% woman-owned small business based in Los Angeles. The company provides a suite of professional support services such as executive coaching, leadership development and emotional intelligence training.

[2002]

ANGELINA “ANGIE” (THAYER) BEYER (BA) recently earned her MBA from Lake Forest Graduate School of Management, where she was selected as the 2020 Hotchkiss

scholar and commencement speaker. Angie’s career as a scientist began in Dr. Malachowski’s undergraduate research lab, which afforded her many industrial opportunities upon graduation. For the past 20 years, Angie has had a diverse scientific and professional career in pharmaceutical development and has held positions as a medicinal chemist, process chemist, technical project manager, R&D portfolio manager and was recently a senior manager in Pfizer’s commercial development team. In January of 2021, she was promoted to director of pipeline development for Pfizer’s Parenteral Center of Excellence, where she works in new product innovation for the hospital business unit. Angie reports that she lives in Evanston, Illinois, with her husband, Philip Beyer, and their dog, Missy.

ENRIQUE MORONES (MS) is the founder of the human rights organization Gente Unida. He received the Bishop Charles Francis Buddy Award from USD for his contributions to humanitarian causes in 2013. He reports that he appeared on the cover of the *New York Times* on Easter Sunday, 2021.

[2003]

RASCHA CONNERS (BA), ’15 (MSN) writes, “The more years that go by and the wisdom I have, the more valuable I realize my education, friendships and experiences at USD become.”

ADRIAN DOWNING-ESPINAL (BA) reports that she is living in Brooklyn, New York, with her wife of five years. “I am working as an addiction counselor at Hazelden Betty Ford Foundation providing intensive outpatient services,” she adds.

DESIREE GRAY (BA/BBA) says, “I am celebrating the launch of my new law firm, Choice City Family Law, LLC in Fort Collins, Colorado. As the managing member, I am enjoying the ins and outs of starting a new business while practicing law. This would not have been possible without the love and support of my husband of 23 years, who helped raise our two children to become amazing adults.”

CHRISTINA LASTER (BA) gave this response to an invitation to an event about diversity in politics: “I’m excited about the opportunity to partake in these discussions. I attended the university during a

time where open discussions about diversity and equity weren’t welcomed. This is a positive step in the direction that is necessary for real lasting progress and change in society. Thank you!”

CHRISTOPHER YANOV

(MAPJ), ’04 (MA) now serves as the global ambassador at Centro Fox, where he is helping the former President of Mexico, Vicente Fox, achieve his goal of establishing a hub of university satellite campuses at Latin America’s first presidential library and conference center.

[2004]

ANDY GUZENSKI (BBA) was recently promoted to principal/vice president at CMR Risk & Insurance Services, and is also the construction practice group leader at CMR. He has more than 17 years of industry experience as a broker. Andy is also involved in various trade associations and community organizations, including the AGC, ProVisors, the USD Alumni Association and the San Diego Bowl Game Association Holiday Bowl.

DIMITRIS MAGEMENEAS

(MBA) says that after graduation, he implemented his new financial and marketing knowledge to launch a successful career change into financial advising. He adds, “Starting in 2018, that master’s degree really came in handy to become an adjunct professor at two local universities.” He notes that he earned the nickname Money Man from volunteering at Junior Achievement and that he has a passion for encouraging youth to take ownership of their future financial and career success. Today, his burning desire to utilize his God-given skills towards the betterment of society has led him to host online money management workshops for young adults. More information is available at moneymanhelpt.com.

[2005]

MICHAEL ANGEL (BA) published a book in the fall of 2020: *How Can I Live Peacefully with Justice?*, which is part of the Little Books of Guidance series from Church Publishing.

EDNA DOMINGO (PhD) is the founder of Southeast California College, which offers beginning and vocational nursing programs. She reports that the accreditation with ABHES is in progress, with the BSN program projected to start in 2022.



NISHA ESPY

ran with the opportunity, becoming a four-year starter and one of the program's most accomplished athletes. He currently holds team records in rushing yards (3,559), touchdowns (39) and rushing attempts (709), and is ranked in the top-10 all-time in myriad other offensive categories.

Not too shabby for a guy who wasn't even sure he'd crack the starting lineup, let alone the record book.

"You have to go in with the mentality that everyone has to earn their spot, and our coaches really emphasized that in practice," Rogan says. "From a football standpoint, I knew I had to provide max effort in everything I did. There may have been guys who were bigger and stronger, but success is the great equalizer in our sport, and at the end of the day, if you can successfully execute at your position, that's what matters most."

In the roughly 16 years since they first met on the football field, both Rogan and Morgan have parlayed their on-field accomplishments into considerable success in their respective professions. Rogan has been a sports broadcaster for Fox Sports and the PAC-12 Network, and currently works in the software development industry. Morgan has built an impressive sales and managerial resume in the beverage industry, accounting for more than \$34 million in sales around the world. He attributes his success in part to the lessons he learned on the field and in the classroom at USD.

"I would say that I had a tough upbringing, and some of the mistakes I made growing up were ones that helped show me that I needed to find a different path," Morgan says. "When I came to USD, I was in my mid-20s, and I knew the opportunities I could create for myself and my future would come from the work I did

[camaraderie]

PLAYING HARD, DOING GOOD

Alumni forever connected by football, friendship and fidelity

by Mike Sauer

There's really no earthly reason why J.T. Rogan '08 (BBA) and Ryan Morgan '08 (BBA) should be such good friends, especially when considering how they first met.

Back in the summer of 2005, Rogan was an unheralded and undersized running back looking to earn playing time in then-USD Football Head Coach Jim Harbaugh's high-powered Torero offense. Across the line of scrimmage was Morgan, a chiseled rock of a defensive end whom Harbaugh had recruited as a junior college transfer.

Harbaugh's summer practices are now the stuff of USD legend; intense and physically demanding daily battles where respect was earned through effort, toughness and tenacity. Rogan and Morgan would routinely run into each other — often quite violently — during team scrimmages, and Morgan couldn't help but be impressed by his younger and smaller teammate's dogged determination.

"Originally, I thought, 'Oh, man, this dude's about to get ... like he's a class clown about to get beat up out here,'" recalls

Morgan, laughing at the memory.

"He wore the crossbar facemask. He had these hip pads that nobody should wear, the extra big ones like wings. But he would just keep coming at you, play after play, practice after practice. He not only earned my respect, but the whole team's respect. Our smallest running back became one of our toughest, most durable players."

Rogan's hard-nosed practice approach also caught the eye of his coaches, and ultimately translated into a spot as the team's starting running back. He literally

as a student and an athlete. I worked hard to get to where I was, and I knew that hard work, along with the relationships that I would develop, would get me where I needed to go.”

As student-athletes, both Morgan and Rogan were committed to maximizing their potential. As engaged, socially minded citizens, they are also committed to helping others maximize theirs. To that end, they — along with fellow former Torero teammate Brandon Espy '10 (BA) — co-founded the Aqua Equity Water Co., a nonprofit organization that creates locally sourced mountain spring water and mineral-enriched, electrolyte-enhanced water products.

Their company mantra, “drink good ... do good” is more than just a catchphrase; it encapsulates their efforts to create a premium product that directly serves the community it comes from — in this particular case, South Central Los Angeles’ Watts neighborhood. A portion of the sale of each Aqua Equity product is channeled to a range of Watts community improvement, empowerment and entrepreneurship programs. The long-term goal is to create a self-sufficient water bottling plant within the community so that the entire process of product development is sourced by, and benefits directly, the Watts community and its citizens.

“When Ryan came to me with this idea, I loved it and couldn’t wait to support it however I could,” says Espy, who manages the company’s marketing and communications area. “To be a part of something that means so much to the community and something that does good for everyone who buys it ... it’s a win-win across the board.” 📌

Aqua Equity co-founders Ryan Morgan '08 (BBA), Brandon Espy '10 (BA) and J.T. Rogan '08 (BBA).



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[resilient]

BECOMING A BUFFALO

Surviving the Khmer Rouge Communist rule

by Krystn Shrieve

Hoang K. Taing McWilliams '90 (BA) was a young girl when she was forced from her home in Phnom Penh, when the capitol city of Cambodia was overtaken.

She walked hundreds of miles in searing heat and torrential storms, foraged and bartered for food, was separated from her parents, thrown in jail, survived invasions by pirates, was marooned on an island after abandoning a ship and lived on the brink of starvation.

This was her life under the rule of the Communist regime known as Khmer Rouge.

Taing shares an unfiltered look at that time in her life in a compelling memoir, *Buffalo Girl, My Journey to Freedom*.

Once old enough, Taing was forced to contribute to the commune by living with a team of children who cared for a herd of water buffalos. She nearly drowned after being dragged through a swamp by a buffalo, and was later assigned to an al-

bino buffalo, whom she called the Pink Lady.

"I told myself, if I ever had the chance to come to a free country, I would find a pencil and any scrap of paper I could get my hands on to write this story," she says. "I wanted to give a voice to all the innocent people who were killed by the Khmer Rouge."

Between 1975 and 1979, the Khmer Rouge claimed the lives of 2 million people, including many members of Taing's family.

"My dad left for Vietnam to prepare for our escape, but war came faster than he planned," she recalls. "The soldiers carried AK47s. They said we had 15 minutes to leave our homes. My mom was the only one left to take care of seven children."

Taing escaped from Cambodia to Vietnam. As the war in Vietnam escalated, she gained passage on a ship off the island. At sea, the ship was invaded by pirates. Passengers were left stranded on a tiny island that became a makeshift refugee camp, where Taing and two siblings were sponsored by an American couple who brought them to the U.S. to live near San Antonio, Texas.

There, she attended Catholic school, sang in a church choir and took summer school courses to learn English. She was a

member of the National Honor Society, the Math Club and the Speech and Debate Club team. She played on the basketball and volleyball teams, was a cheerleader and part of a theater troupe that performed in New York, London and Paris.

She later moved to a children's home, graduated as salutatorian of her high school and was featured in a local San Antonio newspaper as one of the top-10 teens of the year. Ray Brandes, a history professor and the university archivist, saw the article, called the children's home and offered her a full scholarship to the University of San Diego.

At USD, Taing worked part-time jobs, including at the mail center, while earning her bachelor's degree in international relations and diplomacy. In the classroom, she learned to resolve conflicts through diplomacy. Outside the classroom, she ran on the cross-country team, joined the rowing team, was president of the Chinese Club and joined the Mission Club, where she collected donations for an orphanage in Tijuana, volunteered at a Native American reservation and helped build houses with Habitat for Humanity. She was even granted an audience with Mother Teresa, who visited campus in 1988.

Today, Taing is a motivational speaker and filmmaker and is transforming her book into a stage production. She's worked with presidential candidates and humanitarians and hopes to be the first native Cambodian to serve as the U.S. Ambassador to Cambodia.

"It would bring me full circle," Taing says. "It would be poetic justice to go back to the country where I was born, while representing the country that adopted me, and help bring about peace." 🌸

She writes, "I am ready to retire and am in the process of selling the school to a younger generation who can move the school forward." She is doing academic consulting to help schools that need her help with BPPE, boards and accreditation.

VICTORIA KAMMERZELL (BBA) reports that she "married the love of her life in June 2021." She graduated from MANA de San Diego's Latina Success Leadership program and is looking forward to pursuing her career goals.

[2007] **CHRIS BERG (BAC)** reports that he married Kristen Disbro '10 (BA) in 2017. After a 10+ year career as a professional triathlete, he retired in 2019 and is currently the director of finance for the U.S. branch of the iconic Italian bicycle brand Pinarello.

BRITTANY HALL (BA) writes, "In 2020 I transitioned my career to real estate. If any alumni are considering a move to Nashville, Tennessee, please feel free to reach out!"

JAMIE HOVERSEN (BA) writes: "In August, my job moved from Budapest, Hungary, to Vienna, Austria. The university I work for was forced out of Hungary due to political reasons and we established a new campus in Vienna amongst the pandemic. It's been a wild year!"

[2008] **TANYA FRAUSTO (BA)** reports that she married her husband and USD McNair program administrator, Ramiro, in 2014 at Founders Chapel. "Our two boys, Ramiro Juan ('RJ'), and Lucas recently turned 4 and 1, respectively. We bought our second home in Fletcher Hills. Ramiro works from home, continuing to serve USD students, while I work in the office every day serving our most vulnerable population, our veterans. I am a licensed clinical social worker in a skilled nursing unit with veterans ranging from 65 to 95 years of age. I am honored to serve this community and be a liaison between them and their families, especially during the pandemic."

ALLISON OMBRES (BBA) writes, "My life changed unexpectedly, during the eighth month of my second pregnancy, when I developed alopecia universalis: total hair loss. I had a difficult time finding a wig

that I loved so I started a wig consulting business to help women like me. Just before COVID, I launched my first product, an active workout wig for women with hair loss. I also decided to start a give-back program where I sell 10 wigs and give one away. I was surprised to see how the give-back program continued to motivate me throughout this past year! This year, I am launching a surf, ski and cycle hat system to continue to help women maintain their active lifestyles. I have received feedback that the hats are chic and that women would like to buy them. In order to expand the give-back program, I am going to sell the hats to generate awareness and continue to give wigs away. My life since USD has definitely thrown me some curve balls, but I am loving the process and, as always, I am hopefully optimistic about the future. This is my life and I'm making the most of it!"

MEGAN SOTO (BA) moved to Asbury Park, New Jersey. She is working at C&A Financial Group as a cash flow strategist.

JENNA STROMSOE (BA), '16 (MSN) reports that she and her husband, Jeremy, welcomed their first child, Samantha Michelle, on December 12, 2020.

ERIN VOISIN (BBA) was recently promoted to the position of managing director at EP Wealth Advisors in Torrance, California.

[2009] **JESSICA ROLIN (BA)** writes, "I worked at Stanford as a sports performance coach for five years. We then we moved to Montana where my husband is now the head football coach at MSU-Northern. We were blessed with two children, Payton (3) and Bo William (2). Currently, I am a stay-at-home mom, and I am loving spending time with these precious little ones!"

2010s

[2010] **ELIZABETH HAUSMANN (BA)** is working as a family medicine and preventive medicine physician at the VA clinic in Oceanside, California. She reports that she has two children, Samantha and Luke, with husband Kyle.

LISSETTE LIZARRAGA (BA) says she landed her dream job working in global office operations at Airbnb in San Francisco. Her love for all things international was realized at USD, where she studied abroad in Florence and Guadalajara and studied French and Italian.

[2011] 🎓 **JAMIE BECK (JD)** was featured at UC Santa Barbara's TEDx event, where she spoke about "Rising Above the Criminalization of Human Trafficking Survivors." Her TEDx talk can be found on YouTube.

ALEXIS ("ALI") KENNY (BA) has recently become a licensed clinical psychologist. She works for LeaderWise, an organization that provides mental health support and assessments for persons becoming clergy in various church sects. Ali reports that she, her husband, and her daughter now live in their own house at the base of a mountain in Helena, Montana.

JOSEPH MADDELA (BA) graduated with a medical doctorate degree. He writes, "I matched and started first-year residency (PGY-1) at Adventist Health Tulare Family Medicine Residency in July 2021."

[2012] **MARGARET REYNOLDS (MA)** writes, "I am living and working in Chicago, Illinois, at Symmetry Counseling, a private group practice. During COVID, I have been providing teletherapy to adults with a focus on trauma, anxiety and depressive disorders. I proposed to my partner, Cory Ottenwess, in April 2020 and got married to him in December 2020. I am now also a stepmother to Cory's 12-year-old daughter, Micaela, who is awesome and so easy to love. I look forward to a time when it will be safe to travel again and when I can bring Cory and Micaela to see San Diego and the USD campus. I am so proud to learn about and read how my cohort and classmates have used their skills and talents to serve their communities and clients, especially during the past year! Proud to be a Torero!"

TYLER WILSON (BA) is a personal injury attorney in his hometown of San Antonio, Texas. He reports that he and his wife, Cristina, are expecting their second son this August.

MICHAEL ZARCONI (JD) was named a 2021 Rising Star by Super Lawyers. He is a member of Sullivan Hill's litigation, construction and insurance practice groups.

[2013]

COLIN PHILLIPS (BA) writes, "Finished my MS in geology degree in May 2020 at San Jose State University, a long road since being inspired by Liz Baker-Treolar and Beth O'Shea!"

[2014]

MICHELLE FONSECA-KAMANA (JD) was recently featured in *Yahoo Finance's* 2021 list of women who are changing the game in the legal industry.

ROSS JOHNSON (BS/BA) has been an engineer at Bay Area Lockheed Martin since 2017. There, he worked on the AEHF satellite program and is currently working on the ballistic missile defense program, THAAD. He reports that he welcomed a new daughter in 2019 with Kaitlyn (Howell) Johnson '10 (BA).

LARRY NOVELO (BS/BA) reports that he married his longtime girlfriend, who he met in Washington, D.C., on April 10, 2021. The couple is outposting to Nairobi, Kenya to pursue their career goals together.

ALEX RIOLO (BBA) reports that after seven years at Northrop Grumman, most recently as a program manager, he's moving to Boston to start his MBA at Harvard Business School.

ELIZABETH (CRAWFORD) ROSE (BA) writes that she got married on December 5, 2020.

[2015]

EBTESAM ALTENEIJI (MA), '20 (PhD) was recently appointed as the director of UAE University Center for Public Policy and Leadership.

LAUREN KLEIN (BA) is "living and teaching at risk youth in the city of New Orleans!"

RITA KUCKERTZ (BA), '20 (MA) writes, "After 10 years of studying and working at USD, I will be leaving to attend UCLA Law this coming fall. I will miss being on campus, but I will always be a Torero!"

AMY (HAMMOND) LOGAN (BA) continues to work at the biotech company Hologic, in San Diego,

as a scientist who helped design a SARS-CoV-2 diagnostic test for the detection of COVID-19 infections. She reports that she and her husband, James '14, have a 2-year-old daughter and recently celebrated their fifth wedding anniversary.

GABRIELLE PEREZ (BA) writes, "USD and the Alcalá Club brought me to my closest friends. I am so grateful for this special club and for the countless memories it gave me. Four Alcalá Club alumni will be standing with me at my wedding next year — that says it all!"

ERIKA RODRIGUEZ (BBA) is the founder & CEO of Nadi Marketing, an ecoconscious digital marketing agency remotely based in San Diego. She's been featured on *Yahoo Finance, Means and Matters - Bank of the West,* and the San Diego Voyager website. "As a 1% for the Planet member, I help mission-driven companies, social impact organizations and entrepreneurs to create impactful content, partnerships and campaigns that engage with the sustainable consumers of today," she writes.

NIKITA STANGE (MA) recently moved to Key West, Florida, where she is the office manager for a land development company. She still keeps in touch with many of her USD friends and professors.

[2016] 🎓

GILDA GABRIEA MARISCAL (MS) writes, "The USD Supply Chain Management program really helped me understand business in a different way. In December of 2020, I opened my very own Farmers Insurance agency! I am beyond thankful to God for giving me the opportunity to fulfill a dream of mine, becoming a business owner. I can't wait to see what the future holds for me."

[2017]

VIRGINIA HART-KEPLER (PhD) has been the director of the Family Nurse Practitioner program at California Baptist University since 2019.

ERIN LUPFER (JD) reports that she married Ben Cooper '17 (JD) on September 20, 2020.

PRAVEEN WICKREMASINGHE (BA) is about to start his second year in the MD program at Florida International University's Herbert

Wertheim College of Medicine, in Miami, Florida.

[2018]

OLIVER FLORES BALANZAR (BA), '20 (Med) received his secondary teaching credential in mathematics and his MEd in curriculum and instruction through the MCC Dual Credential Program.

SHANNON McAVOY (BA) writes: "Update No. 1: In 2019, I began law school at Chapman University's Dale E. Fowler School of Law with a full ride merit scholarship. Update No. 2: I placed at the top of my law school class during my first year, which provided me the opportunity to transfer to Berkeley Law, which is where I currently attend. Update No. 3: After doing exceptionally well in my first semester at Berkeley, I accepted an offer to work as a summer associate in Gibson Dunn & Crutcher LLP's Los Angeles office. Gibson Dunn is one of the top law firms in the world and I intend to return to the Los Angeles office upon graduation."

JONATHAN OBERG (BBA)

writes, "Being a part of the hockey club was a highlight of my college experience. The friends that I made and the bonds that we continue to share from competing together really enriched my life. Looking forward to keep in touch with them throughout the years and hoping many more Toreros can share this experience moving forward."

KATHRYN ("KATIE") ROBINSON (MSN), '20 (PhD) wrapped up her first year as tenure-track nursing faculty at CSU San Marcos in May of 2021. "Though this year has certainly been both different and challenging, I can still say I'm fulfilling my professional dreams!" she says.

[2019]

ALEXA HELD (BBA) writes, "I moved back to the East Coast last summer. I am currently living in a small beach town of Newport, Rhode Island. I am working for a cannabis CPA and finance company doing social media marketing. I also freelance for multiple other companies on the side. I love where I live and I can't wait to get back to San Diego and visit!"

SYDNEY LAY (BA) is currently a first-year USD MEPN student and

works at Rady Children's Hospital.

ROSARIO SUTTON (MA) praises USD's Master of Arts in international relations, saying, "This is a super great program with a great graduate director and awesome and knowledgeable faculty, I miss them and my classmates dearly! The program truly made a great impact on my life." She recently launched a podcast, *Global Natives*, which she says "highlights indigenous cultures in regions around the world with the purpose of fostering a deeper understanding and appreciation of ancestral heritage. My goal is to bring visibility to the unique voices and perspectives of modern-day ancestors discussing the challenges and contributions of their people, from past to present." Looking back on her time at USD, she reflects, "I can say that my degree has certainly helped me to follow my passions, and this podcast is certainly one! I hope to expand and grow this, having intellectual conversations and bring awareness to cultures, peoples and communities that some might not even be aware of."

LAUREN WONG (MA) writes, "I started a new position as the assistant director of residential life at UCSD's Thurgood Marshall College!"

JOSH WYMER (MSN) who is currently a USD faculty member, has joined Shifhive, a health care workforce startup, as chief clinical officer.

2020s

[2020]

PAULA BLOOM (MA) writes, "I have my LPC associate license and I have been working as an associate practitioner at Griffin and Associated Practitioners. I've been enjoying working at a new practice with diverse clients with a variety of needs. I have been focusing on working with individuals with childhood and sexual trauma."

ELIZABETH BUSHNELL (BA) writes, "I'm really excited to say that I received the NSF GRF and I'm starting my master's this fall."

DIANA McDERMOTT BORSTEN (MS) writes, "I've recently relocated to the Netherlands with

my husband, and I am stepping into a new role as program manager of human resources operations next week with Dept. Agency, the largest digital agency in Europe (and growing)!”

ANDREW JONES (BS/BA) recently accepted a new position with Boeing as an electrical design and analysis engineer for the International Space Station. Working at the NASA Marshall Space Flight Center in Huntsville, Alabama, Andrew is assisting with the design and development of the new NASA Docking System (NDS Block 2). He is also happy to announce his recent engagement to fellow Torero Olivia Greenwood '19 (BA).

[2021]

PATRICIA SYLVESTER (MS) was recently accepted to the Suffolk University School of Law, where she will be pursuing her Juris Doctorate. She adds, “Following this, I will be going through Officer Candidate School to become a JAG in the United States Navy.”

In Memoriam

JEANNE “JENNIE” (BABICH) FOLLETT '74 passed away on August 23, 2020. She had a long and arduous career as a court reporter, initially working for the San Francisco Public Utilities Commission, and she finished her career reporting depositions in San Diego. She was a passionate physical trainer and a health aficionado. “She was a great person who should be remembered,” says John DeVine '72 (BA).

ERIC F. YUHL '81 (JD) passed away on March 14, 2021. “The adjective I’d use to describe Eric, if I had only one, would be ‘legendary,’” said his brother and legal partner, Christopher P. Yuhl '87 (JD) in a *Los Angeles Daily Journal* obituary. He added that Eric did everything at full speed. “Whether you were on his team or opposing him, you had to drive at the speed of light to keep up.”

Send Class Notes

Submit class notes via email to classnotes@sandiego.edu.



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September 4
Football Home Opener
USD v. Cal Poly

USDToreros.com



October 12 - 17
Homecoming and
Family Week

sandiego.edu/hfw21



October 14
Ignite Innovation
Speaker Series

sandiego.edu/ignite2021



October 16
Homecoming and Family
Week Football Game
USD v. Drake

USDToreros.com



November 13
Founders Gala

sandiego.edu/gala2021



December 4 and 5
Lessons and Carols

sandiego.edu/cctc



December 11
Alumni Christmas Mass

alumni.sandiego.edu



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