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Fall 2022

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UNIVERSITY OF SAN DIEGO

USDMAG

Fall 2022



HARD WORK WORKS

*Michael Crawford '08 (BA)
has overcome a lot in his life,
but these days, things are
looking pretty sweet.*

DEAR TOREROS

"Buen camino." These two words were heard often throughout a journey I took with 32 fellow pilgrims associated with USD to complete the Camino de Santiago pilgrimage this summer. The Camino, or "The Way of Saint James," is an ancient pilgrimage that has existed for more than 1,000 years. Our USD pilgrims trekked more than 100 kilometers during the course of six days, and while there were days that were challenging — climbing hills, trying to keep dry in the rain — in the end, it was very much a spiritual, joyful event.

What made the pilgrimage even more special were the people, most of whom did not know each other when we started. Everyone had their own reasons for completing the camino, but we were united in a spirit of comradery or what many of us came to believe was the presence of the Holy Spirit with us on the journey.

When we reached the shrine of the apostle Saint James the Great at the Cathedral of Santiago de Compostela in Galicia, Spain, I very much felt the joy that comes from completing a meaningful journey, alongside people who were now my friends. In the end, it was a very fine journey, a "buen camino" indeed.

As we reflect on the challenges of the last few years, most of us can agree that, like the camino, the journey was arduous at times but in the end, it was worth the effort. Our university is stronger and better prepared to face the future based on what we have accomplished in the past few years.

This fall, there is much to celebrate. Our beautiful new Knauss Center for Business Education is now complete, ready for our students to enjoy and collaborate in ways great and small. The vision and generosity of Don and Ellie Knauss has provided a great gift that will benefit generations of USD students to come, who will now graduate with degrees conferred by the Knauss School of Business.

Thanks to all of you, USD had the greatest fundraising year in the history of our school, with \$76.8 million raised during the 2021-22 fiscal year. This major accomplishment will enhance student success and provide scholarships and support to deserving students who might not otherwise have the opportunity to attend college. Additionally, we have steadily increased engagement with our alumni, providing more than 160 in-person and virtual regional and affinity alumni events during the last year, nearly an event every other day.

We've made good progress on other fronts as well. We now attract students from more than 70 countries and every state in the union, and while we mostly still serve traditionally aged college students, we also attract incredible graduate and law students, returning adults and the largest enrollment of veterans in our history. We also are well on our way to being recognized as a Hispanic-serving institution. This goal, found in our strategic plan, *Envisioning 2024*, attempts to ready our university for greater access and inclusion, as well as to strengthen our role as an anchor



President Harris and Director of International Engagement and Alumni Outreach Claudia Gonzales '99 (BA), '03 (MA) in front of Spain's Cathedral of Santiago de Compostela.

institution in our community. While we have work to do to ensure that our historically underrepresented populations thrive and succeed, we have made, and our continuing to make, progress in several important ways.

Our incoming first-year class is an outstanding group of students reflecting many of our academic and diversity goals. Their average GPA is 4.0, and the middle 50% have a GPA of 3.77 to 4.22, which is extraordinarily impressive. More than a quarter of our incoming first-year students identify as Hispanic, and we've seen a significant increase in first-year students who identify as Black

or Black and another ethnicity. We are also welcoming 35 new faculty members to campus whose impressive credentials and commitment to teaching, scholarship and service will help build our reputation as one of the great Catholic universities in the country.

May our USD community — students, parents, faculty members, alumni, friends, staff and administrators — find their own pilgrimage and have a "buen camino" as we look forward with great excitement to the upcoming academic year.

Peace,
President James T. Harris III, DEd

RIDE THE WAVE OF GIVING

Mark your calendar for our annual day of giving:

TORERO TUESDAY, OCTOBER 11, 2022

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!

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USD Magazine is published three times a year by the University of San Diego for its alumni, parents and friends. U.S. postage paid at San Diego, CA 92110. USD phone number: (619) 260-4600.

[class notes]

Class Notes may be edited for length and clarity. Photos must be high resolution, so adjust camera settings accordingly. Engagements, pregnancies, personal email addresses and telephone numbers cannot be published.

Please note that content for USD Magazine has a long lead time. Our current publishing schedule is as follows: Class Notes received between Feb. 1-May 30 appear in the Fall edition; those received June 1-Sept. 30 appear in the Spring edition; those received between Oct. 1-Jan. 31 appear in the Summer digital-only edition.

Email Class Notes to classnotes@sandiego.edu or mail them to the address below.

[mailing address]

USD Magazine
Publications
University of San Diego
5998 Alcalá Park
San Diego, CA 92110

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www.sandiego.edu/usdmag

[be blue go green]

USD Magazine is printed with vegetable-based inks on paper certified in accordance with FSC® standards, which support environmentally appropriate, socially beneficial and economically viable management of the world's forests.

[0922/73,000/PUBS-22-3461]

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Photo of Michael Crawford '08 (BA) by Zachary Barron

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TORERO NEWS



GRETA D PHOTOGRAPHY

[overachiever]

CATCHING WAVE AFTER WAVE

Caroline Walsh excels at a surprising number of things

by Kelsey Grey '15 (BA)

The one thing college provides undergraduates is four years of a certain type of stability. Get to class on time, do the work and you'll likely be all right. But once graduation draws near, fear can set in. What will I do next with my life?

For Caroline Walsh '24 (PhD) that anxiety was exacerbated by the 2008 recession. Her bachelor's degree in psychology didn't exactly put a lot of options at her fingertips. She was working two jobs that paid by the hour, but it wasn't what she'd envisioned.

"I had to think, 'Even if I'm OK financially, how will this get me to my master's degree?'" Walsh recalls. "I think my generation has become very cautious about how much debt we're getting into."

As she processed her options,

two of her girlfriends told her they crossed paths with a Coast Guard recruiter while surfing in Ventura. The pair planned to enlist and encouraged Walsh to join them. Unsure, Walsh decided to go out for a surf session with the recruiter. As they bobbed up and down waiting for waves, they chatted about life in the U.S. Coast Guard (USCG).

"He was very honest. I feel like recruiters try to get you on these gimmicky things like you're going to serve your coun-

try and be a hero. He told me, 'Yeah, you'll be doing rescues and it'll be cool, but the real deal is you're going to live by the coast and you're going to have this ID to all the best surfing spots.'

An all-access pass to the best surfing spots in the country sounded like a great deal. By 2009, Walsh shipped off to New Jersey to begin bootcamp and find the stability she was looking for. Her first duty station was in Montauk, Long Island. As someone who primarily grew up in Ohio and spent her undergraduate years in California, Walsh didn't know much about the place, which sat about 100 miles away from New York City.

Unfortunately, she quickly found out that this particular unit was plagued by poor leadership and an overall "toxic" work environment, especially for women.

"It's still so difficult to be a woman in these organizations," says Walsh, who has made a point of working to support active-duty women. "Caring about people makes a huge difference as a leader." She was able to break away from the unit to start a new USCG journey and moved to Yorktown, Virginia, to train as an intelligence specialist, which was the reason she initially enlisted.

Using tuition assistance, she earned her master's degree in homeland security from Pennsylvania State University in 2013. Her final paper analyzed research across cultures to identify healthcare workers' concerns regarding response during a pandemic. Her findings proved to be accurate amid the COVID-19 pandemic. She eventually moved on from the USCG entirely and became a CIA intelligence officer.

"I loved the job, which was intellectually stimulating. I got to use my creativity to think

about things we hadn't tried yet and it was a positive work environment."

It was during this time that Walsh began testing out her hand at stand-up comedy. While in Washington, D.C. she attended an open-mic night and thought to herself, 'I could do this.' She reached out to a representative with the Armed Services Arts Partnership, which helps veterans thrive through the visual arts, writing and comedy, and signed up for a comedy bootcamp.

"I showed up to the first class and everyone was really loud and really funny, and I thought, 'Oh gosh, what am I doing here?' Then I ended up having a really good set. I realized you don't have to be extroverted to write good comedy and perform it."

The 5-minute set she wrote inspired her to write a memoir, *Fairly Smooth Operator: My Life Occasionally at the Tip of the Spear*. Although the book has comedic moments, it also addresses serious topics such as sexual harassment. The CIA also had to vet her book before it was published. Luckily, there was only one minor suggestion: "One of my managers at the CIA said I could've been more creative and described his six-pack abs," Walsh laughs.

Now a graduate student at USD's School of Leadership and Education Sciences, she expects to earn her PhD in a few years. Walsh is also an assistant director of military and veteran service and compliance for USD's Military and Veterans Program. In that role, she helps assist military-connected students with programming, certifying benefits and career guidance.

Where life takes Walsh next may presently be up in the air, but it's safe to bet it will include one thing: a prime surf break. 🏄

[celebration]

A JOYOUS MOMENT

Ribbon-cutting celebrates Knauss School

by Matthew Piechalak

The Knauss School of Business has a new home. The Knauss Center for Business Education officially opened in early August, following a ribbon-cutting ceremony that featured Board Chairman Donald Knauss and his wife, Ellie.

In December 2021, the couple increased their philanthropic giving to the university to \$50 million to help fund construction of the new facility. In honor of the gift — one of the largest in USD history — the business school was named the Knauss School of Business.

Members of the USD community gathered around the fountain in Paseo de Colachis to celebrate the ceremonial opening of the 20,000-square-foot building. Together with the recently renovated Olin Hall, the new complex has more than tripled the school's size.

Standing before the steps leading to the building's polished stone archway entrance, Don and

Ellie enthusiastically offered their unwavering support for USD.

"We believe in the leadership of this university, and we believe that talent is everywhere but opportunity is not," said Don. "This investment is going to create opportunities for a lot of talented students from all walks of life for generations to come."

"This day is the culmination of our core belief that education is the great equalizer," Ellie said. "We know that the Knauss School of Business, and this world-class facility, are going to provide young adults the ability to maximize their God-given talents. They are going to ensure that we confront humanity's most urgent challenges and do it with loving hearts."

Don had a message for current and future students of the school:

"You've got a combination of world-class technology, world-class faculty and now this incredibly inspiring structure to work and learn in, so take full advantage of it." 📖



ALÉ DELGADO



COURTESY OF MINGEI INTERNATIONAL MUSEUM

[a p p r e c i a t i o n]

RETHINKING COMMON ART

SOLES graduate takes reins of Mingei International Museum

by Matthew Piechalak

Walking among the glass vitrines inside the newly renovated Mingei International Museum, Jessica Hanson York '13 (MA) is passionate as she explains what makes the art collection unique.

"I get so excited when someone comes in here and sees an object behind glass and they say, 'I grew up with one of those on my grandmother's counter.' It makes them rethink the things that surround them," says Hanson York, a graduate of the School of

Leadership and Educational Studies (SOLES) Master of Nonprofit Leadership and Management and new head of the Mingei museum.

This summer, Hanson York took over for Rob Sidner, who retired after serving as executive director for 16 years. This is an exciting time for the Mingei, which reopened in September 2021 following a multiyear \$47 million renovation aimed at transforming the museum, which is housed in one of Balboa Park's original buildings.

"We're on a good track," says Hanson York. "Certainly, we want to be more proactive and accountable with how we work with groups in our community to ensure that our exhibitions are relevant, meaningful and reflective of who we're serving."

The museum collects, preserves and exhibits folk art, craft and design from all eras and cultures of the world. Mingei is a Japanese word that was coined by the philosopher Yanagi Sōetsu, which translates to "art of the people."

"At the dawn of the Industrial Revolution, Yanagi was concerned that people would lose appreciation for folk crafts, the beautiful pieces made by unknown craftsmen, so he set out to create the Mingei Movement — to celebrate, preserve and ensure the long future of the making of these objects," explains Hanson York.

"We're trying to get everyone to slow down, appreciate what really matters, and to think about the elements of an object that can have a more meaningful duration in their lives."

The Mingei's collection is vast. It includes more than 25,000 objects from more than 140 countries. Among the collection are textiles, ceramics, jewelry, toys, tools, furniture, ceremonial and ritual objects — some

contemporary and others dating back to indigenous cultures. “It is truly expansive,” she says.

Hanson York joined the museum in 2011. She has more than 20 years of experience in the non-profit sector. “Working in an art museum is pretty wonderful,” she says. “I get to drive into a beautiful park every day and then I walk into an art museum — a space that celebrates beauty and creativity.”

Hanson York says her career has allowed her to work as part of the area she lives in. “I want to have an impact on my community and the quality of life,” she says.

A Connecticut native and a graduate of Emerson College, she moved to San Diego in 2005. She’s worked at the New Children’s Museum, the San Diego Museum Council, the City of San Diego Commission for Arts and Culture and at KPBS.

At USD, Hanson York learned both the practical skills and the academic context needed to succeed. “The program had a tremendous impact on my personal and professional growth,” she says. “It also helped me build connections with a network of like-minded nonprofit leaders in the region, many of whom I still reach out to and collaborate with.”

Hanson York is also an adjunct professor at USD. Together with fellow alumna Patricia Saraniero ’07 (EdD), she co-created and serves as lead instructor of the Arts and Culture Leadership Certificate, a three-course graduate-level certificate offered through SOLES.

“We saw an opportunity with the nonprofit leadership graduate program to bring a specialized focus in,” says Hanson York. “It’s a fantastic program offered as both a certificate program and a specialization within the master’s program.”

As executive director, Hanson York leads a staff of more than

50 and oversees a museum with an annual operating budget of roughly \$5 million and that serves 120,000 visitors yearly through admission, programs, events, educational outreach and other programs.

“There is a huge diversity with how we connect with people, the types of audiences we serve and engage with, and the type of art that we show,” she explains.

Founded in 1974, the Mingei is a relatively young museum. But in recent years, its mission has become more expansive. The revitalized space was designed to be welcoming across demographics. “Historically, we’ve tried to look at the assets and knowledge within our own community and how that relates back to our collection and opportunities to share stories that can also highlight San Diego communities.”

To continue growing in 2022 and beyond, the museum had to become a comfortable place. The ground floor is free to all and features artwork from the museum’s collection, a restaurant and a gift shop. The open concept ties the museum together with the adjacent Plaza de Panama in the front and the Spanish-style Alcázar Gardens behind.

Hanson York believes strongly in the museum’s purpose, particularly when more and more goods are mass-produced and disposable. “When we think about art of the people, we are often thinking about objects that we may be taking for granted in our daily lives,” she says.

“Think about your favorite mug and how it feels in your hand or a favorite family quilt that’s been handed down. These objects are useful, they have meaning and they add beauty and joy to our lives. We want to highlight that human creativity, celebrate it, and in an ideal world, spark that creativity.”

[friendship]

A NEIGHBOR’S EYES

Celebrating a unique connection to USD

by Krystn Shrieve

At the age of 27, Reggie Smith bought a modest home in Linda Vista. She fell in love with the home, with Linda Vista and the University of San Diego.

She’s been a valued advisor to founders Bishop Charles Francis Buddy and Mother Rosalie Hill Hall and every USD president since.

“Each president left his or her particular stamp,” Smith says. “Each new building and new program changed and enhanced the university, and increased its status and its ability to attract students from all over the world.”

She too has made an impact. Smith helped apply for a grant to launch what’s now the Karen and Tom Mulvaney Center for Community, Awareness and Social Action. She served as the first board president of USD’s Manchester Family Child Development Center. She also served on the committee that reviewed

graduate thesis proposals for students in the Hahn School of Nursing. She met Mother Teresa as well as the Dalai Lama. She also attended the presidential debate between President Bill Clinton and Sen. Bob Dole — and even ate an apple from a basket on Clinton’s desk.

With Author E. Hughes, she sang in the choir during his first Lessons and Carols. She bonded with Alice B. Hayes over the fact that their fathers came from Ireland. When Dr. Mary E. Lyons became president, Smith took her on a tour of the Linda Vista community.

She says President James T. Harris has brought a leadership dedicated to social justice and community enhancement.

She’s grateful to be an honorary Torero. “Thank you, to the university, for what you’ve meant to me. I’ve experienced so many wonderful things in my life — and it’s all because I’ve been a part of USD.”



RYAN T. BLYSTONE



[intrepid]

PRACTICING SELF-CARE

Health care workers at risk for mental health issues

by Kelsey Grey '15 (BA)

Nurses and frontline health care workers have worked relentlessly over the past few years, facing surge after surge, witnessing thousands of deaths and surviving severe staffing shortages.

Now, research suggests that most health care workers are wrestling with psychiatric symptoms. Some mental health providers have warned that these could turn into an onslaught of related issues like substance

abuse and suicide, something faculty members at USD's Hahn School of Nursing and Health Science are taking seriously.

"One of the things that makes nurses so much more vulnerable with these conditions is they tend to be people who want to help other people, at the expense of their own health," says Katie Lais DNP, PMHNP-BC (pictured, at left). "Things like [self] mental health treatment gets dropped off because in the mind

of a lot of nurses, there are more pressing issues, like improving other peoples' lives."

From June to September 2020, the community-based nonprofit Mental Health America hosted a survey to record the experiences of health care workers during the COVID-19 pandemic. They collected 1,119 responses from health care workers, many of which indicated they were stretched too thin.

A whopping 86% reported

experiencing anxiety and 76% reported exhaustion and burnout.

A recent study released by a team of researchers at UC San Diego in the *Journal of the American Medical Association* found nurses die by suicide at a significantly higher rate than the general population. Using nationwide data on violent deaths from 2014, researchers found that suicide rates were nearly 58% higher for female nurses and 41% higher for male nurses.

"One of the main differences with medical professionals is that they are more likely than the general population to overdose or poison themselves," says Lais. "They have some knowledge about pharmacology and medications, so they have

the ability to be more successful in these attempts.”

All these factors have contributed to a mass exodus of nurses leaving patients’ bedsides. According to a survey by the UCSF Health Workforce Research Center on Long-Term Care, 26% of California nurses between 55 and 64 are planning to leave the industry in the next two years. The report also forecasts a shortage of more than 40,000 nurses in the state over the next four to five years.

Although California is expected to be shorter than any other state when it comes to the number of registered nurses needed in the coming years, Texas, New Jersey and South Carolina are expected to experience similar issues.

“We used to call this a lateral arabesque, derived from the dancing term,” says USD Clinical Professor Michael Terry (pictured, at right). “Nurses used to drop out after their first years because they trained in ideal conditions. Now, we have a lot of people doing lateral arabesques amid the pandemic.”

To prevent this, faculty members at the Hahn School are working with students to recognize signs of burnout and practice self-care. One way they are equipping students to care for their mental and emotional health is by writing weekly reflections. What went well? What seemed challenging?

“Reflection helps ground us in the present,” says Lais. “It also gives us a clearer picture of what we’ve overcome to get us where we are now. It gives us hope that things can get better.”

Expanding social-emotional learning for doctoral students will help prepare them for the challenges health care systems face. “It’s no longer enough to just teach them about the curriculum,” says Terry. “We need to take care of their emotional needs as well.” 🧘

[faith in action]

PANDEMIC TO PILGRIMAGE

Camino de Santiago trip was an extraordinary journey

by Matthew Piechalak

Thirty-two Toreros completed the historical Camino de Santiago pilgrimage in June, trekking 70 miles during a six-day span to the shrine of the apostle Saint James the Great at the Cathedral of Santiago de Compostela in Galicia, Spain.

“This group is now braided to one another,” reflects USD Director of International Engagement and Alumni Outreach Claudia Gonzales ’99 (BA), ’03 (MA), who planned the pilgrimage in tandem with Trafalgar Travel. “Over the course of three days, pilgrims were able to visit Alcala de Henares, El Prado and Segovia before we made our way to our first base camp,” says Gonzales. “These excursions helped pilgrims adjust to the new time zone while keeping them active before the actual pilgrimage started.”

The Camino de Santiago, known in English as the “Way of St. James,” is a series of routes leading to the apostle’s shrine at the Cathedral of Santiago de Compostela, where many believe his burial site is located. The trek, a first for USD, was originally the idea of President James T. Harris, EdD.

“I read about the camino and thought it would be a great way for our alumni to be involved in one of our travel programs,” says Harris. “By the end, we were all spiritually connected. It was such a powerful example of God’s presence in the world and each of us and how the Holy Spirit can bring us all together.

I’ve never had that group spiritual experience. It was powerful.”

The pilgrimage was a metaphor for our journey of faith through life, with a beginning and end, said University Chaplain Father Robert Capone ’91 (BBA). “Personally, I felt a foretaste of heaven when we reached the cathedral square in Santiago — abiding joy and peace, with a sense that my heaven will be enriched by those I help on earth, those with whom I walk with along the way,” he says.

“This was a wonderful way to feel connected to USD again,”

says Kimberly Cesal ’92 (BBA), who celebrated her 27th wedding anniversary with husband David ’92 (BA) during the pilgrimage.

“We met at USD, so it was very special to be with the Traveling Toreros on this day,” she notes. “Overall, the journey felt like the gospel reading of the road to Emmaus. I realized very concretely that Jesus has walked with me every step of the way. He is present to each one of us in the intricacies and beauty of our lives. It was the trip of a lifetime.” 📍



DANIEL MAILHOT



[drive]

SEARCHING FOR MORE POWER

Engineering student completes NASA Tech Transfer Program

by Matthew Piechalak

Like many aspiring engineers, Honorebel Walker has always been fascinated with the inner workings of tangible objects — especially circuit boards.

“When I was younger, I definitely took things apart,” says Walker, a third-year electrical engineering major and math minor.

This summer, Walker completed the National Aeronautics and Space Administration

(NASA) Technology Transfer Program, a highly selective accelerator program. It “ensures that innovations developed for exploration and discovery are broadly available to the public, maximizing the benefit to the nation,” according to NASA.

“NASA has a patent portfolio that they put out,” explains Walker, the current vice president of the USD chapter of the National Society

of Black Engineers. “All their inventors come together and decide what technologies they can give to the market and figure out ways entrepreneurs can commercialize them.”

NASA’s Patent Portfolio offers three forms of licensing: research, commercial and start-up. As a participant in the tech transfer program, Walker was able to access the portfolio, which has more than a dozen

overarching categories of patents including communications, manufacturing, software, robotics, propulsion and, of particular interest to Walker, power generation.

“I think power is everything,” he says. “How can we get the most power?” Walker settled on further exploring a patent related to fiber optic cables. “They take solar energy in and produce light through the cables, but it also has another property none of the other cables have: It actually generates energy that can power consumer electronics,” he explains.

The goal of the project is to scale the technology for a consumer level. His target market

is property developers looking toward sustainable building. “A lot of people think this can only be for commercial use, but it can also be used on an everyday level,” Walker says. “The most logical thing to do is figure out how to sell it to property developers.”

Symbiotic Fiber is the company name that Walker and his friend, Chris Redd ’22 (BS/BA), established for the venture. Redd is a USD computer science major and also a participant in the NASA program. Walker says the name Symbiotic Fiber made sense because within the fiber optic cable design, it looks like there is a biomimicry aspect similar to octopus tentacles. He adds that he’d love to see the technology used to power a home.

“It provides lighting for home or commercial use and gives a regenerative energy aspect like powering consumer electronics.”

So how does the technology differ from solar power? While it’s a longer conversation, ultimately it comes down to cost and scale. Solar panels, on average, can cost \$30,000, where fiber optic cables can cost as low as \$1 each. Additionally, solar panels are used to power a whole system, while fiber optics are currently only highly effective for consumer electronics.

“You can look at solar panels as being our competitor, but at the same time, we’re also niche because we’re looking at a market that wants to save money, wants a clean design and can be highly efficient for consumer electronics,” he says. “We’re not trying to power a whole system like solar is. This technology as a whole is not there yet. We’re very selective on what we’re able to power.”

Walker grew up in Oakland and transferred to USD from Menlo College. Long before pursuing his degree, Walker

says he naturally employed elements of the Engineering Design Process, a cycle of steps that includes defining the problem, identifying constraints, brainstorming solutions, prototyping the best solution, testing, iteration and, ultimately, communicating your solution.

“Growing up in Oakland, where I wasn’t able to have the most opportunity, I think I was applying the process in my everyday life before even knowing what the concept was,” Walker says. “It was only natural I ended up stepping into engineering, because it’s problem solving. I’ve been problem solving all my life.”

Walker is an alumnus of the Oakland-based nonprofit youth organization, The Hidden Genius Project. He attended for five years, from grade 8 through grade 12. “It’s a nonprofit initiative to help young Black men excel in technology and entrepreneurship,” he says. In 2020, Walker was invited back to the organization to participate in an alumni venture seed fund intended for young entrepreneurs. The founder recognized the excellent work Walker was doing and connected him with the NASA program.

“They saw this and thought it would be a perfect opportunity for me,” he says. “I now have access to NASA technology because I was a part of that accelerator.”

The experience has been important for Walker, who understands that successful entrepreneurship doesn’t happen overnight.

“I’m definitely enjoying it,” says Walker, who’s had a multitude of networking opportunities, including meeting Alphabet Chief Executive Officer Sundar Pichai. “Having access to a company like NASA, that every child looks at in some capacity, is pretty amazing.” 🌐

[HOT OFF THE PRESS]

Do We Dress to Impress?

How is meaning in our bodies constructed? To what extent is meaning in bodies innate and to what extent is meaning in bodies culturally constructed? Does it change when we adorn ourselves in dress? In *Adorning Bodies*, Assistant Professor of Philosophy Marilynn Johnson draws on evolutionary theory and philosophy to think about art, beauty and aesthetics and explore how the ways we use our bodies are similar to — and different from — animals.



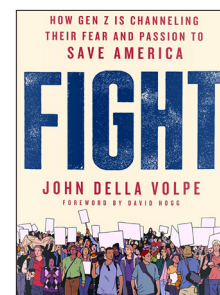
All Too Prescient

Retired military officer George Galdorisi ’88 (MA) recently published *Fire and Ice*, a thriller focused on political and military tensions created by modern-day Russia at its vindictive worst. Vladimir Putin emerges as the central character who uses the fulcrum of Central Europe to threaten Western Europe through a series of attacks on energy sources. Can Putin and his rogue nation be thwarted through the combined efforts of EU and U.S. military might?



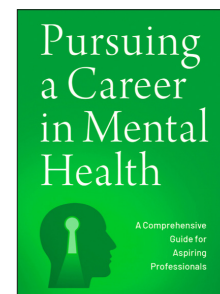
Get Mad, Then Get Busy

In *Fight: How Gen Z Is Channeling Their Fear and Passion to Save America*, John Della Volpe ’89 (BA), director of polling at the Harvard Institute of Politics, explores Generation Z (those born from the late 1990s to early 2000s), the issues that matter most to them, and how they will shape the future. The book combines first-hand interviews with Gen Z members, drawing on their stories and experiences, with fresh data and insight.



Wanted: Mental Health Pros

Our country desperately needs more compassionate and effective mental health professionals. SOLES Professor of Counseling and Marital and Family Therapy Ann Garland’s new book, *Pursuing a Career in Mental Health*, addresses this need and provides insiders’ perspectives. Throughout the book, dozens of practicing therapists — including many USD alumni and faculty members — offer insights about the rewards and challenges of this career.



TORERO ATHLETICS



COURTESY OF USD ATHLETICS

[stoked]

BACK WHERE IT ALL BEGAN

Anthony Lawrence returns to his roots

by Mike Sauer

Spend any amount of time with former USD standout quarterback Anthony Lawrence '19 (BACC), and it becomes readily apparent how much football means to him. From pick-up games in front of his childhood home in La Mesa, California, to playing for champi-

onships as the starting quarterback for the Panasonic Impulse in Japan's pro football league, football has given Lawrence the chance to push his limits and expand his horizons.

"Going to Japan was an awesome experience, and one that was really important for me," he

says. "I knew how much I loved football, but being so far away from everything you know has its challenges. I tried to get everything I could out of it."

Now, another football-related opportunity is presenting itself much closer to home and Lawrence can barely contain his

excitement. "I've accepted the job as receivers coach for USD, and I can't believe how fortunate I am," he says, then breaks into an ear-to-ear grin. "To be back at USD where I've had some of my most memorable moments on the field and off, it's ... well, can you tell how pumped up I am?"

From 2015-18, he established himself as one of the most prolific signal-callers in USD football history and remains the program's all-time leader in passing yards (12,628) and touchdowns (120). With Lawrence as starter,

USD went 31-1 and annexed four Pioneer League Football titles. Pretty good for someone who wasn't even sure he'd make the team at USD, let alone lead one of the most successful runs in the program's history.

"I had a lot of success in high school playing quarterback, and I thought I'd be able to walk on and be the starter from day one. Wrong," he recalls. "I was the fourth-string quarterback on our depth chart, and I wasn't even sure if I had a future with the program. They had me playing receiver on the scout team, and I had never played receiver before. It was tough."

But Lawrence dug in his heels and worked to refine his craft. There may have been other quarterbacks on the squad who better fit the physical prototype the coaches were looking for, but Lawrence was, and is, a student of the game. He used his knowledge and know-how to fight his way to the top of the USD depth chart and stay there. The rest is history.

"I remember my first game where I started; we were playing San Diego State at Qualcomm," he recalls. "For some reason, I didn't feel that much pressure. I felt confident in my ability and was amped to play in front of such a big crowd. It all felt really natural."

While he'll always have a place in the USD record books, his focus now has shifted to what he can provide from the sidelines. Learning the new responsibilities tied to his new position has been a challenge, but it's one Lawrence has run with — literally.

"As a quarterback, you need to know the routes of all the receivers on each play, so it really hasn't been that hard to get used to coaching those routes," he says. "I'll even try and run a few with them so they know I'm legit, but man, these guys are so fast! I think I'll stick to staying on the sidelines." 🏐



COURTESY OF USD ATHLETICS

GETTING TO KNOW ... NADIA ABDALA

CREDENTIALS: Over the last 15 years, Abdala has developed an impressive resume as both a player and a coach. She was ranked inside the top 20 in both singles and doubles nationally while a member of the Arizona State University women's tennis program. After spending several seasons traveling on the Women's Tennis Association tour, she joined USD's women's tennis program in 2014. Her impact led to her being recognized by the Intercollegiate Tennis Association as a three-time Southwest Region Assistant Coach of the Year. **TAKING THE REINS:** It's all been preparation for what she sees as her most rewarding opportunity to date: helming USD Women's Tennis. "Working with former USD Women's Tennis Head Coach Sherri Stephens has been a blessing on so many levels. I'm looking forward to applying what she's taught me, and what I've developed on my own, to make this program a national title contender." **THE HEIR APPARENT:** As Stephens' assistant, Abdala soaked up all the knowledge she could, and is thrilled at the opportunity to put her own stamp on the future success of USD women's tennis. "Sherri was a great coach and a great teacher. One of the most important lessons she taught me was that to have success as a head coach, you need to be authentic. I think about that a lot, and it's helping me in how I deal with the players, deal with recruiting, deal with management ... all the things you need to handle to be the best coach possible." — Mike Sauer

Relentless Incrementalism

By Julene Snyder

Moms Demand Action founder is working to change the world



When a heavily armed gunman fired 154 rounds at Sandy Hook Elementary School in 2012, it took him less than five minutes to take 26 lives. Twenty children and six adults were killed that day in one of the deadliest school shootings in U.S. history.

At the time, Shannon Watts had taken a break from her corporate career in communication to spend time with her five children but planned to soon return to work. When news of the shooting started unfolding on television, hearts broke across the country.

think tanks and there were some one-off state organizations that were almost all run by men,” Watts says. “I knew what affects change in this country: it’s a bad-ass army of women. I’ve seen it over and over again.”

Naturally, she turned to social media. “I thought, ‘I’ll start a Facebook page to have a conversation about the need for this kind of organization. I never intended to start it myself. I only had about 75 Facebook friends at the time, but it was like lightning in a bottle. People — mostly women and moms from all

many than are members of the National Rifle Association. And Watts has been a full-time volunteer at Moms Demand Action since she founded it.

While the successes have gathered momentum along the way, there were also roadblocks. For example, the bipartisan Manchin-Toomey bill in 2013 requiring background checks for every gun sale failed in the Senate by a handful of votes.

“Honestly, I thought, ‘America’s not ready for this. We’ve done our best, it’s time to go back to our normal lives.’ And our very brilliant volunteers said, ‘No, let’s just start doing this at school boards, at city councils, at state houses and even corporate boardrooms.’ And that’s exactly what we’ve been doing now for a decade.”

The need for the work that Watts and Moms Demand Action does is clear: According to the Gun Violence Archive — an independent data collection and research group with no affiliation with any advocacy organization — the U.S. has had 420 mass shootings in 2022 (at press time).

Despite the enormity of the challenge, the effect of the group’s work is measurable.

“I’m very proud that we’ve passed hundreds of good gun laws at the state level: Everything from requiring background checks on all gun sales to California’s red flag law to laws that disarm domestic abusers to laws that require secure gun storage inside the home.”

Members and supporters are putting their money where their mouths are.

“In 2018, our organization outspent the NRA for the first time,” she notes. That milestone had a lasting effect: “We elected our own volunteer

to Congress, Lucy McBath from Georgia. Her son, Jordan Davis, was shot and killed by a white man who said [Jordan’s] music was too loud.”

Other successes include the 2022 federal bipartisan gun safety bill. “No one imagined we would be able to pass legislation at the federal level. It was really because we had built this grassroots machinery to put pressure on every single U.S. Senator to do the right thing after the shootings in Buffalo and Uvalde.”

Watts’ son, Sam Troughton ‘23, is a business major at USD looking forward to his senior year on campus. She vividly recalls their first visit to Alcalá Park.

“At the time, we were living in Colorado. He knew he wanted to go to college in California. Sam is 6’8” and about 200 pounds, and he’d just broken his leg playing basketball,” she says, with a rueful laugh. “I had to push him in a wheelchair all around the USD campus, which was a big workout for me, but we both loved the school. The grounds were so beautiful and the people were so friendly. It was cozy. This was the first school that when he was accepted, he said, ‘I want to go there,’ even though he’d only visited once.”

When asked what advice she’d give those who want to stop being mad and start making a difference, she advises patience.

“People get frustrated by incrementalism, but that’s the way the system is set up. I really do think relentless incrementalism is what leads to revolutions. The most intractable issues can be addressed through incremental change. It’s a marathon, not a sprint. It’s like drips on a rock; it all adds up.” 🌱

📱 | momsdemandaction.org



“I was so devastated that day — like everyone in America — but the next day I wasn’t just angry, I was outraged,” she recalls. “I thought, ‘I want to do something.’ Something like Mothers Against Drunk Driving (MADD), which was very influential to me as a kid growing up in the ‘80s. MADD changed the culture around drinking and driving and responsibility.”

Much to her surprise there was no similar group for curbing guns and promoting gun safety. “There were some

across the country — started emailing me, calling me, texting me.”

They all wanted to know one thing. “They were asking, ‘How do I do this where I live?’ I don’t think any of us really knew what ‘this’ was, but we just intuitively started organizing in our communities and in our states.” Ten years later, that initial Facebook page has grown into what Watts says is the largest grassroots organization in the country. The group she founded, Moms Demand Action, has more than 10 million supporters — twice as



HARD WORKS

photography by Zachary Barron

Michael Crawford '08 (BA) isn't afraid to get his hands dirty

To say that Michael Crawford — who earned his undergraduate degree from USD in 2008 with a double major in sociology and psychology — has overcome a lot in his life is an extreme understatement. But these days, things are looking pretty sweet. For one thing, he is a very proud papa. You don't have to ask him twice to be shown a picture of 18-month-old HoneyRose. Fittingly, in the photo he selects from the multitude on his phone, the adorable tot is sporting a wee hard hat and kid-sized tool belt. "She wants to be just like me," says Crawford. "She's been coming with me to job sites since she was 3 months old. We have a blast together."

For another thing, his wife, Claire (Moga) '09 (BA), '12 (MSN), '17 (PhD), is expecting their son this fall, and Crawford is thrilled to soon greet the newest member of the family. And yet another note of positivity comes from the success of his real estate development company, Crawford Design and Development, which recently closed on the sale of a \$4 million house in Point Loma and has several projects near USD aimed at college students, mostly in the nearby neighborhood known as Dogpatch.

"We've been buying and building and creating there for the last seven years," he says. "We recently finished an eight-unit project called The Carl, which is named after my father, who was murdered eight years ago. And we just broke ground on a 14-unit project right behind Ballast Point Brewery that will probably be done by the end of this year. We have another project in the area that we finished up about six years ago."

Crawford admits that it's unusual for a 37-year-old man with a doctorate in clinical psychology to become a general contractor after studying at "YouTube University" to learn the fundamentals of becoming a building developer and designer.

"In terms of our development firm, it's myself and my wife," he explains. "We do the majority of the heavy lifting, although we do have an investor, Josh Brisco '06 (BA), '07 (BA), who I played football with at USD."

Crawford delights in the changes he sees in Dogpatch, a small area just across from the USD campus on the hills between Linda Vista and Friars Road. "We love the area. Having gone to school at USD, we saw Dogpatch as a diamond in the rough."

He unlocks the heavy padlock of the construction site of a multi-unit project behind the brewery and points out that within the week, heavy I-beams will be installed and framing will be well underway.

"If you come back in two weeks, there'll be a second floor on it; we're going up four stories. And there'll be a rooftop deck where tenants can watch the SeaWorld fireworks and all that jazz."

In a tour of one of his units at The Carl, which is a few blocks away, he shows off the stainless-steel appliances, sleek built-in shelving, flat-screen TVs, subway tile backsplash and modern furnishings.

"We provide our tenants with Internet, power, cleaning services, all the furnishings," he says. "I like to call it 'Airbnb meets student housing.' It's perfect for college students, particularly if they're

international. We provide everything they need but the toothbrush."

He also points out that for every one of his buildings, he provides a certain percentage of units that are affordable. "One of my tenants pays less than half of market rate. I've never raised his rent; I see how hard he works."

Crawford is both humble about and proud of his successes. "In a way, this whole thing started out as dumb luck," he says. "Just going to USD and being part of that community, and seeing what kind of quality students were here, I wanted to ride that wave."

Hard work had a lot to do with it as well. A budding entrepreneur even as a college student, he was renting in Dogpatch while in school. "My landlord happened to own two buildings right here," he gestures. "She wanted to sell one. And I told her, 'I would like to buy it.' I didn't have much cash, so I drove for Uber for a little bit and got enough cash for the down payment to buy one of them, a pretty run-down duplex."

Thanks to those crash courses on YouTube, he fixed up half the duplex, rented it out and repeated the process with the other unit. An architect friend took one look at the property and suggested adding another building in the back. "And that's what got this whole thing started."

Crawford came to USD as a second-year student after tearing his Achilles tendon while attending and playing football for Virginia's Crawford University.

"My coach happened to know Jim Harbaugh, who was coming in to coach for USD, and thought it might be a good fit for me. I'm originally from Los Angeles, so it was just nice to be home in the sun, attending a private school, and to still be able to play football. And obviously, the education factor speaks for itself."

The first in his family to pursue a college degree, Crawford has nothing but praise for his USD experience.

"Coming from humble beginnings to where we are now has been a journey," he says. "We're originally from Inglewood, California, a very low [socioeconomic] family. My mother was once addicted to crack cocaine. My father wasn't always the best man around, and had an alcohol problem, but still, despite all that, it was a very loving household, and they always pushed me to want more."

He credits USD's McNair Scholars program for his academic successes. Funded by USD and the U.S. Department of Education, the program serves high-achieving undergraduates who are committed to pursuing a PhD or research-intensive graduate degree.

"When I was in school, the program was basically for first-generation kids," he explains. "It was trying to facilitate that gap that was there for most people of color — especially from challenged neighborhoods — to where we are now. They had great success in keeping you motivated to finish."

On a practical level, that meant that he spent summers on campus, which helped him to continue achieving his goals. "When other students had to get part-time jobs at the Coca-Cola plant or whatever, I was able to stay here while doing research, which helped me get

accepted to grad school. They even paid for my GRE testing.”

Crawford found a kindred spirit in then-Sociology Professor A. Rafik Mohamed, PhD, who left USD in 2009. “I remember he always said, ‘Hey, what’s your next step? What’s your next goal?’” he recalls.

“This was a regular refrain in my conversations with Michael,” Mohamed says. “It wasn’t that he was lost or incapable of figuring out his own life. And I certainly couldn’t answer these questions for him. However, I saw in him what I think a handful of people saw in me when I was nearing the end of my undergraduate journey. He was inquisitive and introspective with infinite potential.”

Mohamed, who’s now interim provost for California State University, San Bernardino, was moved to hear that Crawford remembers him so vividly.

“I loved working with students, and nothing touches me more than hearing that I impacted a former student in some small way. They certainly impacted me immensely, especially during my days at USD when I was just getting my footing in higher education,” he says. “It was easy to see that Michael had the energy, intellect

and emotional intelligence to do whatever he wanted and to have a positive impact on his community and young men of color.”

Crawford stresses how important it was for him as an undergraduate to talk to people who understood where he was coming from. “I could go in and talk to somebody who looked like me and they’d tell me, ‘Hey, I get it. I understand. But there is light at the end of this tunnel. That was really impactful.”

And, of course, the friends he made on the gridiron made a lasting impact on his life as well.

Two of those are now Crawford’s investors: Josh Briscoe ’06 (BA), ’07 (BA), who played defensive back, and Frederick Montgomery ’09 (BS/BA). “Both of them are highly involved in the community, and obviously people I see on the regular,” he says. “I would say that of my seven closest friends, five or six of them are guys I played football with.”

He’s proud to have been coached by Jim Harbaugh and believes the team had one of the most successful runs the Toreros have had to date.

“It’s wild to see how well those 100 or so athletes have done. Some are surgeons and



politicians and astronauts. They’re great family men as well,” Crawford says.

Reached via phone after football practice at the University of Michigan, where he’s head coach, Harbaugh was effusive about his time with the team in the mid-2000s that Crawford played with.

“It was my first head coaching experience,” he recalls. “I was only removed from being a player by a few years, so I felt a lot like their older brother. They were a bunch of great guys who were hilarious and fun to be around, and they were really good players.”

He looks back with great affection even at grueling practice runs up “Harbaugh Hill” on campus. “I’d run the hill with the guys during 6:00 a.m. workouts, and the grade on that hill was pretty significant, 35 to 40%.”

For Crawford, Harbaugh’s influence still resonates. “I remember when Coach made a speech where he said, ‘We’ll see how successful you guys really are in five, 10 or 20 years.’ We didn’t get it at the time, but recently [the guys] were talking and realized, ‘This is what he was talking about.’ We’re all great as-

sets to our community and our families. And a lot of those successes stemmed from the organization known as football.”

He laughs when he talks about what he calls Harbaugh’s “team mantra.”

“We make fun of him now, because he took it to the 49ers and then to Michigan, but his saying, ‘If you don’t grind, you don’t shine’ definitely was cultivated at USD,” Crawford says.

“If you run into anybody who played Torero football and just say the first part, ‘If you don’t grind,’ they will immediately respond with, ‘You don’t shine.’ And that’s been our mantra. We believe in it. Hard work works, whether it’s on the football field or in life, with your kids or whatever else is going on.”

Harbaugh speaks highly of Crawford and the USD team from that era, which he led to two straight Pioneer League titles and an impressive national ranking, a particularly notable feat for a school that doesn’t offer football scholarships.

“Michael was always just a really squared away, rock solid individual who always took care



of business. He was popular on the team, an above-average player and a really good teammate. He was never a detractor. I could always count on him.”

These days, Crawford doesn’t shy away from talking about things in his personal life that some might keep to themselves.

“When I was younger, there were definitely things that I didn’t share with too many folks. But now that I’m older, I do share, especially with the college students I teach,” he says.

“One of my first activities with my students is to ask them to write down all the excuses of why this isn’t going to work or why people have told you this isn’t going to work,” he explains.

“Then I put the papers in a hat — no one’s name is on them — and read them aloud. I toss in some of my own. And one of my struggles — and one of my greatest assets probably — is that my mother was addicted to crack cocaine. After I left to go to college, my personal household fell apart.”

He vividly recalls the day he went to USD’s Office of Financial Aid, trying to get his mom some help.

“I said, ‘Hey, I’m trying to get my mom to rehab, and when you have low insurance or no insurance it’s very, very hard. They just want to send you somewhere for a couple of days.’ So there I was, a student, trying to figure out how to get an actual loan. I needed \$3,400 to get my mom on a flight to Florida, which they helped me figure out. I got the loan and sent her to rehab. And she’s been sober ever since.”

His mom, Gail, is a huge part of his life. “She’s doing double duty because my father isn’t with us anymore.” In fact, she lives in one of Crawford’s rental units along with his sister, Michelle ’14 (BA).

“My dad was shot and mur-

dered in our home back in Bakersfield. His case hasn’t been solved. Every time I went back there, there was a new detective, and my father was kind of getting lost in the shuffle. So, I put his name on the side of one of my buildings, along with his face, just to make sure he’s not forgotten,” he says.

“Losing him that way was different than if your father had cancer and you got to say goodbye. So that was a big turning moment for myself, my family, my mom and everybody else.”

His doctoral specialty involves alcohol and drug addiction, a topic that he’s obviously got lived experience with, given his family history.

Crawford says that his love for cognitive behavioral therapy has helped him.

“It kind of has a lot of stoicism philosophies, which comes down to ‘control what you can and don’t give energy to things that you can’t control,’” he explains.

He’s quick to give credit to all of those who saw his potential back when he was in college. “Between the coach and the teachers and my family and my then-girlfriend — who’s now my wife — there was a nice balance. I was, for the most part, grounded and was able to be there for my mom’s journey as well as my father’s,” he says.

As for sharing his story, he’s ready. “Before, if you Googled my construction company, you wouldn’t find anything. I’m not on social media at all. Sadly, the rational for that is that there are still barriers to entry in terms of this being a white-male-dominant field. But now I’m ready to share my story. My mindset is changing. I want to empower people who look like me.”

That said, there’s plenty of work to be done, and Crawford needs to see to it.

Still grinding and, most definitely, still shining. 🌟

 www.buildingSD.com



BARBARA FERGUSON

SPIRIT RANGERS



Spirit Rangers follows the adventures of a modern Native American family living in a magical national park. The animated series begins airing on Netflix on October 10, 2022.

FORWARD MOTION

Native American culture is celebrated in new animated series

by Julene Snyder

There's a hint of the child she once was when Karissa Valencia '13 (BA) reveals the genesis of the idea that inspired her animated Netflix show, *Spirit Rangers*.

"I was thinking about how cool it would be if a little kid found a bear skin today and realized that they could transform and connect with the spirits that way."

Valencia spent her childhood on and off the Samala Chumash reservation in California's Santa Ynez valley, splitting her time with her mom in San Diego and her dad on the reservation, spending summers and every other weekend with him. She particularly enjoyed working as a camp counselor on the reservation at Kalowashaq, which loosely means "turtle village."

"My tribe's clan is the Turtle Clan. We'd teach the native kids how to make clapper sticks, learn our traditional songs, and go out on trails and learn about the plants in our native wildlife. That was great for them but also for me, connecting me to my land."

She credits her "five times great-grandmother," Maria Solares — who worked with ethnologist John Harrington in the 1930s — for much of the tribe's historical documentation about their customs and history before Spanish contact in the 1500s. "She did all these recordings — telling our stories, our customs, what we would wear, what we believed in — about the Samala Chumash people," Valencia explains.

"That's where we get a lot of our information about the language and what we used to have. Without it, we would be so lost. So much of it was lost when the Spanish came over."

It wasn't easy to maintain a dual existence. "On the reservation, I was surrounded by my community and my family. I was used to going on hikes with my dad, and he could tell when a mountain lion had just passed through. I was so proud to be Chumash when I was there."

But in school, that sense of pride wasn't necessarily celebrated.

"When I'd say I was Native American, my teachers just didn't believe me. That feeling of being invisible stuck with me a long time, and my native identity was pretty suppressed for a while, because I hated that feeling of rejection," she says, somber.

As she got older, Valencia gained confidence and further explored her native roots. "Even though my tribe didn't traditionally have powwows, we've since adopted them. It's a modern native space where all the tribal nations come together and gather for song, dance and trade. Seeing our culture still existing — despite everything we've been through — is so hopeful. We're still here, and we're still creating our own cultures."

It was her love of storytelling that drew Valencia to the University of San Diego.

"I really loved USD because it was so small, and it was close to home. It felt like a safe space." She gravitated to creative writing classes and says that while she thought working in TV and film would be her dream job, she "just didn't know how to get there."

Valencia credits Associate Dean and Professor of Communication Studies Kristin Moran for opening her eyes as to "just how impactful media is and what a powerful tool it is to change culture and change the world." In fact, she says that Moran's recommendation letter led to her being accepted to Syracuse University's prestigious television, media and film graduate school, where she earned her master's degree.

Things really started to take off for Valencia almost right away, when she got an internship at Nickelodeon working in the talent development department. "One of my first jobs was sending rejection letters to thousands of writers who were applying to the writing program, which only selected four or five. But it only motivated me more. I knew I could do it. I loved animation."

She moved on to working as a script coordinator alongside executive producer and writer Chris Nee — creator of the animated shows *Vampirina* and *Doc McStuffins* — and writer Chelsea Beyl. "I was very lucky to meet people who told me to keep going and said that my voice was important," Valencia says.

When Nee moved from Disney to Netflix, she was looking for projects. "I had a concept for *Spirit Rangers*," Valencia says. "I wanted to pitch it around, but I didn't know who to share it with, because it meant so much to me. I knew I'd be a new showrunner so they'd have to pair me with somebody." Since working with someone she knew and trusted was important, she pitched her idea to Nee, who bought it the next day.

The pair worked together on the pilot for a year; a formal pitch to Netflix resulted in the network buying the series. "They bought 40 episodes for season one," she says.

When describing the show, her excitement is infectious.

"We're following a modern Native American family who lives in a magical national park. Every episode has an occurrence in the park that doubles as a problem in what we call Spirit Park," she explains. "The kids are Spirit Rangers, who are land protectors, water protectors, animal protectors, who look out for the park. When the kids transform, so does the park." For example, if someone looks into the sky and sees a thunderstorm, a Spirit Ranger would look up and see thunderbirds flying by, which is the reason for the storm.

"There's a transformation sequence in every single episode," she says. "And every episode has an original song. Those are really fun because we all know how kids love music. Look at *Moana* and *Frozen*."

Valencia is rightfully proud to be calling the shots for the show. "I'm the captain of this ship of 400 people who are all seeking to make my vision come true," she says. "And it was really important to me to have an all-native writing room. My writing staff are all indigenous, from different tribes all over the country."

In the end, *Spirit Rangers* is a show that seems made for this particular moment. "Seeing the direction that the world is moving in as far as more support for Black and brown folks fueled my team. The show is really important and matters. It deserves to be on TV." 🦋

CLASS NOTES



ZACHARY BARRON

[moral code]

DOING THE RIGHT THING

San Diego Ethics Commission head is all about accountability

by *Julene Snyder*

Sharon Spivak is a serious person, concerned with critical issues and thorny conundrums. This makes it all the more delightful when she

mentions an unexpected early chapter of her career.

As a teenager, she was an on-air host for a show on early cable TV in the '70s at Beverly

Hills High School in Los Angeles.

"The show was called *Warm Hearts and Cold Noses*. I would interview someone from the SPCA, put an animal on my lap and talk

about how they were available for adoption. No one knew — because I hid it very well — that I had raging allergies to cats and most dogs. But I got through it," she says, with a rueful laugh.

"I was very, very lucky to have the ability to create TV programming as a student in high school. I was also editor for the school newspaper, both of which informed my decision to go into the media, which I assumed would be my life's pursuit," Spivak says.

While the path that led Spivak '95 (JD) to her current role as executive director of the San Diego Ethics Commission has had some twists and turns, the throughline is a lifelong dedication to doing the right thing.

After earning her undergraduate degree in journalism from Northwestern University, she worked as a reporter for more than a decade.

After an internship in Washington, D.C., she moved to San Diego and worked for several newspapers before becoming a local, state and national political reporter for *The San Diego Union-Tribune*. "I went on the road in 1987 and 1988 to cover the presidential campaign, which was a wonderful life experience." Since it was an open election, there were many candidates to cover.

"It took me all over the country, but, of course, we didn't have the budget of the big newspapers." While other journalists traveled by plane — often alongside the candidates — Spivak was racing from town to town playing catch-up. "It was me in a rental car, in the middle of some state looking at a map — this was before the Internet existed — trying to call stories in to the newsroom — this was before cell phones — and now I sound as old as I am."

Spivak decided to go to law school while continuing her day job for one reason, and one reason only: to become a better journalist. "The skill set of a lawyer is similar to a reporter," Spivak notes. "I wanted that legal education to help me in my work."

Her motivation to choose the University of San Diego's School of Law was simple: "USD gave me the opportunity to go to law school without leaving my career," she says. But it wasn't easy. Four days a week, she'd work all day, then go to class

from 5:30 to 8:45 p.m. Every weekend was spent reading and studying.

"I'm very grateful to USD," Spivak says. "I had the opportunity to go to law school and to explore what it might mean for me. Absent the right program, I might not have done it. It's a big risk to leave a career that you've been in for a long time, especially when it's one you derive great meaning from."

Although she'd fully expected to spend her entire working life as a journalist, those feelings changed. "As I got deeper and deeper into my education at USD, I realized that law was something I actually wanted to pursue." And the timing turned out to be perfect.

"Things were about to change in journalism. The industry started shrinking," she recalls. She went to work for Gray Cary Ware & Freidenrich (now DLA Piper) — which she describes as "the big litigation firm in town" — and recalls it as a "terrific place to be well-trained as a litigator." But before too long, she became a mother, which caused her to reassess best steps for her career.

"I needed to find a way to practice law and have time to spend with my daughter," she says. She subsequently joined the city attorney's office as a deputy city attorney and ultimately became the city's elections attorney, focusing on city elections and ethics law. "Those were 15 good years," she says. "I had many departments as clients, one of which was the Ethics Commission, so I was already familiar with this office."

When the job of executive director became available, competition was fierce. Ultimately, Spivak was chosen from among 500 applicants after a nationwide search.

The Ethics Commission's mission is straightforward:

"To preserve public confidence in City government through education, advice and the prompt and fair enforcement of local governmental ethics laws."

"This is a dream job for me," says Spivak, who's been in the role since late 2020. "It marries all my careers. We do investigative work, we do teaching and advisory work, we do a lot of writing in this job. All of the things that I used to do are helpful."

Spivak calls her office "small but mighty," and is deliberate in detailing what her role entails.

"We're a very small part of a larger political process, but our role is critical. We give the best advice we can, often on a very quick turnaround. We are not lawyers for the people who call us. We are attorneys and we give them the best advice we can, so they can make their best possible decisions to navigate what can be a very nuanced, complicated process. We have to remain neutral at all times," she says.

"I never forget this is public service. We want to be accessible and give those we instruct the tools they need to understand what the laws are. It's really about preserving public confidence." That said, she hastens to add, "We are not the morality police. My main goal is to make a very good agency even better."

Asked what she'd share with those thinking about going back to school as a working professional, she's quick to answer.

"There was a time when law firms didn't fully appreciate the merits of the night program," she recalls. "But I loved the level of conversation among all the working professionals I went to night school with. We all brought something from our respective careers. If you're committed, you should think about it. My law degree gave me opportunities I never would have imagined." 🌟

1950s

[1958]

PATRICIA MORTELL relayed the sad news that her husband, Michael, passed away on Jan. 16, 2022.

1960s

[1961]

MARY DUGAN (BA) writes, "I retired from grant writing last August. Now I have more time for my partner, Robert Mentken, who is 88, and exercising, maintaining as much health as possible, given scoliosis. My granddaughter and her husband are taking on positions at Duke University's medical school; he is a fellow in palliative care and she is a fourth-year surgical resident and researcher in oncology. Loved seeing classmates on Zoom, celebrating our 60th anniversary! Any chance of doing that periodically?"

[1966]

VERN SCHOOLEY (JD) writes, "I was privileged to be invited to the Supreme Court of the U.S. for a formal dinner in the Great Hall with 100 other legal leaders from around the United States. No matter how many times you have been, it is always a thrill to enter the Supreme Court Room and realize that is where the law is handed down." Vern is past president of the Long Beach Bar Association, founding president of both the Ball/Hunt/Schooley Inn of Court and the Judge Paul R. Michel IP Inn and trustee of the AIC. He continues living in Long Beach, California, with his wife, the former Tricia Reschke, who was named Miss Australia in 1962. He enjoys tennis four times per week, and only recently gave up snow skiing.

[1969]

JACKSON MUECKE (BA) and his wife of 43 years, Christine '76 (MEd), enjoy their retirement in San Diego shepherding four grandchildren and watching in awe the service careers of their three daughters: Alexis is a neonatal charge nurse at Mary Birch; Meredith is a San Diego City firefighter/paramedic and Lauren is a mental health counselor working at the Mobile Critical Response Team. They add, "Our son Josh, who spent nine years in professional baseball with the Astros and the Colorado Rockies, is now in sales in Arizona."

After 10 years in administration at USD, Jackson spent 23 years with Merrill Lynch in La Jolla as a financial advisor. Christine taught at-risk children and their parents for 36 years at San Diego Unified and served as a lecturer at San Diego State University in child and family development. Jackson continues to stay involved in all aspects of USD athletics, and adds, “Never a dull moment!”

1970s

[1973]
DEBBIE BURKE (BA) recently released her seventh thriller, *Until Proven Guilty*. The sixth book in her series, *Flight to Forever*, was a finalist for the Eric Hoffer Book Award. She and her husband, Tom, celebrated their 50th anniversary in 2022.

[1976]
JOSE RAZO (JD) was reappointed to the California Workers’ Compensation Appeals Board, where he has served since 2015.

1980s

[1980]
RANDALL FONG (MED) writes, “After 30 years in Catholic education in Hawaii, I retired in May 2022. For the past 23 years, I’ve worked as college counselor/senior division counselor at Sacred Hearts Academy and spent seven years as admissions director at Damien Memorial School. Been blessed to make an impact at these two institutions. It has been a great journey with many wonderful memories. I’m also helping with children’s ministry at two churches.”

MARTIN MATES (BBA) reports that he landed his first job through USD’s Career Placement office. “40 years with Reliance Electric/ABB, then began working at Weir Minerals last year,” he says.

[1982] 📖
WILLIAM GOREN (JD) writes, “I’ve been in Atlanta since 2012. My daughter is off to Drake University in the fall of 2022. My law and consulting practices — which focus on understanding the ADA, so that the client understands how to comply with that law and related laws — continues to grow.”

[1985]
LAURA (PALAZZI) REYES (BA), ’88 (MED) is enjoying her teaching career and was named one of five San Diego County Teachers of the Year for 2021-22. She and her husband are the proud parents of five children and have three grandchildren.

[1988]
REID BUTLER (BBA) received his doctorate in IT management in early 2020. He currently works for Jabil as a program manager while volunteering as an adjunct faculty in the master’s program for a global university focused on low income and underprivileged students.

[1989]
KATHERINE RAND (BA) provided this update: “I earned a Master of Science in Curriculum and Instruction from Western Governors University. I’m in my 29th year of teaching in Southern California, where I teach eighth-grade U.S. History, and AP Government and Politics to 12th graders and serve as an induction coach for new teachers.”

JOHN DELLA VOLPE (BA) has published a new book, titled *Fight: How Gen Z Is Channeling Their Fear and Passion to Save America*.

1990s

[1991]
R. LYNN HOWARD (JD) is the chief deputy district attorney for Lincoln County, Oregon. She was recently named the National Association of Prosecutor Coordinators Highway Safety Prosecutor of the Year for 2022, which was awarded in July 2022.

[1992] 📖
WENDY HIMES (BA) received her Master of Arts degree in curriculum and instruction from the University of Colorado, Denver, which she completed in August 2021. “I teach high school English and college prep classes at Colorado Early Colleges Parker, an accelerated early college/charter high school,” she adds.

[1993]
CHRISTOPHER TENORIO (LLM) writes, “I was appointed by President Biden in April 2021 as a deputy assistant attorney general in the Civil Division of the U.S.

Department of Justice.” He oversees the department’s Office of Immigration Litigation.

[1994]
TIMOTHY EARL (JD) was selected as a 2022 Super Lawyer in the area of insurance coverage. He works for Sullivan Hill Rez & Engel in San Diego and is chair of the firm’s construction and insurance practice group. An experienced litigation attorney, he practices primarily in the areas of construction litigation, insurance coverage and business litigation. His insurance coverage practice involves representation of policyholders and insurance companies in a variety of insurance coverage disputes primarily involving property damage or bodily injury arising out of construction defect and asbestos claims.

JENNIFER SCHELTER (MFA) is working as a meditation and writing coach in Philadelphia. She writes, “From Feb. 11-18, 2023, I’m leading a mindful retreat to Quimixto, Mexico, at the stunning Xinalani Resort. Those interested in R&R, spiritual inspiration and new life horizons should check it out on my website, www.jenniferschelter.com.”

DANIEL SULLIVAN (BBA) is launching his own brand of wine, Makasi: Wines of Gratitude, which specializes in pinot noir and chardonnay. Find it online at Makasi-wine.com. He adds, “Anxious to get back on the mountain. Come ski and drink with me!”

[1997] 🏠
JONATHAN ASCH (JD) recently joined Compass, a San Diego County luxury real estate firm. He notes that he has served the Torero community as a residential, investment and multifamily broker since 2003.

JENNIFER (BAILEY) BOWHEY (BA) reports that her business, Visiting Angels NNMP, was voted best home care agency in Eastern Virginia by the readers of *Virginia Living* magazine.

[1998]
TAMARA (GRAFF) CORDOVA (JD) was appointed by Nevada Gov. Steve Sisolak to a four-year term on the Nevada Public Utilities Commission in June of 2020.

[1999]
CRISTINA SHOUKRY (BSN), ’01

(MSN) writes, “I am dedicated to using everything I learned at USD’s School of Nursing, which was an amazing footstep to a lifetime mission to serve with knowledge, dedication and compassion. Thank you!”

2000s

[2000]
KELLY (KAISER) EDWARDS (BA) was inducted into the Santa Cruz High School Athletic Hall of Fame in October 2021. Edwards, a three-sport athlete at SCHS, excelled in volleyball, basketball and softball, and continues to stay active today. She reports that she married Harvey Edwards in 2010 and the couple has twin daughters, age 8. Kelly and Harvey reside in Salem, New Hampshire, and enjoy coaching their girls in basketball at the Boys and Girls Club.

[2003]
JENNI MASSMAN (BBA) writes, “We just moved our little family from Sparks, Nevada to Edmond, Oklahoma. It’s an exciting new adventure!”

AMANDA SWEENEY (BBA) reports that she and her husband, Jason ’02 (MBA) ’02 (JD), welcomed their fourth daughter in 2021 and opened a startup apiary on their new 110-acre farm, Edgewood Apiaries and Farm, in Bremono Bluff, Virginia. Jason continues to build his law practice, serving top 100 global business firms. “There’s nothing like keeping busy!” Amanda adds.

[2004]
CHARLENE (NAFT) GREEN (MA) reports, “I just moved to the national organization of the regional nonprofit I was working for. Working on a Jewish leadership program for 20- to 24-year-olds.”

[2005]
CRAIG HENRICKSEN (MBA) writes, “I’m the founding member of a year-old startup in the Bay Area, which is still in stealth mode. We are looking to bring to market new air sanitation technology to dramatically improve the safety and quality of indoor air. I’m serving as chief marketing officer, and recently led the team on a complete rebranding of the company and our first product. I’m looking forward to introducing the company to the world in the coming months.”



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[security]

GOD, FAMILY AND COUNTRY

Lt. General has served at the tip of the spear

by Kelsey Gray '15 (BA)

When Lt. General Roger L. Cloutier '87 (BA) stood on the flight deck of the USS Midway and looked out at a group of San Diego State University Army ROTC cadets. They were being commissioned as Second Lieutenants in the U.S. Army and would soon begin a journey that Cloutier himself set out on more than three decades ago.

"Less than three-tenths of one percent wear the uniform," says Cloutier. "The young men and women who join the

Army today are as patriotic and motivated as I've ever seen."

At the age of 57, Cloutier currently serves as commander of Allied Land Command, which ensures that NATO land forces remain prepared and operable to maintain the freedom and security of the alliance. He's responsible for a half million soldiers from dozens of NATO and partner nations. His years of experience prepared him for the leadership role. "I never thought I'd be where I was today when I first came to the University of San

Diego," says Cloutier. "Between my family, my faith and the U.S. Army, I've grown tremendously."

His father served in the Air Force, which caused the family to move frequently. But in 1980, Cloutier's dad was transferred to Naval Air Station North Island in Coronado to do joint duty with the Navy. The move placed Cloutier at Hilltop High School in Chula Vista; he was subsequently recruited as a running back to USD by then-football coach Brian Fogarty.

"The interaction between

Fogarty and I was really good," he recalls. "Also, I was raised in the Catholic Church, so I thought going to a Catholic university would be great for me."

He quickly discovered that his passion lay in political science. "Trying to understand the international system and how the U.S. fits into that drew me in [that] direction."

Cloutier had a friend on the football team who also happened to be a part of the SDSU Army ROTC. "One day, my buddy was walking by in his uniform, and

I thought he looked cool, and I said, 'Hey, what's that all about?' He said, 'You should come to check it out.' That was the start of Cloutier's lifelong career. After checking out the program, he immediately signed up. "I fell in love with it because it was exactly like being on a football team.

The Army is a family. Everybody pulls together to work toward a common objective."

Army ROTC is where Cloutier first met his wife, Diane, who was also a cadet in the program. He spotted her across a field at a training event and knew she was the one. "For me, it was [love at first sight], maybe not necessarily for her," he jokes.

In 1988, he left for Fort Benning, Georgia, for infantry officer basic training. Shortly after, he was sent to airborne school, where soldiers learn how to jump out of airplanes and master parachute operations. He then attended Ranger School, one of the toughest training courses a soldier can volunteer for. Soldiers are taught small unit tactics under stressful conditions to practice pushing the limits of their minds and bodies.

Upon graduating, Cloutier moved back to San Diego and married Diane. The newlyweds then moved to their first duty station in Fort Ord in Monterey, California. "I often say, behind every good soldier is a great family. Without my wife's love and support, I wouldn't be where I am today," he reflects.

In 1989, he received his first orders to deploy in support of Operation Just Cause. The Army spearheaded an attack on the Panamanian Defense Forces of then-dictator Manuel Noriega. Though the Army was successful in its mission, it wasn't without loss. One of the soldiers in Cloutier's unit was killed during the operation.

"I've never forgotten his name.

It was Douglas J. Duff and he was from Elgin, Nebraska. He was 20 years old," says Cloutier. "I've never forgotten his service or sacrifice. From that day forward, the need to make sure our soldiers are trained and prepared is something that's been seared into my heart."

Cloutier did multiple tours in Iraq throughout the U.S. involvement in the region. Those years were particularly tough on soldiers and their families. "We were doing back-to-back deployments, but the men and women who deployed to Iraq did amazing things under difficult circumstances."

In 2015, the chief of staff of the Army asked Cloutier to command Fort Jackson in South Carolina. He accepted and oversaw Basic Combat Training for close to 70,000 soldiers each year. "It was an opportunity to take all my experiences and lessons I learned over my years of service and inculcate that into thousands of soldiers."

Three years later, Cloutier assumed command of the U.S. Army Africa/Southern European Task Force in Vicenza, Italy. "My area of responsibility encompassed 53 out of 54 countries on the African continent. More than 1.3 billion people are living on the continent, which means there are a lot of challenges: conflict, desertification, food insecurity and more."

Cloutier's job was to focus on the security of the military forces that were working and operating on the continent and help them build the capacity so that in time they could help improve people's lives. That humanitarian aspect is something he'd like to continue as he begins to think about what life will look like after leaving the Army.

"I want to continue a life of service and I want to do something that at the end of the day, I can say I made a difference and did something that mattered." 🇺🇸

JEROMY WHITE (BBA) reports that he is "running a growing employee benefits and human resources consulting firm. Raising three kids, ages 8, 6 and 4."

[2007] 🎓

KRISTIN DONAHUE (MA), who earned her degree in marriage and family therapy, runs a private practice in La Mesa, California. "My specialization is in treating individuals who suffer from symptoms of trauma," she writes. "My genuine passion is working with military service members and their families, as well as law enforcement and first-responder populations."

[2008]

JACKIE MOLA (LLM) writes, "Hi, Class of 2008! Great class! I miss all my LLM classmates from all over the world. Shout out to our great professors, especially my family law professor Houghton, who worked so hard with my class to make sure that our family papers were published!"

[2009]

JACQUELINE P. CHE (BA), '11 (MA) is among the 35 emerging leaders selected to join the Obama Foundation Leaders Asia-Pacific program, which trains participants in leadership development and community and civic engagement to help build their skills and scale their work across public, private and nonprofit sectors. She is the director of internal control and evaluation for federal programs at the CNMI public school system in Saipan and is also the founder of Full Belly, Full Hearts, a volunteer-led initiative that provides free hot meals and family grocery bag distribution from partnering wholesale distributors, referrals to social services, job search and placement assistance and translation services for unemployed and underemployed individuals who seek it. The Obama Foundation Leaders program is designed to further inspire, empower, and connect emerging leaders from Africa, Asia-Pacific and Europe to change their respective communities and the world. To learn more, visit obama.org/leaders.

2010s

[2010]

CONRAD SMITH (BBA), '15 (MS) recently joined Shield AI as director of supply chain

operations after nearly 13 years with Northrop Grumman.

[2011]

MONICA ODDO (BA), '19 (MSN) reports that she married Sean Cullina '10 (BBA) in April of 2022.

KURT WHITMAN (JD) has joined the law firm of Mitchell Chadwick in Roseville, California, as counsel, continuing his practice in the areas of land use, environmental and real property law.

[2012] 🎓

CHEYENNE MCCARTHY (BA) writes that she "proudly opened her own chiropractic office in Fallbrook, California, this year. She provides comprehensive chiropractic care for the community, specializing in veterans, pregnant patients and you! She welcomes all Toreros: receive \$20 off your initial visit when you mention this *USD Magazine* blurb. Be well at McCarthyChiropracticInc.com."

MICHAEL ZARCONI (JD) has been selected to the Rising Stars list in the area of construction litigation. As a member of the Sullivan Hill Rez & Engel litigation, construction and insurance practice groups, he has a wide range of experience as a general civil litigator including commercial and business litigation, construction disputes, insurance coverage, anti-SLAPP litigation and labor and employment law matters. His construction practice focuses on large scale construction performance disputes for general contractors, subcontractors, developers and engineers.

[2013]

JESSICA HANSON YORK (MA) began a new role as executive director of San Diego's Mingei International Museum in July 2022. She took over as the museum is riding the wave of a successful transformational renovation project and played a key role in the fundraising and oversight of a recent capital project, which raised more than \$47 million. She joined the museum in 2011 after serving as director of external affairs and marketing at The New Children's Museum in downtown San Diego. While there, she oversaw the creation of the brand and managed the grand opening in 2010. She currently serves as an adjunct professor at USD's School of Leadership and Education Sciences. (See story on page 6.)



LAURA CHRISTIN

MEGAN BRABSON '11 (BA) writes, “I am so excited to share that I recently joined my husband, Rex Brabson '14 (JD), as his new director of operations to help build our law firm, T-Rex Law, P.C.! We focus on intellectual property law for clients nationwide. Rex asked me back in 2007 — when we were both undergrads — if I would be his girlfriend, coincidentally in front of USD School of Law. I don't think at that time either one of us would have dreamed 15 years later we would be running a law firm together, but it has all come full circle. We got married at Founders Chapel back in 2015, and in 2019 added a new member to our family, our son Max. We recently hired a law clerk who attends the law school, and plan to hire another Torero attorney to join our team in the next few months. USD will forever hold a very special place in our hearts!”

[2015]

LAUREN KLEIN (BA) is working for Teach for America in New Orleans, Louisiana.

[2016]

LAUREN FREIDENBERG (JD) has practiced civil rights litigation in California, most recently in Los Angeles, for the past five years. “I’ve recently returned to my hometown of Seattle, Washington,” she writes. “I’m currently employed with a civil rights litigation firm, MacDonald Hoague & Bayless. I’m so proud to see USD School of Law’s ranking at No. 64!”

EVAN WAHL (BBA), '16 (MS) is working for Catalent Pharma Solutions as the director of project management and site strategy. A global company, Catalent is comprised of 50 sites and 18,000 employees.

[2017] 🏠

ZAC DWECK (BA) writes that he was “recently promoted to estates director for the Eklund | Gomes Team in Orange County and leading expansion into the Las Vegas market.”

[2018]

JENNIFER GIVENS (BA) earned her master’s degree in human resource management at National University and received a commission from the U.S. Navy Reserve as a direct commission HR officer.

BRITTANY PHILLIPS HUNT

(BA) received her masters in counseling with honors distinction specializing in marriage and family therapy and practitioner of clinical counseling from National University. “I’m now a registered associate therapist with dual licensure — AMFT and APCC — in California and am working to become a fully licensed therapist. I specialize in military, LGBTQIA+, substance use and trauma populations. Thank you, USD, for fostering my love for psychology and for the amazing professors who pushed me to continue my education!”

[2019]

AMANDA NELSON (MA) is the full-time director of marketing and communications for San Diego Pride.

valedictorian for USD’s College of Arts and Sciences in 2020, was accepted to Yale Law School, which is considered the No. 1 law school in the U.S.

[2021]

NATHAN AGGARWAL (BA) provided this update: “Since I’ve graduated, I’ve become an EMT in San Diego and am applying to Master of Nursing programs.”

CHRISTINA (KOVACH) CORPUS (MS)

was elected sheriff in San Mateo County in June 2022, making her one of the first two Latina sheriffs in the state of California. She earned her master’s degree from USD’s Law Enforcement and Public Safety Leadership program.

MARVIN HEINZE (MSEL) was recently honored by the San Diego-Imperial Council of the Boy Scouts of America as a 2021 National Eagle Scout Association Outstanding Eagle Scout. Currently a city councilmember in Coronado, Heinze was recognized as a notable Eagle Scout who, through service to his country and community, has inspired others. A career Navy special operations officer who led explosive ordnance disposal forces, a senior government official in port and harbor security and a dedicated community volunteer, Marvin consistently lives the Scout oath.

MARJON SAULON (MA) writes, “I was fortunate to be appointed by Gov. Newsom in February to be his Northern California regional coordinator of external affairs!”

[2022]

JENNIFER KELLY (MEd) writes, “I’ve been job hopping a bit the last several years. I’ve just been hired to be a teacher at the United Nations International School that offers an excellent salary. It’s a one-year appointment with a good chance of being hired longer.”

TEODOR ZELENSKY (BA)

starts his master’s in family therapy program at California State University, Northridge, in the fall of 2022.

2020s

[2020]

NIKTA SHAHBAZ (BA), who was

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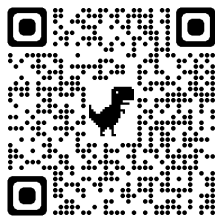
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October 14
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October 15
Homecoming and Family Week
Football Game
USD v. Presbyterian

USDToreros.com



December 3 and 4
Lessons and Carols

sandiego.edu/cctc



December 10
Alumni Christmas Mass

alumni.sandiego.edu



December 11
Candlelight Mass

sandiego.edu/ministry



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