

360



PORTRAITS OF COURAGE

360

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**SAN DIEGO STATE
UNIVERSITY**

Leadership Starts Here

FROM THE PRESIDENT



Photo: Lauren Radack

Here at San Diego State we live the ethos “Leadership Starts Here” and seek to develop the next generation of leaders. Our students are the leaders who will tackle the challenges facing our broader society—from the environmental effects of global warming to the political and social divisions that divide us, among many others.

Through our Jeffrey W. Glazer Center for Leadership and Service, we offer our students a leadership minor, a leadership certificate, an annual SDSU Leadership Summit and many other opportunities for leadership development and training.

One of the essential attributes of leadership is courage. Courage is often defined as the ability to face challenges without fear. It is a special attribute that allows us to maintain our course when unexpected challenges arise and to sustain our values even when others attack them. It is the ability not to eliminate fear but to put it aside and move forward, so we can serve a higher, more enduring purpose.

This issue of 360 presents stories of courage. SDSU alumnus Joe Kiani, a medical device entrepreneur, is leading a critical effort to eliminate preventable deaths in hospitals. Also in the health field, public health professor Heather Corliss is working to reduce health disparities and to ensure equal access to health care.

This issue also introduces you to Student Veteran Organization president Jonathan Reiland—deployed twice as a Marine and finding new satisfaction in working toward a greater purpose—and alumni Jennifer Stafford and Sam Hodgson, who overcame challenges to succeed academically and professionally.

I hope you enjoy this edition of 360: *The Magazine of San Diego State University* and that these stories of courage inspire each and every member of our community.

Elliot Hirshman

FEATURES

10



18



24



360

PORTRAITS OF COURAGE

The hearts of the courageous are forged in the obstacles they overcome, refusing to lose sight of what's right and what's just. This issue of 360 features stories of four courageous Aztecs who fight to make the world a better place for themselves, their families and their communities.

10 THIS IS PERSONAL

12 NO MORE ERRORS

14 A GENETIC RESILIENCE

16 A SEPARATE PEACE

18 Shooting Stars

Sam Hodgson, ('06), is documenting the 2016 presidential campaign for the New York Times.

DEPARTMENTS

4 COMPASS

News from campus

8 HORIZONS

The First Californians

22 AZTECS IN MOTION

Advantage Aztecs

24 GIVING BACK

Ellen's Fingerprints

26 ALUMNI ANGLES

Class Notes, In Memoriam

30 COMMON CHORDS

Traces of the First Campus

Compass



◀ Back to its roots

In 1968, a 35-foot California sycamore tree, donated by Alvarado Medical Center, was placed by crane into the lower level courtyard of Aztec Center, the first student union in the California State University system. There, in the heart of the San Diego State University campus, it provided shade, comfort and a meeting space for students, faculty and staff.

But student needs evolve, and campuses change to accommodate them. Plans to construct a larger student union on the site of Aztec Center meant finding a new home for the tree, which was not healthy enough to be moved and replanted. Instead, Associated Students (A.S.) decided to salvage wood from the tree and commissioned artist Aida Valencia to create a mosaic for A.S. Council Chambers in the new Conrad Prebys Aztec Student Union.

"This university really prides itself on legacy," said Vanessa Girard, operations chair for the student union board. "Taking something from the old Aztec Center and having it come to fruition in this beautiful new building carries on a tradition."

Elephant whisperer

Biology major Tori Parker has been an advocate for animal rights "for as long as I can remember." She spent part of the summer at the Elephant Nature Park, a rescue and rehabilitation center in northern Thailand for elephants who've been injured, mistreated or displaced by logging operations.

As a volunteer, Parker fed, bathed and cared for the rescued elephants. She developed a special bond with Yay Bua, a 70-year-old resident of the park. Parker's trip was also about learning to understand a different culture and exploring career options. "Now I know that I want to be a person who can help the voiceless," she said.



Sign of the times

For decades, linguists, psychologists and neuroscientists have explored how our brains shape the fundamental syntactic building blocks common to all languages. In these studies, sign languages have been underexplored, according to San Diego State University neuropsychologist Karen Emmorey.

“Only by studying sign languages is it possible to discover which linguistic rules and constraints are universal to all human languages,” she said.

A \$280,000 grant from the National Science Foundation will allow Emmorey and her colleagues to delve into the intricacies of sign language, breaking down signs into their basic phonological features, then creating a searchable public database for more than 2,500 signs. The project, ASL-LEX, will allow scientists to uncover never-before-seen linguistic connections.

Meteoric rise

San Diego State University has moved up 37 spots in just five years in *U.S. News and World Report's* rankings of America's Best Colleges. New rankings released in September put SDSU at No. 146 among universities nationwide and at No. 74 among public universities. *U.S. News & World Report* also named SDSU a top 20 national university for students graduating with the least amount of debt.

This year for the first time, SDSU achieved another significant recognition, making the *Princeton Review's* cut of best institutions for undergraduate education.

These listings are based on surveys of 143,000 students attending 2,500 four-year colleges across the country. Students rated everything from their financial aid to on-campus food, and only about 15 percent of America's four-year colleges made the cut.

Barnacle buildup

The coating of barnacles and other growth along the bottoms of boats is more than just an eyesore. Biofouling, as it is known, slows down ships and impedes the readiness of emergency response and military vessels. It's an economic issue.

A new study by San Diego State biologist Nick Shikuma identifies key developmental steps these waterborne organisms must take to metamorphose from their larval to adult state. Understanding the process could lead to new technologies to prevent the organisms from attaching to ships in the first place.

On a broader scale, Shikuma's findings elucidate the complex, intricate and largely understudied interactions between animals and bacteria. There are likely many other developmental processes and health effects influenced by these interactions—in humans as well as other animals—that have yet to be discovered.

“Tubeworms serve as a model organism to understand how bacteria can orchestrate the dramatic development of animals,” Shikuma said. “It's largely unknown how the interaction between bacteria and animals leads to normal development, health and wellbeing.”

A new class of heroes

Twenty years ago in November, San Diego State University dedicated the campus War Memorial to honor veteran alumni who have died in service during the nation's military conflicts. Four more names will be added this year to the 235 already etched into the face of the granite obelisk.

Capt. Michael Jack Crawford ('64) received the Distinguished Service Medal after serving as an Air Force navigator during two tours of duty in Vietnam. He was killed in 1970 during a training flight.

First Lt. William Davis ('03) was awarded the Air Force Achievement Medal for outstanding achievement in the SDSU ROTC program. He died in an air crash while training in 2006 during Operation Enduring Freedom.

U.S. Navy Lt. Christian John Hescok was a student in the College of Extended Studies. He died in 2007 piloting a helicopter in a training flight during Operation Enduring Freedom.

U.S. Marine Corps Capt. Jason James Paynter ('01) served four tours in Iraq and Afghanistan during his more than 20 years in the military. A flight instructor based at Naval Air Station Pensacola, he was killed in 2010 on a training mission during Operation Enduring Freedom.



The First Californians. Todd Braje and Jillian Maloney are searching for signs of a civilization lost to the tides.

By Michael Price

Twenty thousand years ago, the west coast of the North American continent looked very different than it does today. During a geological period known as the Last Glacial Maximum (LGM), temperatures were cooler and sea levels were about 120 meters lower, exposing thousands of miles of coastline that today are underwater. Anthropologists also know that around this time humans first migrated down the Pacific coast.

Any traces these first Californians left behind now lay several miles offshore, concealed by the ocean and layer upon layer of sediment that has built up over time. Using a combination of state-of-the-art sonar equipment and well-honed archaeological intuition, a team of researchers led by San Diego State University archaeologist Todd Braje and geoscientist Jillian Maloney is searching for the long-lost dwelling places of these early settlers.

"We don't really know anything about these early migrants between 20,000 and 13,000 years ago," Braje said, "other than that they were probably coastal, maritime foragers."

WHAT LIES BENEATH

Nothing as permanent as buried ruins remains. Instead, the researchers are looking for resource-rich submerged landforms. “We’re looking for where a river may have cut across the land, or for an estuary, or an ancient cliff,” Maloney said.

Other tantalizing geological formations would be places where tar seeps from the ground, as tar is useful for sealing boats, Braje added. “We’re interested in environments that would have been attractive to early human settlers.”

Additionally, the researchers are consulting with Native Americans from the Chumash tribe. These early settlements are part of their cultural heritage, he said, and their insights and oral histories can help guide the archaeology.

Earlier this year, Braje and Maloney, along with colleagues from the University of California, Santa Barbara, Oregon State University, the University of Oregon, the Scripps Institution of Oceanography and a handful of federal agencies embarked on a pair of research cruises to the Channel Islands of California. During the LGM, these islands were much larger and their shorelines would have been closer to one another and to the mainland—but nobody knows what they looked like back then.

“We know more about the surface of the moon than we do about submerged landforms right off our coasts,” Braje said.

BELOW THE SURFACE

Amidst a sea of enormous (though harmless) basking sharks and giant tuna, the research team deployed two pieces of sonar equipment designed to provide a peek at the landforms at the bottom of the ocean. A big yellow submersible profiled the surface below the seafloor while a long, narrow tube analyzed those surfaces for texture, roughness and character.

The result was a map of the ancient coastline that slowly unfolded in real-time before the researchers’ eyes. “The map comes creeping across the screen like a waterfall and you’re just on the edge of your seat,” Maloney said. “It’s exciting.”

During the first cruise aboard the R/V Shearwater, the researchers were taking broad measurements, not sure what they would find. Armed with these preliminary maps, their second cruise on the R/V Point Loma focused more heavily on promising geological features like underwater valleys and channels.

“We’re seeing a lot of really cool geology and submerged landforms that could have been really important to the early people who would have been living on the island,” Maloney said.

TREASURE HUNTERS

The most exciting finds are what she refers to as anomalies along the edges of some underwater channels. These might be—heavy emphasis on “might”—ancient garbage piles known as middens. Such middens are considered the holy grail for archaeologists, as they could contain well-preserved animal bones, human excrement, tool shards, and any number of important paleontological clues.

“If these are indeed middens, it would be huge, like finding buried treasure,” Maloney says. “We’re like treasure hunters, but for trash piles.”

Next spring, the researchers will return to the islands with coring equipment to take 4-inch-wide, 15-foot-deep core samples of those areas. They’ll confirm whether or not these anomalies are middens and provide samples of the subsurface’s actual geology. Braje will continue small-scale surveys and excavations of the islands’ terrestrial sites, trying to learn more about the types of landforms that would have made good homes for the first Californians.



THIS IS PERSONAL

By Michael Price

There are potholes along the way to making the field of public health more equitable to all. Community invisibility, lack of knowledge, implicit bias and prejudice all perpetuate health inequalities.

These potholes manifest in different ways. They manifest in a community-based organization's attempt to help transgender youth, but inability to understand what these young people say they need.

They manifest in a well-intentioned public health professor who warns young people studying LGBT health issues that it will be difficult for them to have successful careers.

They manifest in a health intervention theater program targeting at-risk youth where graduate students are warned, "Sometimes you get people in your program that you don't want to be there, like for example, promiscuous gay boys who are all hitting on one other."

Heather Corliss, (pictured at right wearing green), has seen these things and more over the course of her training and career as a researcher dedicated to eradicating health disparities in the LGBT community. She and her colleagues at San Diego State University have focused their careers on reducing minority health disparities and

are working to pave a smoother road to better population health. For Corliss, it's a personal experience, too, as she and her wife are raising a young son in a world filled with such potholes.

Corliss grew up in conservative rural Minnesota. She was always acutely aware of gender inequalities and decided early on she wanted to do something to address them. "I've always been motivated to make the world a better place and to make inequalities go away," she said.

"I had forgotten what the rest of the world was like."

She attended the University of Wisconsin-Madison and discovered an environment far more liberal and diverse than the one where she grew up. It was there she found "the space to learn more about myself." She attended a talk by feminist activist Sonia Johnson and felt stirred by the speaker's struggles supporting the Equal Rights Amendment. This was a time of activism for Corliss, who joined the student green party, and

sought to deepen her understanding of social inequalities experienced by different minority groups. It was also in college that she came out to her parents about her sexuality.

After her awakening experiences in Wisconsin, Corliss moved to San Francisco and found a job in HIV research at the University of California, San Francisco, studying the virus's multitude of strains. She enjoyed the work, but wanted to help people in a more holistic way than focusing on a single disease.

"I didn't start out thinking I wanted to study LGBT health, but that's where my path took me," Corliss said. She explained, "Experiences in my public health graduate training led me to believe that this was an area where I could make a positive difference."

She moved from San Francisco to Los Angeles in 1997 and entered a graduate public health program at UCLA. But even moving to relatively progressive L.A. was a culture shock. "I had forgotten what the rest of the world was like."

“This was an area where I could make a positive difference.”

Some of her professors made disparaging comments about gay people. The community-based organizations she studied for a project on transgender youth health prioritized HIV prevention through condom usage. But through interviews with the youth, Corliss came to understand that condoms ranked pretty low on their list of priorities. Many needed basic resources for survival.

For example, they needed stable housing and they needed hormones to be able to align their physical presentation with their gender identity, both critical resources linked to a lower risk of violence.

“That was a transformative experience for me,” Corliss said. “I realized there was a disconnect between health professionals and the needs of the community they were trying to serve. I knew then I was where I wanted to be.”

After earning her M.P.H., she started a Ph.D. program in epidemiology to learn how she could use population trends to spotlight areas of need in

a community, as well as ways to direct resources toward those needs. As she finished her doctorate, two things happened: Corliss met Jennifer Thunstrom, who would become her wife, and she was offered a position as a postdoctoral fellow at Boston Children’s Hospital.

Thunstrom chose to accompany Corliss cross-country. While in Boston, Thunstrom returned to school to finish her bachelor’s

degree and found a passion for anthropology. Corliss finished her postdoctoral fellowship and became an assistant professor at Harvard Medical School. The two lived happily in Boston for eight years.

After Corliss received a prestigious National Institutes of Health Career Development Award that afforded her greater job security, Corliss and Thunstrom felt the time was right to expand their family. Corliss had always wanted to have a child,

and Thunstrom agreed to give it a go.

They chose to work with the Alternative Insemination Program at Fenway Community Health, a health center that specializes in LGBT health. Corliss subsequently became pregnant and their son, Connor, was born in 2010.

The first couple of years of parenthood were challenging in that Connor was born two months early and suffered a series of health complications.

(continued on page 29)



NO MORE ERRORS

By Coleen L. Geraghty

The stories keep Joe Kiani awake at night. Mishandled blood test results that led to a child's death. Symptoms of deadly sepsis overlooked.

They are stories of pain and second-guessing from the families of the more than 200,000 people who die each year due to preventable hospital error.

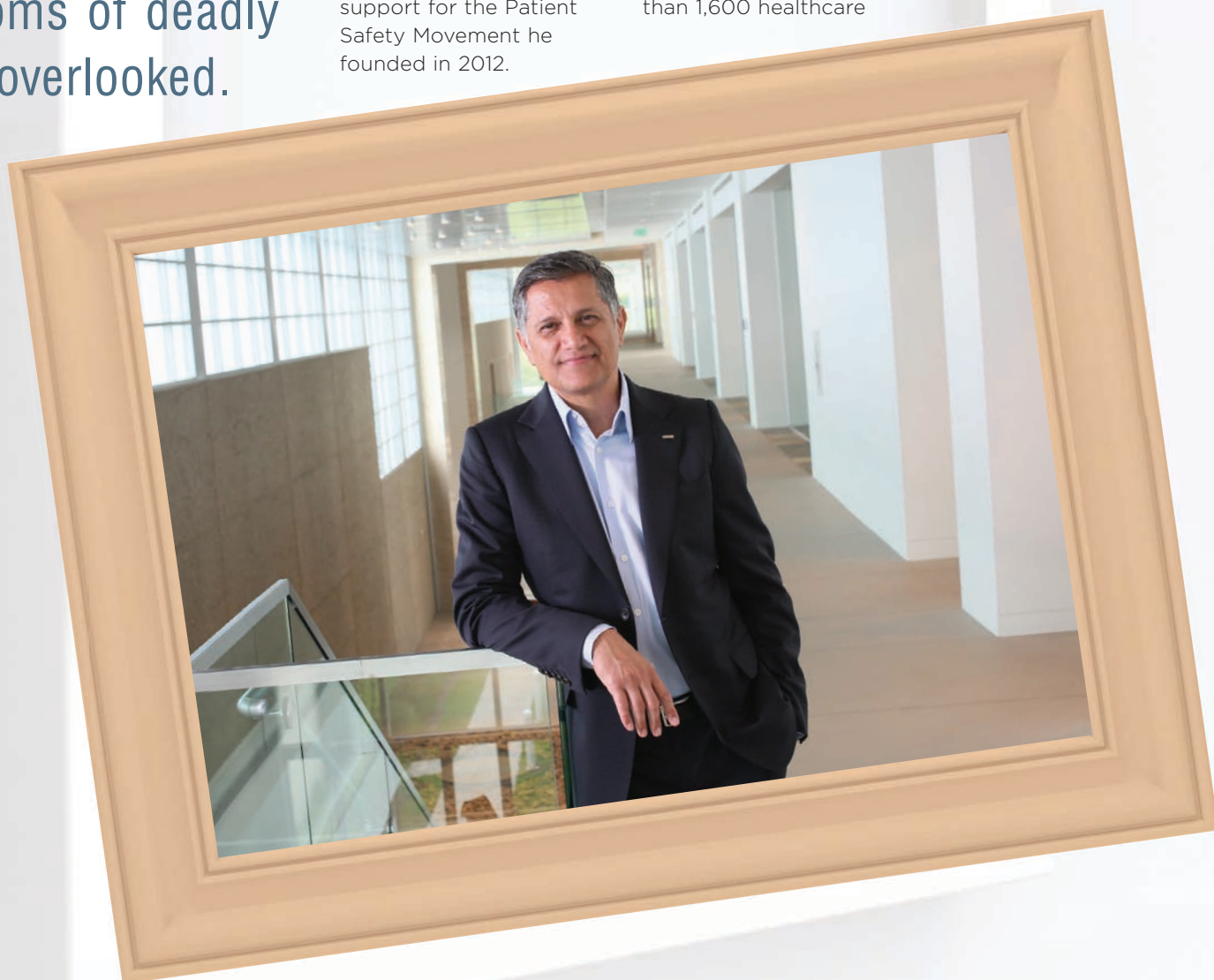
Kiani, ('85, '87), has shared the stories with audiences around the world as he solicits support for the Patient Safety Movement he founded in 2012.

Its ambitious goal is the elimination of preventable hospital deaths—and the more than \$1 trillion spent annually treating medical errors—by the year 2020.

Signatories to the Patient Safety Movement include more than 1,600 healthcare

organizations and 45 healthcare technology companies; legislators, university researchers, global partners from Spain, Germany, and the United Kingdom; and former U.S. President Bill Clinton.

These numbers and names are impressive,



but Kiani won't settle for endorsements alone. At each Patient Safety and Technology Summit—the fifth annual is scheduled for February 2017—he tells attendees to take documentable action within the next 12 months or stay at home the following year.

“It’s difficult to make the right decisions in corporate America.”

“To err is human,” Kiani said, “but to fail to establish processes to fix those errors; that’s inhumane.”

An engineer and entrepreneur, Kiani has walked a tortuous path to the world stage, one obstructed by protracted legal battles, threats from giant U.S. corporations and ethical conundrums.

“It’s difficult to make the right decisions in corporate America, always has been,” he said. “I decided early on that my business ethics had to reflect my personal ethics.”

Kiani is the youngest of three children born to an engineer and a nurse. He enrolled in San Diego State University at age 15, intending to become a doctor, but switched to electrical engineering. Working several jobs and a paid internship, Kiani completed both bachelor’s and master’s

degrees by age 22. Two years later, he launched Masimo, now a publicly traded global medical technology company.

During his early years as an engineer, Kiani, became absorbed by an idea for refining medical monitoring devices to reduce false readings. In the 1980s, these monitoring devices used a rudimentary form of signal processing. Kiani likens it to a standard window screen.

Now imagine a screen whose meshwork could enlarge or contract depending on weather conditions or the presence of insects. That kind of filtering requires a more sophisticated technique known as adaptive signal processing.

Masimo served as Kiani’s platform to build better medical monitoring devices with adaptive signal processing. He succeeded, and in doing so, he and his team of researchers discovered the solution to a problem that had bedeviled the industry for decades.

Their work revolutionized pulse oximetry, a simple test used to measure the oxygen saturation of the blood. Previous pulse oximetry devices measured two parameters of blood saturation, but Masimo’s new device could measure 11 parameters.

Its sensitivity enabled medical professionals to find previously undetectable heart problems in newborns and problems that could lead to blindness or death.

Despite the breakthrough, Masimo was unable to sell its product to major U.S. hospitals. Group purchasing organizations (GPOs) had a lock on that market, and they were paid by dominant medical technology companies to keep newcomers out.

“I suspected I’d be blackballed, but I couldn’t just walk away.”

“There we were, cleared by the Food and Drug Administration, with a product proven to cut down on false readings and proven to save the eyesight of vulnerable infants, but the hospitals couldn’t buy it because they had watertight contracts with the GPOs,” Kiani explained.

One day in 2000, Kiani received a call from Pulitzer Prize-winning journalist Walt Bogdanich. The reporter wanted to write for the New York Times about the monopoly of the GPOs and powerful medical companies—with Kiani as a main character. “I suspected I’d be blackballed if I did it, but I couldn’t just walk away,” Kiani

recalled. “Sometimes the unintended consequences of what you do are more profound than you expect. The story changed my life and opened my eyes to what’s possible if you get engaged. Afterwards, I received grateful phone calls from other companies that had been locked out of the market, too.”

The day Bogdanich’s story ran in March 2002, Kiani was called to testify before the Senate Judiciary Committee. Sitting with him at the Senate hearing, were the CEOs of the two largest GPOs “and they were getting slammed,” he said. Congress has since curbed the purchasing monopoly that plagued the industry.

Today, Kiani is a hero of the medical technology field. He bested 64 other nominees to win the 2015 Person of the Year Award from SafeCare Magazine and became the first non-legislator to receive the Hubert H. Humphrey Dawn of Life Award, which recognizes his “visionary leadership increasing the role of technology and innovation in improving the health of newborns around the world.”

The awards are appreciated, but Kiani’s sleepless nights won’t end until his patient safety movement reaches its goal of zero preventable hospital deaths.

A GENETIC RESILIENCE

By Coleen L. Geraghty

Jennifer Stafford, ('08), remembers camping near Santa Cruz, California, with her large extended family in the years before her father died. A gaggle of cousins would run into the woods and come back speckled with red welts from poison ivy.

Not Stafford. She was too practical and maybe a bit too cautious to trade days of painful itching for a few moments of wild abandon.

This early capacity for self-reflection served Stafford well after the unexpected loss of her father. She had just turned 16, and her life crumbled.

"I didn't want to go back to school," Stafford recalled. "My GPA dropped from a 3.7 to a 2.9. But when I got my first 'D,' I knew my dad would not be happy. So in junior year I gave up my lunch break and took the class again."

With her GPA climbing back upward, Stafford was accepted to San Diego State University. She was one of the first Aztecs chosen for the Gates Millennium Scholars program, which provides tuition support for academically outstanding students of color.

"The scholarship paid for my education, housing, books, everything," Stafford said. "I remember thinking,

'College for free—it's going to be all about fun.' Then I realized I'd have to claim my education."

The years at SDSU emboldened Stafford and prepared her for postgraduate study. With a psychology degree in hand, the girl who had been too cautious to run through the woods was now a woman moving to New York—sight unseen—to attend Columbia University.

"I realized I'd have to claim my education."

Stafford felt prepared, academically, for the challenging dual master's program in psychological counseling. But life outside the classroom could be daunting. Everything was strange—the weather, the pace of life, the public transportation. As she struggled to adjust, another setback occurred. Stafford's sister phoned on Christmas morning with news of their grandfather's death.

"I wanted to give up and go back to California,"

she said, but some stubborn inner self refused to capitulate. Stafford realized that in her future career as a counselor, she would be expected to help people work through the kind of grief and despair she was feeling at that moment. How would she counsel others if she couldn't accept and work through misfortune in her own life?

Reflecting on that time, Stafford credits the resilience inherited from her grandmother for pulling her through. In the late 1950s, Stafford's grandmother returned to school after giving birth to her first child.

Determined to have a career, she learned the skills necessary to teach English to adult immigrants and coach them on how to prepare for clerical jobs. When Stafford's grandfather died, his fiercely independent widow learned to drive again after a 40-year hiatus from behind the wheel.

Stafford's personal resilience was tested again when she graduated from Columbia.

Hired by a clinic to counsel families affected by HIV/AIDS, she rode the subway from Manhattan to the southern tip of Brooklyn for her first professional home visit.

“Both parents were Hispanic and HIV positive,” Stafford recalled. “The mother had died just before my visit. There were four children, all under the age of 10, and the 7-year-old was also HIV positive.

“I speak Spanish, but even so, it was difficult to talk about their situation. I tried to help them communicate with each other about living with the disease and not dying from it. At that moment, I felt I had lived a very sheltered life.”

Eventually, Stafford accumulated the requisite hours to apply for a license, sit for, and pass the exam that allows her to practice as a licensed psychotherapist in New York. She taught herself the business side of the profession and built a client base.

Many of Stafford’s clients are people who, like herself, relocated for professional opportunities. Some “get stuck,” she said, trying to navigate the vortex that is Manhattan.

“Something I took away from my education is that counseling is a process. People are not patients; I’m not healing them. I’m listening and reflecting back their true selves without the wounds they may have picked up along the way. There is so much ambition in New York City. People can become anxious and get down on themselves.”

Stafford said she stays positive by checking her emotional thermometer daily and enjoying what New York has to offer—the variety of restaurants and the outdoor activities like canoeing on the Hudson River. She’s even gained a “new appreciation” for skyscrapers. The West Coast is still home, she said, but “I feel that I’ve grown up in New York.”

Eventually, Stafford hopes to open a second practice in California and live a bicoastal life.

“There is so much ambition in New York City.”

Even as a New York resident, she still has deep roots in the Golden State. The name of her practice—Ivy Relationship Consultants—is a subtle nod to her childhood. It’s a daily reminder of how far she has travelled since the days when caution kept her from running through the poison ivy-infested woods with her cousins.



A SEPARATE PEACE

By Michael Price

There are two Jonathan Reilands. Former Staff Sgt. Jon Reiland entered the U.S. Marine Corps looking for adventure.

He served multiple tours in Iraq, rose quickly up the ranks, ending his military service as a brash and demanding but well-respected combat instructor.

San Diego State University engineering student Jon Reiland is, by his own admission, quiet and shy,

often preferring the company of his custom-built motorcycles to other people.

He is above all what others need him to be, which makes him well-suited to serve as president of SDSU's Student Veteran Organization (SVO), advocating for the university's military population

and helping them adjust to civilian and student life. Vets have a lot to offer in both the classroom and the workplace, he advised, but when you're used to the military's highly regimented existence, the freedoms of civilian life can feel unstructured and baffling.



Photo: Sandy Huffaker Jr.

"When we come to college, the place we're at in our lives is different than other students," Reiland said. "We're typically a bit older. Some people have families. It can be hard to relate to your classmates and feel like you fit in."

"When we come to college, the place we're at in our lives is different than other students."

"Fitting in" is a feeling that eluded Reiland as a young man. He grew up in Pittsburgh and went to the same high school that Andy Warhol attended, foreshadowing his first career as a graphic designer. After a few years, he felt stuck and constrained. A friend who had just returned from a military tour in Iraq told him that during deployment, he got to drive around Humvees and see the world.

That sounded exciting to Reiland, so he enlisted in the Marine Corps. He excelled at military life, finding the structure, discipline and sense of meaning he'd been looking for. By the time boot camp was over, he'd been promoted to Lance Corporal.

Reiland deployed to Iraq, just outside

Fallujah in Anbar Province, in 2006 and drove Humvees in a convoy. At this point of Operation Enduring Freedom, fighting was intense and he saw his share of combat. Again he excelled, and two combat meritorious promotions bumped him up the ranks.

After finishing his tour of duty in late 2006, Reiland returned to Camp Pendleton in California and continued training until his second tour in fall 2007 returned him to Anbar Province. "By that time, things were more relaxed," he said. "There was more engagement between American troops and the Iraqi army and security forces."

Throughout both tours, Reiland enjoyed the simplicity of military life: You wear the right clothes, you get the right haircut, you follow orders, and you succeed. There were rigors and heartache, sure, but you always knew what to do. He earned a Navy Achievement Medal and returned to Camp Pendleton in 2008. At that point, he had the option of discharging, but he felt he wasn't finished with the military just yet.

Reiland re-enlisted as a combat instructor, a non-deployable position. He flourished in this

role. Though reserved in his private life, as an instructor he relished barking orders, breaking people down and then rebuilding them into tougher individuals. He was so good at it that he became a combat instructor *instructor*, teaching newly minted combat instructors how to do the job.

Finally in 2013, he faced a choice between being transferred to a base in North Carolina or getting out of the military. He owned a house in Vista, California. He liked his life here. So he chose to discharge.

"My whole life I've been a tinkerer. I've always had a knack for it."

With the G.I. Bill footing his education, he enrolled in Cal State San Marcos, studying applied physics, and then transferred to SDSU in 2015 to pursue mechanical engineering. The field suits him. "My whole life I've been a tinkerer," Reiland said. "I've always had a knack for it."

He opened his own custom motorcycle and hot rod shop, Close Fabrication, out of his garage and built himself a couple of rigs and a few more for friends and clients. That's his passion project. Professionally, Reiland works as an intern for Northrop

Grumman, figuring out ways to improve product design and assembly procedures. As he completes his SDSU degree, he's working with devices designed to jam the signals of improvised explosive devices, the kind that he became all too familiar with driving Humvees in Iraq.

Reiland might have left the military, but the military hasn't left him. He continues to serve SDSU's military community as SVO president. The SVO, celebrating its 10th year at SDSU, does a variety of community service projects and offers camaraderie and support for student vets.

He's trying to grow the organization's membership and give its members a sense of place and community at the university. When he stands in front of his fellow veterans and tells them about the resources available to them, all of his shyness and introversion disappears, and the two Jon Reilands comfortably coalesce.

"Jon displays a solid tenacity to not only get things done, but also to reach out and connect with the wider military-connected student population," said SDSU veterans coordinator Todd Kennedy. "He is approachable, resolute in his actions, and dedicated to supporting his fellow military and veteran students."

Shooting Stars



In fall 2014 Sam Hodgson arrived in New York with no job but lots of phone numbers and a camera.

Working his contacts, Hodgson scored a meeting with editors of the New York Times. An assignment soon followed, and within weeks Hodgson turned in his first photos for the news organization that has won more Pulitzer Prizes than any other.

Now Hodgson's typical work week looks like this: Fly to Cincinnati to cover Hillary Clinton and Donald Trump at the American Legion convention; travel with the Trump campaign to Wilmington, Ohio, and Detroit, Michigan, where the candidate meets up with Ben Carson; fly back to New York to board the Clinton campaign plane for a two-day stint in Ohio and Illinois; return home, tired but exhilarated.

"I cannot believe I get paid to do this," said Hodgson ('06), interviewed by

telephone at an outdoor café near his Brooklyn home.

Jumping off the cliff

The Daily Aztec, San Diego State University's independent student-run newspaper, was Hodgson's ticket into the world of professional photojournalism. He studied the history, theory and best practices of the craft in the classroom; In the field, he learned how to make every picture tell a story.



After SDSU, Hodgson built a successful career as a freelance photographer in San Diego. He worked for the Voice of San Diego and was an occasional stringer for the New York Times, the Wall Street Journal, and the news services Reuters and Bloomberg. But he wanted more.

"I knew I would never be able to live out the full potential of what I could do without moving, without jumping off the cliff," he said. When Hodgson's wife, Hailey Persinger, received a job offer with Yahoo! in New York, they took the leap.

Now a regular contributor to the New York Times, Hodgson has photographed Pope Francis' visit to the United States, the United National General Assembly, major sporting events, such as the U.S. Open Tennis Championships and the Belmont Stakes, and feature/enterprise stories about issues ranging from cancer research to homelessness.

He was part of a Times team of about 20 journalists, including five photographers, assigned to document gun violence in Chicago over the Memorial Day weekend. And he was on scene documenting the days following the Pulse nightclub shooting in Orlando, Florida.



Sam Hodgson, ('06), is a New York City-based photojournalist and regular contributor to major newspapers and news services. He has been covering the 2016 presidential campaign for the New York Times.

"Assignments like that are not easy, but they're important," Hodgson said. "It means a lot that the Times editors put their trust in me to cover them."

Up close with Clinton and Trump

Hodgson's proximity to the presidential candidates gives him insight into the personalities of two people whose public images are polar opposites. Clinton and her staff, he said, spend copious time, money and effort defining the candidate and the messaging. *(continued on page 29)*



The 2016 Faculty Monty Award Winners



College of Engineering

Victor Miguel Ponce

Victor Ponce is an internationally recognized expert in computational hydrology/hydraulics, food and drought hydrology and environmental impact assessment. He has educated more than 3,500 undergraduates and 350 graduate students in a career spanning 36 years. His web-site—ponce.sdsu.edu—has 17,000-plus links with static, dynamic and video applications, bringing worldwide recognition to the College of Engineering. Ponce's research is sponsored by the National Science Foundation, the World Bank and the U.S. Geological Survey.

College of Arts and Letters

Mary Ann Lyman-Hager

As director of the Language Acquisition Resource Center (LARC), Mary Ann Lyman-Hager has expanded offerings in critical languages such as Arabic, Georgian and Tagalog. Since 2008, more than 1,200 military personnel and ROTC students have learned the language skills they need serve abroad more effectively. Lyman-Hager has also secured more than \$30 million in external funding during 18 years at LARC. She is the only researcher from the College of Arts and Letters to rank among SDSU's 15 top-funded principal investigators each year for the last five years.



College of Professional Studies and Fine Arts

William Yeager

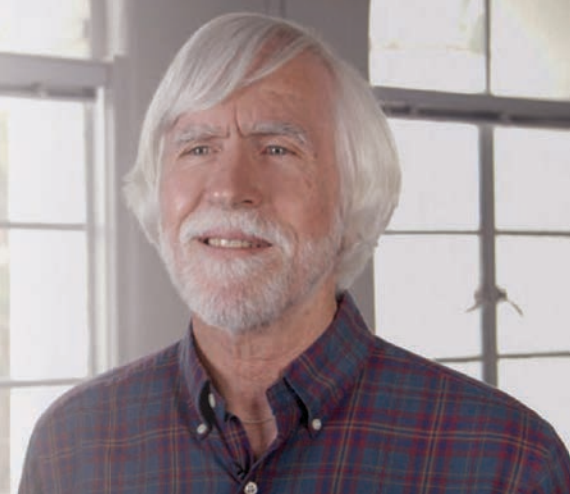
William Yeager has contributed to the jazz discipline as a performing artist, composer, arranger and educator. During a 31-year career at SDSU, he built a stellar jazz studies program and conducted student ensembles performing in festivals around the world. Alumni from SDSU's program continue to shape and influence the profession through their creative output as performers, composers, recording artists and teachers. Yeager is also a benefactor of SDSU, having gifted his collection of musical scores and manuscripts from the "golden age" of television.

Six exceptional San Diego State University faculty members have received 2016 Alumni Association Awards for Outstanding Faculty Contributions. The honors—also known at the Faculty Montys—were awarded at the All-University Convocation in August.

College of Health and Human Services

Thomas Packard

Thomas Packard, a professor in the School of Social Work, has taught more than 4,000 undergraduate and graduate students, advised 25 master's degree candidates, chaired nine thesis committees and received 13 teaching recognitions since 1983. A leader in promoting best practices, he developed SDSU's certificate program in social work administration. Packard is deeply involved in the community as a faculty consultant, program designer, trainer and evaluator for Leaders in Action, an executive development program for the nine Southern California County Human Services Agencies.



College of Education

Randolph Philipp

Randolph Philipp is a professor of mathematics and director of SDSU's Center for Research in Mathematics and Science Education (CRMSE). He has directed or co-directed multiple National Science Foundation-funded projects, including four multimillion-dollar awards. His studies include investigating how professional development affects teachers' ability to understand and develop mathematical thinking in children. Philipp's recent election as president of the Association of Mathematics Teachers Educators is a testament to his national reputation.



College of Sciences

Linda Gallo

Linda Gallo is a leader in the field of cardiovascular and metabolic disorders. Her research focuses on the psychosocial and sociocultural aspects of risk and resilience in diseases such as diabetes, cardiovascular disease, stroke and obesity, and her work aims to understand and reduce health disparities for Hispanics and other vulnerable populations. She has served as principal investigator or co-investigator on more than 10 studies funded by the National Institutes of Health and has been published in the prestigious Journal of Personality and Social Psychology.



Aztecs in Motion

Advantage Aztecs.

SDSU helps student-athletes go pro in careers other than professional sports.



Fewer than two percent of student-athletes who play football or basketball will compete professionally after college.



Every hour a student-athlete spends practicing or playing their sport is an hour she can't devote to valuable career-building activities like internships and community service. These lost hours can mean missed opportunities, as most student-athletes will pursue careers outside of professional sports after graduation.

To give student-athletes an advantage, San Diego State University has created Aztecs Going Pro, a program that

helps prepare them for professional careers.

Aztecs Going Pro began in 2015-16 with mandatory classes for freshmen. A class for sophomores was added this year. By 2019, juniors and seniors will fall under its umbrella, providing for the first time a four-year schedule of classes focused on pragmatic information for student-athletes.

Created by Bobby Smitheran, senior associate athletic director for Student-Athlete Academic Support Services, the program provides a platform for experts from across campus to speak in class about academics, social issues, financial literacy, leadership, health, internships, networking, resume-writing and job-interviewing skills.

"Aztecs Going Pro is a more holistic approach to developing our student-athletes and setting them up for success," Smitheran said.

For many years, student-athletes at San Diego State were required to take a class as freshmen to help their transition to college. The seminar covered time management, learning strategies and campus resources.

"It was more of a how-to-succeed-in-college class," said Smitheran, who joined SDSU in 2008 as student-athlete

services coordinator and also served as director of football operations. The more time he spent with student-athletes, the more he realized that the ideas and concepts embedded within that class could be spun into a program to help launch student-athletes' professional careers.

So when Smitheran moved into his current position three years ago, he was encouraged by former Athletic Director Jim Sterk to put his ideas into practice. He developed the series of classes that comprise Aztecs Going Pro—Freshman Foundation, Sophomore Success, Junior Journey and Senior Suit Up.

First-year topics include study skills, time management, community living, social media awareness, plagiarism and academic integrity, plus discussions about sexual assault and alcohol/drug abuse and how to maintain NCAA eligibility. Sophomores are introduced to financial literacy, career services and professional etiquette. Juniors and seniors discuss resume-building, career exploration, graduate school, networking, interviewing skills and life after athletics. Seniors also attend a job fair.

Last year, volleyball player Ellen Novotny, ('16), and football player Aaron Boesch, ('16), found their Senior Suit Up experience to be invaluable. Novotny, an accounting major, met representatives from Foresters Financial at the job fair and was hired as a financial planner.

Boesch, an interior design and architecture major, received a job offer at the fair, but eventually declined it. However, he used the skills gained from that experience to approach representatives of Johnson & Jennings General Contracting, who hired him as project engineer.

For Aztecs Going Pro to effectively help student-athletes prepare for life after college, it's important that classes are

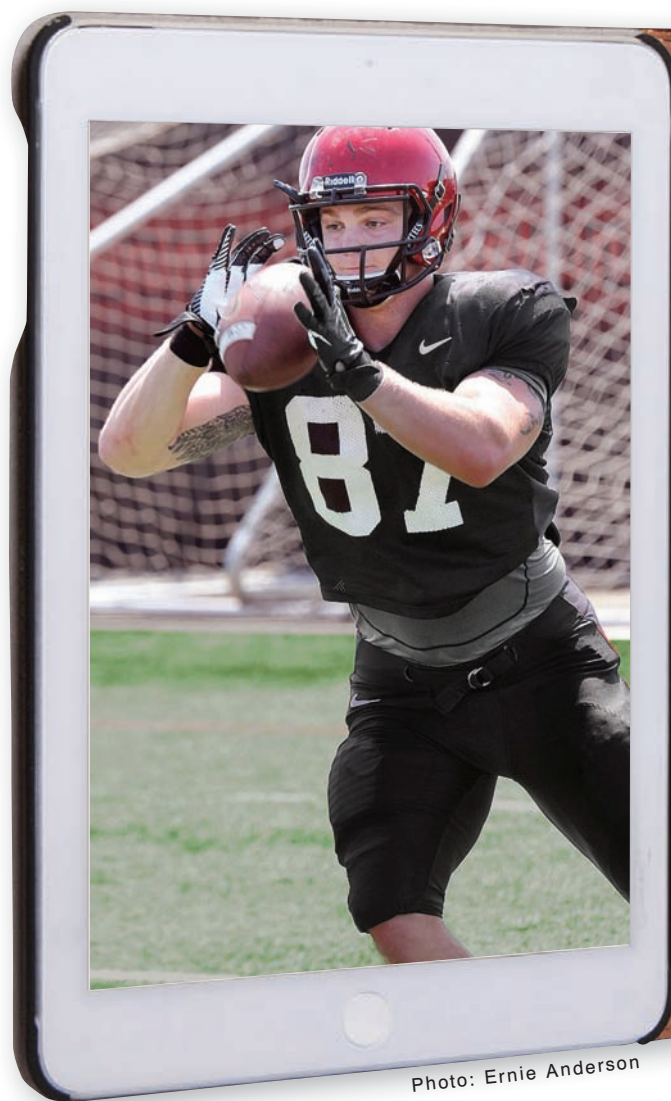


Photo: Ernie Anderson

About 35 percent of NCAA student-athletes go on to post-graduate study for master's or doctoral degrees.

mandatory, Boesch said. Athletes have a tendency to put sports first, claiming they don't have time to add one more thing to their busy schedules. But the program teaches them to start thinking beyond the next practice, the next game, the next season, he said, to recognize their future potential.

Smitheran is excited that Aztecs Going Pro introduces athletes to programs across campus and to each other: rowers, basketball players, lacrosse athletes and swimmers all attend class together. And it's a selling point for SDSU in its recruitment efforts.

"(Coaches) can go into a recruit's house and talk to parents about not only the academic piece, but also how we are going to handle the social piece, how we are going to prevent your son or daughter from moving back in with you once they graduate," said Smitheran with a laugh. "You want to make sure they have the skills they need to step out in the world and be successful."

—Doug Williams

Ellen's Fingerprints

A Scripps family member is helping to restore the historic cottage on Montezuma Mesa.

Bill Scripps knew Montezuma Mesa as the campus where he took extension classes and spent sunny afternoons with his dog, Jade. Until a few years ago, no one had ever asked him about the curious similarity between his name and one of San Diego State University's most beloved landmarks, Scripps Cottage.

He was fascinated when he learned from a friend at SDSU that the cottage was a legacy of his great aunt, Ellen Browning Scripps, a paradigm of philanthropy in early twentieth century San Diego.

"I came out to see it for the first time last year," he said. "Anything with Ellen's fingerprints on it is special to me."

The nucleus of a beloved oasis on Montezuma Mesa, Scripps Cottage was among the original eight campus structures designed by Howard Spencer Hazen. It was funded in part by Ellen Browning Scripps through a contribution to the local YWCA and originally built as a women's center and headquarters for the Associated Women Students.

Together with SDSU's five other WPA-era buildings and the original quad, it is part of a federally designated historic district.

A visit from JFK

The cottage Bill Scripps toured in April 2014 was physically similar to the original structure, but its function changed over time. In 1963, it was a formal reception area for State's most distinguished guest, President John F. Kennedy, who had come to deliver the commencement address and receive an honorary doctorate.

Five years later, the building was moved from its initial location adjacent to Aztec Café (now the Faculty-Staff Club) to make way for the construction of Love Library. The current location's distinctive landscaping and koi pond were added in 1972, after students staged a sit-in to demand the establishment of a "people's park" at the site.

Scripps Cottage has served many purposes in the decades since then; It has been a conference venue, a meeting place for student organizations and a center for international students. Above all, though, Scripps Cottage is etched in Aztec memory as a tranquil space in the middle of a busy campus.



"Remarkably Ellen"

The intimacy of the cottage and the serenity of its landscaping appealed to Scripps. "Once you enter the grounds, you're in a very quiet place. The rest of the campus disappears. It's remarkably Ellen. She was a very private person. You find the same peaceful feeling at the Torrey Pines reserve, which Ellen also helped to create."

Scripps and his wife, Kathy, hadn't intended to make a gift to SDSU when they visited the cottage in 2014, but they realized that the 85-year old building needed some TLC.

Their donation made it possible for SDSU to retain Platt-Whitelaw Architects, a firm specializing in restoring historic structures to meet modern building code requirements and safety standards. The first



phase of the project, completed Aug. 31, replaced windows and doors with historically accurate fixtures and created better access for visitors with disabilities.

"That was a good fit with our philosophy of philanthropic giving," Scripps said.

Artistic endeavor

SDSU's Associated Students (A.S.) also stepped up with a donation to supplement the restoration budget, and A.S. senior facilities engineer, LaRunce Moffett, oversaw the year-long project.

"We wanted to bring back the original feel of the building with the original porch and the double doors allowing people to look out and lots of light to come in," Moffett said. "At the same time we wanted everything to be consistent with today's code."

Restoration was difficult because the doors were encased in the wall, Moffett explained. He found two original doors that were "left over" and asked a woodworker to use them as a template for the seven sets of new double doors. These, along with 16 replacement windows and eight new ones, a renovated porch and exposed beams, give the cottage a lighter, more spacious feel.

Moffett also consulted the original blueprints, which contain the design for both Scripps Cottage and the Faculty-Staff Club. He studied the structure of the club carefully "to see exactly how things work there and what type of hardware they used, and I tried to duplicate that as much as I could down here."

The Scripps Cottage restoration is a first for Moffett, who also maintains the new Conrad Prebys Aztec Student Union.

"It's a lot different trying to bring something back as opposed to maintaining a brand new building," he said. "I restore cars, and I have remodeled houses. I draw and paint as well. For me, bringing the old back to new is a form of art and an expression of my art."

Campus resource

With the first phase of the restoration complete, Scripps Cottage is again available for meetings, celebrations and other functions. In fiscal 2016, more than 170 events were held at the site, hosting a total of 12,000 people. About 70 percent of events were run by SDSU student clubs or organizations.

"Scripps Cottage is an invaluable resource for the SDSU campus community," said Jamie Miller, A.S. president. "Its beauty and historic significance create a very special atmosphere that's conducive to learning."

Work on the cottage will continue with plans to restore the barbecue grill, update lighting and complete additional exterior work. SDSU's crowdfunding website, Strive, will launch a campaign in late November to raise funds for the second and third phases of restoration.

"Kathy and I are really pleased to continue what Ellen Browning Scripps started," said Bill Scripps. "We hope the cottage can play a small role in helping SDSU students develop into great citizens. For us, there's great satisfaction in knowing it will be there in perpetuity."



THE Campaign FOR SDSU



A New Gateway for Future Leaders

Aztec Pride is borne of many factors—a stellar education, moments of personal achievement, the sense of community and not least of all, a beautiful campus.

San Diego State University's striking Mission Revival architecture—first emulated in historic Hepner Hall and later reflected in more modern campus buildings—stirs pride in generations of Aztecs.

Now there is a formal entrance to demarcate the unique beauty of the SDSU campus. The Clay Gateway at Montezuma Road and Campanile Drive is named for Nikki ('67, '72) and Ben ('69) Clay, whose contributions of time and treasure have strengthened the university over many decades.

The couple met at SDSU. They were public administration majors and lived in sorority/fraternity houses on Montezuma Road, within walking distance of where the Clay Gateway now stands.

Both were members of the Associated Students, and Ben was involved in financing the construction of the first Aztec Student Center, which became the first student union in the California State University system.

Nikki worked to organize and grow the SDSU Alumni Association and was a founding member of the Campanile Foundation, the philanthropic foundation created in 1999 to manage SDSU's then-nascent fundraising efforts.

Building an alumni center was one of SDSU's earliest fundraising initiatives. President Emeritus Stephen Weber asked the Clays to tour Ohio State University, which had just built an alumni "home" on campus. They returned with a vision and became not only donors, but also fundraisers for the Parma Payne Goodall Alumni Center.

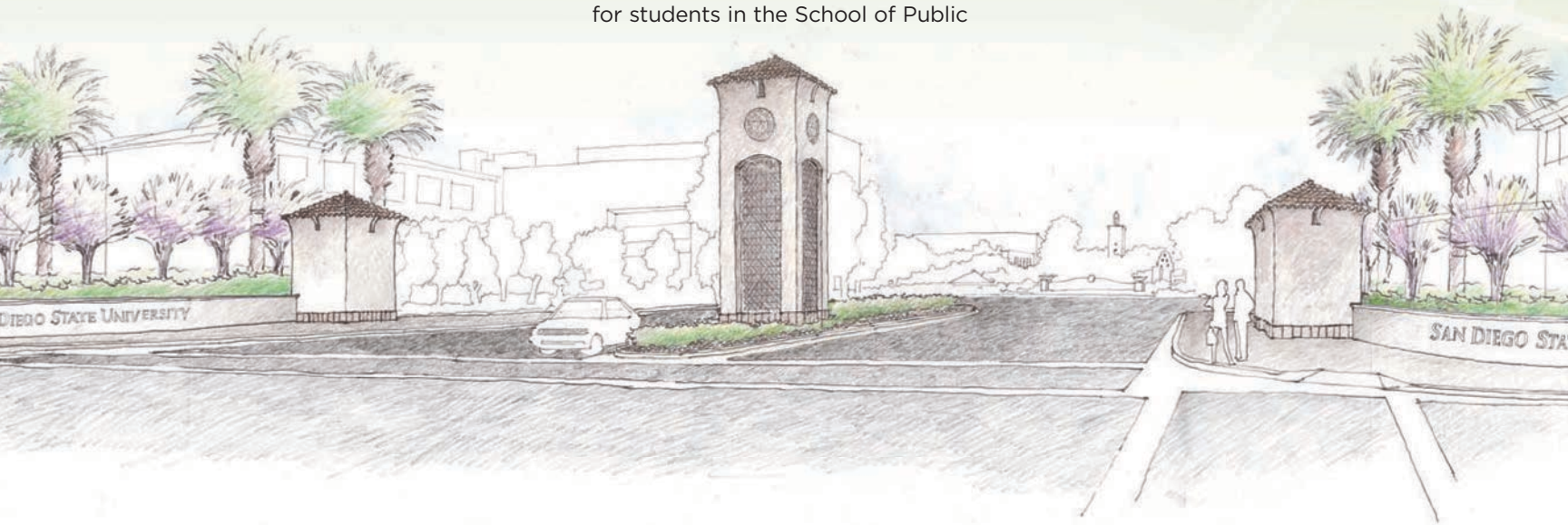
The Clays continue to support SDSU by providing scholarships for students in the School of Public

Administration and fundraising for the Thomas B. Day Quad, part of the Engineering and Interdisciplinary Sciences Complex currently under construction on campus.

They also established the Ben and Nikki Clay Presidential Scholarship, a \$300,000 endowment to support high achieving students, an increasing percentage of the SDSU student population.

The naming of the Clay Gateway recognizes the couple's many contributions to SDSU. Fittingly, the words on its pillars define the campus as a destination for students who aspire to follow in the Clays' footsteps: "Through these gates will pass our future leaders."

All Aztecs and San Diego community members are invited to the dedication of the Clay Gateway at 10:30 a.m. on Thursday, Nov. 3, at the gateway towers on Montezuma Road and Campanile Drive.



Campaign Impact: Weber Honors College

This year's San Diego State University freshmen have an average high school GPA of 3.68. More than 800 of them—around 10 percent—scored higher than 1300 on the SAT math and verbal sections combined.

The academic proficiency of SDSU students has been trending upward for years. In order to meet the expectations of high achieving students, SDSU strengthened its honors curriculum and hired an honors program director in 2002. Now thanks to The Campaign for SDSU, the program has grown into the Susan and Stephen Weber Honors College with more than 1,085 students enrolled.

Expanding the honors program to an honors college and securing its future with endowed gifts was an early goal of The Campaign for SDSU. The university's seventh president, Stephen L. Weber, directed philanthropic funds toward the honors endowment and with his spouse, Susan K. Weber, made a personal contribution of \$250,000.

The endowment received additional support from the estates of the late San Diego philanthropists Maurice and Charmaine Kaplan and Professor Emeritus Henry Janssen, also deceased. Maurice Kaplan was a founding member of the Campanile Foundation, SDSU's philanthropic foundation. Janssen taught and mentored SDSU students for 60 years.

In 2015, a significant gift from San Diego philanthropist Darlene Shiley raised the endowment to \$10 million, officially creating the Susan and Stephen Weber Honors College. Academic rigor, interdisciplinary curriculum and community service are its hallmarks.

"The Susan and Stephen Weber Honors College provides important academic and co-curricular opportunities for our diverse students," said President Elliot Hirshman. "This special learning community challenges and engages our students who, in turn, are providing critical service to, and leadership of, our broader campus community."

On the Way to \$750M

\$728M
Total as of
Sept. 30, 2016



SHORT TAKES

Faculty Emeriti Glen and Betty Broom have increased their planned gift, adding funding to the Glen M. Broom Center for Professional Development in Public Relations and establishing the Betty Broom Faculty Research Endowment fund within the School of Nursing.

Darren ('84) and Teresa Greenhalgh have pledged to name the Greenhalgh Family Student Study Area in the Engineering and Interdisciplinary Sciences Complex, which is scheduled for completion in 2018.

Michele Schlecht ('72, '85) made a pledge to establish the Michele Schlecht MFA Musical Theatre Scholarship in the College of Professional Studies and Fine Arts.

Eugene ('64) and Suellen Hering have supported Student Field Experiences in the College of Sciences with a gift of \$5,000.

Eli and Helen Comay are supporting the Josh A. Comay Endowed Scholarship in Child Development in the College of Education.

Katie Hansen, ('03), made a gift to provide scholarship support to community college transfer students who demonstrate interest in Greek life, Associated Students, the Republican Student Organization or the study of political science/history.

Mary Curran Assumes TCF Chair in December



The incoming chair of San Diego State University's philanthropic leadership board is a woman with a proven record of leading major businesses and serving the San Diego community. Mary Curran, ('82), will assume the chair in December, becoming the fifth leader and first woman board chair in the 17-year history of the Campanile Foundation (TCF).

As Curran steps into her role, the university is about to successfully conclude its first comprehensive fundraising campaign, which is raising \$750 million to support students, faculty, staff and academic programs at SDSU.

But Curran is quick to point out that fundraising efforts will continue apace even as this first campaign ends.

"The Campanile Foundation will find new ways to build momentum and help the university become even more successful," she said. "We'll be focused on how to continue raising at least \$100 million each year without the push and structure that a campaign provides."

Curran received her MBA from SDSU and joined Union Bank after seven years with BofA. At Union Bank, she led a number of divisions, including Orange County and San Diego

Commercial Banking and the bank's Wealth Management Group before becoming executive vice president and chief risk officer for Corporate Banking. She facilitated a multiyear gift from the bank to SDSU beginning in 2013.

Curran's personal philanthropy is in the form of annual gifts as well as a legacy gift, which will build the university's endowment, a key to future growth. She supports athletics, the College of Business Administration and the Guardian Scholars program. The latter provides full support for students who've experienced homelessness or have been part of the foster system.

Curran's term as chair follows nine years of service as a TCF board member. Prior to that, she was a mentor and a judge for SDSU's Venture Challenge competition, organized yearly by what is now the Lavin Entrepreneurship Center.

As a TCF board member, Curran takes on the responsibility of advocating for SDSU with friends, other alumni and the San Diego community.

"The board is an amazingly committed group, and I can tell you, that's not true of all professional boards," Curran said. "We tell the university's story, and we're passionate about it. We're passionate about the future of SDSU."

A Different Kind of Homecoming

Like most homecomings, this one had implications far beyond the event itself, especially for one San Diego State University alumnus.

Richard Fogg, ('03), a private wealth adviser, has been working to strengthen ties between SDSU and the Financial Planning Association of San Diego (FPA). As president of the group in 2015, he moved its quarterly educational meetings and annual symposium back to Montezuma Mesa.

For Fogg, this "homecoming" acknowledges SDSU's rapidly growing role in the industry, fueled by the quality and quantity of its finance department graduates. To further solidify the partnership, Fogg has recruited young Aztecs to join the FPA board.

"We're reconnecting the FPA with the heritage of SDSU's program and ultimately, we're reconnecting alumni with their alma mater," said Fogg,

president of Pacific Coast Financial Planning Group.

SDSU's financial planning program was the first in the country to be offered at a fully accredited college of business. Upon completion, students can sit for the Certified Financial Planner (CFP) exam. Fogg joined the program after serving in the Navy. Now, he sits on the advisory board, matches students with mentors and helps find internship opportunities for future financial planners.

"Richard is a person who works extremely hard behind the scenes and doesn't look for recognition," said Thomas Warschauer, an SDSU finance professor and director of the financial planning program.

For three years, Fogg has also served on SDSU's National Leadership Council, whose philanthropic mission is to enhance SDSU's position as an international leader in teaching, research and service to the global community.

Jewel of a Teacher

Arline Fisch's jewelry art is not for wallflowers. Her dramatic silver collars and intricate filigree bibs draw inspiration from ornamental jewelry worn by ancient Greek and Egyptian royalty.

Fisch's theatrical sensibilities influenced not only the craft of jewelry-making in the United States, but also the work of generations of San Diego State University students. She was hired in 1961 to create a jewelry and metal-smithing program in SDSU's School of Art and Design.

Universities across the country established similar programs at the time, but many didn't survive. SDSU's program thrived and, under Fisch's leadership,

He and his wife, Sharon, ('75), are long-time donors. They support the President's Leadership Fund and are Director's Cabinet members for SDSU Athletics, also providing scholarships for student-athletes.

Recently, the Foggs created and funded the Thomas Warschauer Endowed Director of Financial Planning to provide administrative support in perpetuity for SDSU's financial planning program.

The couple said philanthropy has always been "an integral part of who we are," and a tradition they've shared with their children, including Hannah, an SDSU finance major. Fogg also encourages other Aztecs to support SDSU.

"Whether through donation or mentorship, Aztecs need to reach out and contribute," he said. "Our legacy strengthens SDSU and sustains its growth as a serious institution of higher education."

added a master of fine arts degree. The MFA in jewelry and metal-smithing is still a national model.

Fisch retired in 2000, but her legacy continues through former students who have become artists, gallery owners and university professors. She also established an endowment for future Aztecs with ambitions to follow in her footsteps.

The Arline Fisch Jewelry and Metalsmithing Endowed Scholarship will support students pursuing a master of fine arts degree in the program.

"SDSU was my life for 40 years," she said. "It was a good place for me to have the freedom to teach and be an artist at the same time."

Fisch was the first artist to combine jewelry-making and weaving into a unique art form. The idea of marrying two very different crafts first occurred to her during a visit to Central and South America, where she saw pre-Columbian textiles embellished with gold and metallic pieces. But it would be another decade before the concept came to fruition in her collection of woven gold items. The collection was shown in London, Vienna and California.

The appeal of traditional artifacts—such as Viking jewelry and Mongolian hats—grew stronger as Fisch continued to travel internationally. She



Hanging Gardens of California | Photo: Will Gullette

received four Fulbright grants, two to study in Denmark, two to teach in Uruguay and Austria, and became a board member of the World Craft Council, an organization of UNESCO.

SDSU students have reaped the benefits of Fisch's global network; she hosted dozens of internationally recognized artists who visited San Diego to lecture and work with her students.

"It's important for students to be taught by people who are professionally active," she said.

Fisch's art is owned by the Victoria & Albert Museum in London, the National Gallery of Australia, the Renwick Gallery in Washington, D.C. and the Cooper-Hewitt, Smithsonian Design Museum in New York. She has received the American Craft Council Gold Medal and a Lifetime Achievement Award from the National Museum of Women in the Arts.

ALUMNI ENGAGEMENT

2016 - 2017

ALUMNI BOARD of ADVISORS

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

President: Alan Dulgeroff '92

Liaison to The Campanile Foundation: Elsa Romero '84

Vice President of Professional Development:

Leo Morales '09

Vice President of Development: Deanna Encarnacion '90

Vice President of Finance: Aron Getty, '95

Vice President of Partnerships: Sean Kilkenny '10

Vice President of Innovation: Jason Farran '00

Vice President of Marketing: Angie Robert '04

Administrator: Christy Andrade

OTHER ELECTED ADVISORS:

Brad Adams '99; Risa Baron '91; Kelly Batten '98;
Chiloh Baty '08; Mike Cully '11; Lindsey Dixon '02;
Sean Durkin '08; Ileana Ovalle Engel '94; Aimee Faucett
'96; Allyson Frasure '97, '99, '03; Daniel Gomes, '01;
Ryane Hughes '02, '05; Rudy Johnson '00; Mark Mays
'69; Channelle McNutt '13; James Newland '88;
Chris Parks '92; Angie Robert, '04; Allen Sliwa, '04;
Todd Vitale '86; Stacey Wolfson '10

PAST PRESIDENTS:

Liaison to Past Presidents: Perette Godwin '86

First President: 1931 Vesta Muehleisen

For a full listing of past presidents, visit:

sdsualumni.org/pastpresidents

NON-ELECTED ADVISORS:

President: Elliot Hirshman; Vice President, University
Relations and Development: Mary Ruth Carleton; University
Senate Chair: Marcie Bober-Michel; Associated Students
President: Jamie Miller; Aztec Athletics: Morgan McSweeney

ALUMNI ENGAGEMENT STAFF

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Assistant Director, Alumni Engagement:

Ryan Delong '05

Alumni Engagement Coordinator: Christy Andrade

Alumni Engagement Coordinator: Lacey Lavigne

Assistant Director, Affinity Groups: Dion Akers '08

Assistant Director, Annual Fund Operations &

Regional Development: Channelle McNutt '13

Annual Fund Supervisor: Caitlin Kuhn

Assistant Director, Annual Fund, Stewardship &

Membership: Cheryl Lemox

Career Development Liaison: Diane Barragan Marin

Communications Specialist: Tobin Vaughn

Data Control Technician: Robin Breen Rust

Director Development Technology:

Tammy Blackburn '94, '01

Electronic Solicitation Assistant: Vanessa Horne

Electronic Solicitation Manager: Dan Majors '03

Parma Payne Goodall Alumni Center Coordinator:

Lauren Duran, Mariano Rayon

Program Coordinator: Jen Ranallo

1970s

'75 **Tom Karlo** ★ (television, film and new media) received the C. Scott Elliott Development Professional of the Year Award from PBS.

'76 **Hon. Robert F. O'Neill** ★ (criminal justice) will retire next May from Superior Court in San Diego.

'79 **Steven Davis** ★ (accounting) was named corporate group president of utilities for Sempra Energy. He also chairs the Southern California Gas Co. and San Diego Gas & Electric boards of directors.

1980s

'81 **Garrison Klueck** ★ (television, film and new media) was elected national ombudsman for American Mensa; **Vince Ferraro** ★ (management) published "Brand to Sell Masterplan" (Abundant Press, 2015).

'82 **Gayle Falkenthal** ★ (television, film and new media; '93 MS mass communications) was elected to the Public Relations Society of America's College of Fellows.

'87 **Kathy Drucquer Duff** ★ (recreation administration) published "Productive Conversations with Donors: A Handbook for Frontline Fundraisers" (Academic Impressions, 2016); **Peter Barto** (history) helped launch the Daraja Wildlife Project, a wildlife conservation training program for underserved secondary school girls in Kenya; **John Flannery** ★ (marketing) is celebrating 11 years as owner of Flannery Sales Systems.

'88 **Clarence Nunn** (marketing) joined JPMorgan Chase in Charlotte, North Carolina, to lead middle market expansion in the Southeast.

1990s

'94 **Devon Reed Lomayesva** ★ (history), a member of the lipay Nation of Santa Ysabel, was appointed chief judge of the Intertribal Court of Southern California.

'95 **Craig Collins** (English; '97 MBA) published a second nonfiction book, "Midair," about the midair collision of two B-52s in 1965 (Lyons Press, 2016).

2000s

'01 **Maya Lowry** (finance) joined USCF as director of national accounts, charged with expanding the firm's distribution and business development efforts.

'04 **José Cruz** (psychology), executive director of the Barrio Logan College Institute, was recognized by the Council for Opportunity in Education as a 2016 National TRIO Achiever.

'06 **Nafissa Cisse-Egbuonye** (public administration; '11 MPH) directs the Black Hawk County Health Department in Texas.

'09 **Shannon O'Neill** (anthropology) opened the San Diego law office Weber & O'Neill, specializing in estate planning, trust administration and probate.

'11 **Paris Johnson** (social science), among the top scorers in Aztec women's basketball history, is now the team's director of player personnel.

'12 **Heriberto Vasquez** (comparative literature) is outreach coordinator for Grossmont Community College in San Diego.

Please send your news to the SDSU Alumni Association, aluminfo@mail.sdsu.edu. | ★ = life member

SDSU is Home for New Leader of Alumni Engagement

Even as a kid growing up on a small ranch near Taos in New Mexico's Sangre de Cristo Mountains, Dan Montoya somehow knew he would one day be an Aztec. "When I was young, I always told everyone, 'I'm going to San Diego someday to attend San Diego State University—no doubt,'" he recalled.

A prescient observation because not only would Montoya attend and graduate from SDSU, he would also launch a successful, 10-year development career at the university.

On Sept. 1, Montoya became SDSU's new assistant vice president of alumni engagement. From his office on the second floor of the Parma Payne Goodall Alumni Center, he now oversees the university's alumni engagement efforts.

During the past year as The Campaign for SDSU has closed in on its \$750 million goal, the Office of Alumni Engagement's SDSU Fund has raised more than \$200,000 for Aztec Parent Programs while increasing the number

of alumni donors by 33 percent and undergraduate donors by 29 percent.

Problem solver

Montoya's first development role for SDSU was in Student Affairs, reporting to Eric Rivera, who is now the division's vice president. Rivera describes Montoya as a problem solver and a team player with strong communication skills.

"We'll be in a meeting where the conversation starts with no and Dan will listen and figure out how we can get to yes. Not everybody is able to do that."

But of all of Montoya's positive attributes, Rivera thinks one stands above the rest: "Most importantly, he's an Aztec," Rivera said.

Montoya came to SDSU from junior college after spending four years in the Navy where he served on ships as an operations specialist. "My job was to identify what aircraft, ships, or subs were out there—were they friend or foe—and then disclose locations to



our captain to make sure he was aware of everything that was going on."

He was also a helicopter controller guiding aircraft that would land on the ship. "What I did was control the operations—the navigation piece—to make sure our ship was safe and communicate to the rest of our fleet that we were on the same page and we were navigating in safe waters," Montoya explained.

Now the Navy veteran is looking forward to controlling operations for an office that serves more than 300,000 alumni of an institution he somehow always knew he would attend. Montoya's wife, Lizette Nájera ('08), whom he met on campus, is a fellow staff member in the Division of University Relations and Development. SDSU is part of the family culture for the couple and their three children ages 11, 12 and 17.

Montoya admits that in their house, it's all about Aztecs. Which closes a circle of sorts for a man whose job is connecting alumni and others to a school he knew was his destiny.

"When I got on campus and became ingrained in the culture of San Diego State, it was like, 'this is home,'" he said. "It just feels right. It's a part of who I am."

—Tobin Vaughn

From left: Dan Montoya; Mary Ruth Carleton, vice president, University Relations and Development; Jim Herrick, assistant vice president, special projects.



Aztec Hall of Fame Inductees

Five athletic superstars were inducted into the Aztec Hall of Fame this month, joining the 138 individuals and six teams already enshrined.

Leon Parma, winner of a Lifetime Achievement Award, was the Aztecs' starting quarterback for the 1949 and 1950 seasons, during which he scored 16 touchdowns and made 22 interceptions. He led the 1950 squad to the CCAA championship with a 3-0-1 record.

Noel Prefontaine holds the school record for average punt in a season (46.5 yards) and a career (44.7 yards). Named a first-team All-American by the Associated Press, he is credited with the longest punt in SDSU history, an 82-yard kick vs. New Mexico in 1996.

Miesha McKelvy-Jones is a two-time All-American in the 100-meter hurdles and SDSU's record-holder in that event with a 12.82-second performance in 1999. A 1998 WAC champion, she also won the 100-meter hurdles at the 1999 Pan Am Games in Winnipeg.



Kawhi Leonard led Aztec men's basketball to its first NCAA Tournament win in school history in 2011. He set the all-time mark for career double-doubles in MWC games (21) and double-doubles in a single season in MWC games (12). Now playing for the San Antonio Spurs, Leonard was twice named NBA Defensive Player of the Year and was NBA Finals MVP for 2013-14.



Steve Williams was ranked No. 1 in the world in the 100-meter and 200-meter events while sprinting for the Aztecs in 1973. He set the world record in the 100-meters four times between 1973 and 1976, and one time each in the 100-yard and 200-yard dash.

In Memoriam

1933: Lorraine Gholston; **1939:** Timothy Hallahan.

1942: James Polak; **1946:** Shirley Crawford; **1947:** Morris Shepherd; **1948:** George Capatanos, David Farquhar, George Prout; **1949:** Charles Boucher, Wayne Garrett, Lois Hinck, Walter Shaffer, Louis Smith.

1950: Ernest Beck, Joseph Weikel; **1951:** Frank Colpitts Jr., Jack McCarty, Robert Stewart; **1952:** Harrison Weaver; **1953:** William Schwandt; **1954:** Shirley Miner; **1956:** Richard Dudley; **1957:** Gene Sheridan; **1958:** Martin Gehring; **1959:** James Blair, Heidi Forchette.

1960: Donald George, James Laughon, Christina Phillips, Samuel Pope, Alan Sachrison, Stanley Skinner, Gary White; **1961:** Bill Pope; **1962:** Richard Troelstrup, Barbara Uden; **1963:** Minnie Lou Guild, Barbara Hurst; **1964:** Robert Emery; **1965:** Raymond Cudigan, Mary Dierks, Melicent Richardson, Gary Sable, Stanley Schlusberg, William Schroeder, John Seely, George Westover; **1966:** Edward Aguirre, Jerry Beavers, Andrea Jeremiah; **1967:** Donald Drummer, Jay Turner; **1968:** Daniel Eubanks, Nancy Higgins; James Sterrett II, Le Ellen Williams; **1969:** Gordon Bloom, Nancy Boisvert, Pamela Jung, Dolores Munsey, Vivian Reynolds, Robert Slamal.

1970: Josephine Burni, Lois Davies, Clydean Green, Franklin Hess, Hiroko Kubota; **1971:** Pattie Frazer, Ron Pompei, Richard Rathjen; **1972:** Scott Akers, James Hauck, Bethel Howard, Selma Kammerdiner, Jeannette Srbich; **1973:** Kenneth Baumgartner, Andrew Martinez, Joseph Palencia, Frederick Steese; **1974:** Jesse Lee Freitas, Richard Galligan, Myrna Gordon, Judith Griffith, David Weim, Steve Westin; **1975:** Thomas Hursman, Graham Simpson, Dan Wilkins, Mary Ellen Trainor Zemeckis; **1976:** Suzanne Berard, James Dietz, Charles Hurst, Dennis Thompson; **1977:** Rose Aftreth, Orlando Coons, Valerie Grayson, Wayne Johnson, Verna St. Clair King, Janet Rangel, Frances Tripp; **1978:** Debbie Abe, Jeffrey Carlson, Kevin Fay, Gregory Hidden, Marlene Pommerenke, Douglas Scarr; **1979:** Delynn Green, Anne Marie Donoho, Rachel Terrell, Barry Vrevich.

1980: Marcelle Benjamin, Leonard E. Busch III, Pamela Connolly, Jay Marlowe, Richard Zielony; **1981:** Orlie G. Baird Sr., Fannie Couillard, Janis Creed, Wendi Stangl; **1982:** Terry Blain, Karen Campbell, Angelina Cano, Shawn Carroll, Lee Farb, Thomas Grossman, Monique Holm, Sara Korman, Richard Tanner, John Thompson, June Silver, Diane Spadacini, Barbara Solis; **1983:** Walter Eslinger, Cynthia Tirrell, Michael Smith; **1984:** Ramona Lauzan; **1985:** Russell Kojima, Myrna Tipps; **1986:** Kimberly White, Susan Stevenson; **1987:** Jerry Boosinger, Michael Perkins; **1988:** Gail Guzzardo, Susan McLain, Rita Roberson, Linda Triplett, Bradley Weichert.

1990: Arthur Horton; **1991:** Estelle Villacres, Delcina Sims; **1992:** Nancy Bentley, Laura Hogan, Patricia Omahen, Scott Turpin; **1993:** Craig Roothoff; **1994:** Kenneth Clark, Jesus Lapid; **1995:** Alexander Amador, Carole White; **1996:** Tatiana Mileant, Gregory Stein; **1997:** Dawn Kosman; **1998:** Cheryl Marquand; **1999:** Gregorio Flores, Jerry Meier.

2001: Dennis Leake, Steve M. Pierce II; **2002:** Silke Dorsz; **2003:** Gerard Ayer; **2005:** Alicia Enriquez; **2006:** Richard Shea; **2008:** Cecilia Fausto; **2009:** Kenneth Cherry; **2011:** Zachary Penn.

Shooting Stars

(continued from page 19)

"These are carefully crafted campaign events with lots of free visuals, and my job is to cut through all that to find something real," Hodgson said.

In contrast, journalists covering the Trump campaign are often restricted

to certain areas of a room or venue, Hodgson said. "The Republican candidate also has a script, but he is more prone to go off script and surprise the audience. They are two starkly different campaigns, and both represent something about this time and place in America."

Asked to compare the laid-back living of San Diego with the constant stimulus of the Big Apple, Hodgson played the diplomat. He described New York City life as tough, a struggle and "often not relaxing to come home to" after a grueling assignment on the road.

But the young Aztec who arrived in New York with no job and lots of phone numbers relishes his new home.



Sam Hodgson | Photo: Brian Snyder

"It's my job to explore the city," he said. "People who relocate here see the surface view, but when I'm working I go into people's homes and neighborhoods. No other place can claim so many different cultures and ways of life."

—Coleen L. Geraghty



THIS IS PERSONAL

(continued from page 11)

These challenges strengthened Corliss' and Thunstrom's resolve to make a better life for their family and their community. To that end, Thunstrom was motivated to apply to graduate programs in anthropology and was ultimately accepted into a Ph.D program at the University of California, San Diego.

Then she showed Corliss a job announcement: SDSU's Graduate School of Public Health was hiring. Corliss had been looking to incorporate more intervention research into her studies, and SDSU offered that opportunity. Their family moved to San Diego in 2013.

Over the past three years, Corliss has improved the quality and interdisciplinary nature of research in SDSU's health research programs.

"Dr. Corliss' presence at SDSU has helped me see that the work we are doing in Latino health disparities is relevant to other populations," said Guadalupe X. "Suchi" Ayala, associate dean for research in the College of Health and Human Services.

"The effects of discrimination do similar things to our bodies, whether we are being discriminated against because of our sexual orientation or the color of our skin. Together, we are now trying to determine if the ways to reduce health disparities related to sexuality and ethnicity are similar."

In her current role, Corliss hopes to deepen our understanding of the health disparities and concerns of subgroups across the range of sexual orientations and gender identities.

She was the first to receive a large research grant from the National Institute of Diabetes and Digestive and Kidney Diseases to study lesbian and bisexual women's disparities in the incidence of type 2 diabetes. Her research is finding that lesbian and bisexual women are more likely than heterosexual women to develop the disease. For this and other disparities, her ultimate goal is to develop interventions that can head off these health problems early.

"We tend to see a lot of negative health outcomes in younger LGBT people, but then these disparities lessen as they get older," Corliss said. "A critical window for interventions is during adolescence and young adulthood. But we wouldn't know that if we didn't do this research."

Common Chords

CHAPTERS FROM AZTEC HISTORY

Reptiles that roam the deserts of San Diego inevitably shed their skin as they grow larger. So it is with universities. When the San Diego Normal School—SDSU's precursor—was built in 1899 in San Diego's University Heights neighborhood, it was meant to house a mere 600 students. This original campus was a grand and beautiful Beaux-Arts affair with a central dome and neoclassic columns. A training school annex was added in 1910.

But what began as a narrow mission to train local elementary school teachers quickly broadened and grew under the leadership of President Samuel T. Black. The school acquired the local junior college and transformed into a four-year college, San Diego State Teachers College in 1921.

With the walls bursting with students, it became evident that SDSTC would need more room. In 1922, President Edward Hardy proposed rebuilding on the school's current site, but state legislature blocked this. A few years later, the state authorized the school's expansion on the condition that the city of San Diego would provide adequate space for it.

The first proposed site was the northeastern corner of Balboa Park,



Photo courtesy of SDSU Special Collections

but the citizens of San Diego rejected this idea when it was put to vote in 1926, preferring to keep the park a dedicated place for recreation. The following year, voters again rejected a proposed site in the Encanto neighborhood.

With enrollment pushing 1,200 students—double the University Heights campus' intended capacity—school administrators soldiered on. Finally in 1928, the Bell-Lloyd Investment Company offered the college 125 acres of land in Mission Valley.

This time, voters approved. Architects planned the new campus in the Mission Revival style. Hardy

wrote in a 1929 editorial, "Overlooking the crumbling ruins of California's first mission ... there

will arise soon ... the new State College of San Diego, in an architecture reminiscent of Spain and Spanish arts as influenced by the Arabian and Moorish art ... all of this not more than a drive of thirty minutes from downtown San Diego."

Construction of the new campus began in October 1929, and the first classes were held there two years later. The original campus in University Heights became the

Horace Mann Junior High School, then the San Diego Unified School District's administrative offices. In 1955, the school district demolished the campus in order to expand its primary administrative building.

There are scant remains from SDSU's original abode. Bricks from the demolished building were used to construct a barbecue grill outside Scripps Cottage on today's campus, and the dilapidated training school annex still stands, boarded up and unoccupied, at the intersection of Park Boulevard and El Cajon Boulevard in University Heights.

—Michael Price



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