

University of San Diego

Digital USD

---

USD Magazine

USD News

---

Summer 2020

## USD Magazine Summer 2020

University of San Diego

Follow this and additional works at: <https://digital.sandiego.edu/usdmagazine>

---

### Digital USD Citation

University of San Diego, "USD Magazine Summer 2020" (2020). *USD Magazine*. 86.  
<https://digital.sandiego.edu/usdmagazine/86>

This Book is brought to you for free and open access by the USD News at Digital USD. It has been accepted for inclusion in USD Magazine by an authorized administrator of Digital USD. For more information, please contact [digital@sandiego.edu](mailto:digital@sandiego.edu).



UNIVERSITY OF SAN DIEGO

# USD MAG

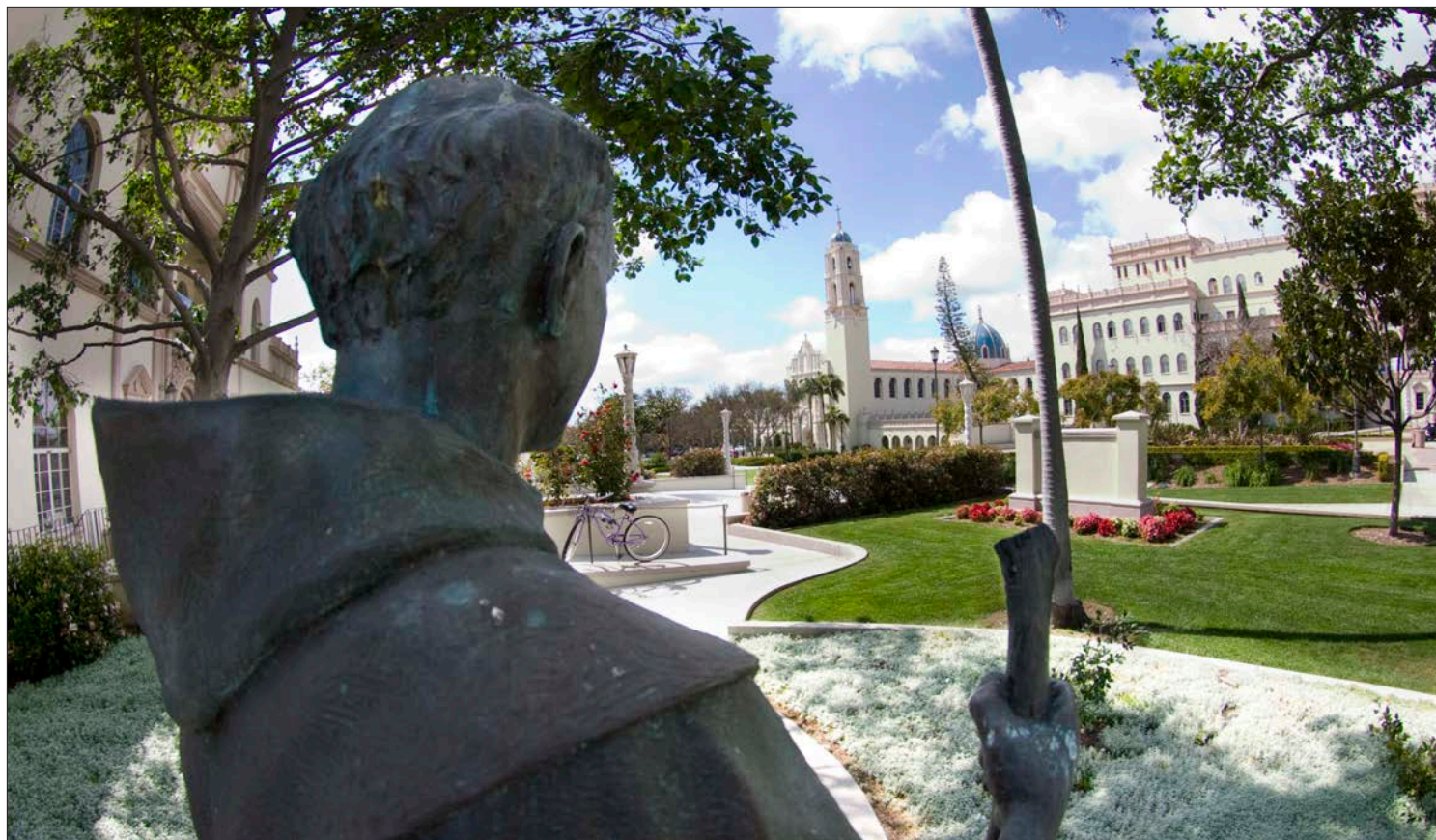
Summer 2020

## TOREROS TOGETHER

*Doctor of Nursing Practice student Elena Johns volunteered to go to New York for a month and help on the front lines of the COVID-19 pandemic.*



# DEAR TOREROS



Virtually every sector of society has been compelled to adjust its near- and long-term plans as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic, and I write to offer you some perspectives on how we are making adjustments at the University of San Diego.

Together, we have responded to this global health emergency with decisiveness, creativity and cooperation. Our response is a testimony to our commitment to protect our students, staff and communities while at the same time continuing to care for the most vulnerable among us. It has been inspiring to hear from so many members of our Torero family as they selflessly take action for those in most need.

This expression of compassion and empathy has been truly remarkable and has informed how we have approached this crisis.

We are now planning for next steps and intend to reopen our campus for the fall semester, including on-campus classes. We are planning for a hybrid teaching and learning approach, which includes a combination of optional remote and in-person classes. The Fall 2020 Academic Affairs Task Force was appointed to facilitate communication and collaboration among functional teams working across units to prepare for the Fall 2020 semester. Teams are organized around functional objectives and include members from various offices

and units across the university.

The health and safety of our campus community is a top priority, and we will make data-informed decisions based on the research, advice and regulatory protocols from state and county health officials, our own internal expertise and national best practices.

USD will continue to set the highest academic standards grounded in our Catholic intellectual tradition. We will have access to testing for the virus on our campus and will be deeply engaged in county-wide initiatives to trace and monitor the spread of the virus. We will be converting our campus into a low-density model of campus life. Social dis-

tancing both on campus and in the classroom will be practiced, and we will dramatically increase cleaning schedules for classrooms and public spaces to ensure the cleanest possible environment and adhere to current CDC guidelines.

Our Torero family remains a force for good, and I am confident that we will channel our energies in ways that elevate our mission. While these times are unlike any we have ever seen at USD or in our nation, I do firmly believe that if we make the right strategic decisions now, we can emerge stronger.

We are #TorerosTogether!

*James T. Harris III, D.Ed.*  
President

# MEETING THE NEEDS OF TODAY'S TOREROS ... TODAY

While we don't know what the future holds, we do know USD will never waiver on delivering high-impact learning experiences. What we do know is that the needs of our students will be greater than ever before.

Before COVID-19 hit, more than 75% of our students received scholarships or other forms of financial aid. That's a figure we expect to grow as families across the nation recover from challenges related to this crisis.

Help us provide scholarships and additional financial support for students whose families have been hardest hit. With your generous support, there's no limit to what today's Toreros can do. Make your gift today.

## #TOREROSTOGETHER

[sandiego.edu/give-now](https://sandiego.edu/give-now)



## STAFF BOX

**[president]**

James T. Harris III, DEd

**[vice president, university advancement]**

Richard Virgin

**[associate vice president, university marketing and communications]**

Peter Marlow

[petermarlow@sandiego.edu](mailto:petermarlow@sandiego.edu)

**[editor/senior director]**

Julene Snyder

[julene@sandiego.edu](mailto:julene@sandiego.edu)

**[senior creative director]**

Barbara Ferguson

[barbaraf@sandiego.edu](mailto:barbaraf@sandiego.edu)

**[editorial advisory board]**

Sandra Ciallella '87 (JD)

Pamela Gray Payton '16 (MSEL)

Lynn Hajar Hoffman '98 (BBA), '06 (MSGL)

Minh-Ha Hoang '96 (BBA), '01 (MA)

Michael Lovette-Colyer '13 (PhD)

Chris Nayve '98 (BA), '06 (JD), '07 (MBA)

Rich Yousko '87 (BBA)

**[usd magazine]**

USD Magazine is published 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.

**[torero notes]**

Torero 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: Torero 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 Torero Notes to [classnotes@sandiego.edu](mailto: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

**[website]**

[www.sandiego.edu/usdmag](http://www.sandiego.edu/usdmag)

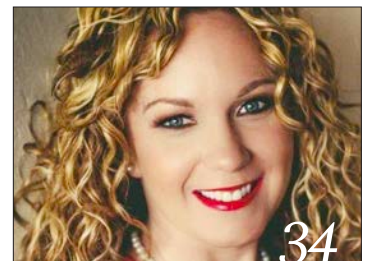
**[be blue go green]**

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.

[0520/Digital Only/PUBS-20-2770]



# CONTENTS





# USD MAGAZINE

## FEATURES

### TOREROS TOGETHER

14 | The impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on our community, our country and our world is unprecedented. Over the course of this spring, the University of San Diego community has come together in innovative and inspiring ways to confront this most urgent of challenges.

### NURSES DO WONDERFUL THINGS

18 | Jane Georges, PhD, became the fourth dean of the Hahn School of Nursing and Health Science in July 2018. She spoke with *USD Magazine* in mid-April 2020 for a wide-ranging conversation that included her thoughts about the future of nursing education in the wake of COVID-19 and the ways that the nursing community is rising to meet the challenges of the pandemic.

### IN A WORD, RESILIENCE

22 | It seems a lifetime ago that a group of USD faculty members and students traveled to Uganda. But January 2020 was just a few short months ago. That's when the group, accompanied by USD News Center editor and frequent *USD Magazine* contributor Ryan T. Blystone flew to the other side of the world. Their work remains important, even as the world's attention has shifted in light of the health crisis brought about by the spread of COVID-19.

## TORERO NEWS

### Help for USD Students in Need

4 | The Toreros Together Emergency Fund was created to help students in the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic this spring.

### Where Realism Meets Empathy

6 | A trio of women involved with Catholic Relief Services have had extensive first-hand experience with humanitarian crises not dissimilar to the one we're all going through.

### Team First, Then Action

8 | The Mulvaney Center's Chris Nayve and Maria Silva have the same approach to community engagement service. Each has been recognized with awards that laud their work at USD and in the wider world.

### Families, At Home Together

10 | Torero families sheltering in place are finding creative ways to cherish this unexpected time in each other's company.

## TORERO ATHLETICS

### Singing Her Heart Out

12 | USD graduate student and standout volleyball player Thana Fayad has had twin passions since she was a child. She's doing her best to make her dreams come true.

### Looking Back, Moving Forward

13 | Associate Vice President/Executive Director for Athletics Bill McGillis looks back at the extraordinary achievements of so many of our teams and scholar-athletes.

## CLASS NOTES

### Find a Need, Fill it

26 | Members of the USD community are stepping up to respond to need during the pandemic. Whether delivering juice to ERs, organizing a PPE drive or helping out elderly neighbors, Toreros want to be part of the solution.

### A Slice of Hope

32 | USD alumna Alisa (Ali) Le '16 (BA) shares the story of how her company is raising tens of thousands of dollars to provide food for hospital workers in New York City, Brooklyn, the Bronx and Queens.

### Leaning All the Way In

34 | Veteran Jodie Grenier '18 (MA) fights for women warriors. As CEO for the Foundation for Women Warriors, she's been seeing an uptick in need from women veterans due to the economic downturn sparked by the pandemic.

## ON THE COVER

USD Doctor of Nursing Practice student Elena Johns, RN, BSN. She volunteered to work in the emergency room of a New York-area hospital for a month this spring to assist with patients impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic.

### WEBSITE

[sandiego.edu/usdmag](http://sandiego.edu/usdmag)

### FACEBOOK

[facebook.com/usandiego](https://facebook.com/usandiego)

### TWITTER

@uofsandiego

### INSTAGRAM

@uofsandiego



# TORERO NEWS



PHOTOGRAPHER

[well-being]

## HELP FOR USD STUDENTS IN NEED

### Toreros Together Emergency Fund established

by Ryan T. Blystone

**M**arch 2020 was a month Mira Wiley is certainly not likely to forget any time soon.

The senior mechanical engineering student spent the first week of the month — USD’s Spring Break — in Israel studying the world’s top-ranking country for water re-use firsthand. It was

Wiley’s first international trip, made possible by a travel scholarship and other donations.

Then came the rest of a really long month. Students at USD and across the nation have shifted to remote learning due to the COVID-19 pandemic, and have either returned home or to local, off-campus housing.

For Wiley, a resident assistant, her experience in Israel quickly receded; her prime task became helping other students vacate campus. She also had to decide if she would return to her hometown of Denver, Colorado. But when California expedited its plans to the current shelter-in-place situation, USD moved

its deadline for student relocation up by several days.

Wiley suddenly had a very short window to decide on whether she’d make the 20-hour drive home in her 2008 Toyota Camry. “And then I remembered that a mechanic had told me I needed four new tires if I planned to go on a long-distance trip.’ I wasn’t going to have my federal work-study job and I knew I’d have some big expenses with no money coming in. It was a really stressful situation.”

A Residential Life colleague suggested Wiley contact Assistant Vice President of Student Affairs,



Cynthia Avery, EdD, for assistance. The university has established the Toreros Together Emergency Fund for Students. Upon appealing to Avery, the university gave Wiley funds to purchase four new tires, pay her mileage costs and provide money for one night's lodging.

"It was more than I could have ever expected," Wiley said. "The emergency fund was crucial to my mental well-being in the midst of chaos. I was able to take the most comfortable option."

The emergency fund has been heavily tapped. First-year student Gabriel Lewandowski, who is studying computer science, needed travel bags. Thanks to the emergency fund, USD purchased the bags and covered his airfare. "Within hours, Cynthia reached out to me and got me all the materials I needed to move out safely and efficiently," Lewandowski says.

Francesca Spruiell, a senior who lives locally, requested and obtained an external hard drive so she could download the class materials she needed.

These are just a few of the students whose needs were met by the fund, which brings in contributions from donors, individual USD schools and others. The USD Associated Student Government voted last month to provide a major allocation of its remaining academic year funding toward helping students.

The fund relies on donations to create support. "As COVID-19 continues to span the globe, our most vulnerable students are most likely to be exceptionally affected by the pandemic's economic impact," Avery said. "I am incredibly grateful for the generosity of the Associated Student Government and our Torero Family for supporting our students most in need." 🌐

To help, go to [sandiego.edu/emer-fund](http://sandiego.edu/emer-fund).

[persistence]

# WHEN YOU HAVE FAITH

## Parent Board support crucial to success

by *Julene Snyder*

It was the summer of 2017, and Maria Coleman didn't yet know she'd been accepted to the University of San Diego as a transfer student. In her mid-30s, she'd moved so often that her mail always seemed to be a step behind. By the time she got word that she was admitted for the fall semester, there was no campus housing available that could accommodate herself and her sons.

"They gave me temporary housing for that semester," she recalls. "As a result, I had to share custody, so that they boys had a place to live."

By the time she was better situated, her ex-husband had gone to court and formalized a shared custody arrangement, even though Coleman says that she'd previously endured 15 years of domestic violence. While the situation baffles her, she kept a laser-like focus on the prize: a diploma from USD.

It's been a long road for Coleman, who found out she had a learning disability during her community college years. "It's a processing deficit," she explains. "For me, higher education has meant a lot more than just going to class and getting books. It's a way for me to find a place for myself in society; to really discover who I am as a woman."

When campus had to be sud-

denly evacuated by March 22, Coleman and her fellow Torero Renaissance Scholars — defined as "USD students who identify as former foster youth, homeless or at risk for homelessness or emancipated minors or in legal guardianships" — had to be relocated quickly.

"The school quickly mobilized and found us not just housing, but the manpower to move us."

She credits these efforts, as well as generous support from the Parent Board, for making her relocation to a nearby apartment as painless as possible.

"It's all thanks to donations," she says. "The Parent Board was responsible for making this happen for me. I can't

say enough about the heart that they have to continue helping students like me. It's amazing."

Coleman, a political science major, is looking forward to graduation this fall. With just a few summer classes to complete, she's already researching job options, potentially with the State Department or Congress. She sees maintaining a positive attitude as crucial.

"Despite setbacks, the more we come together, the more we transcend our difficulties. I've lived through a lot of negative things, but you have to press on. When you have faith and focus on the goodness of things, goodness is sure to come." 🌐



*Maria Coleman (center), alongside her sons Joseph and Jason.*

PHOTOGRAPHER





TRENA YONKERS-TALZ

[faith in action]

# WHERE REALISM MEETS EMPATHY

Finding hope in hard times is CRS' daily work

by Karen Gross

In late March, Ella Guimond '13 (BA), the Philadelphia-based community engagement manager for Catholic Relief Services (CRS), had had much of her work frozen, as had millions of others in the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic.

She considered the pandemic's impacts on the lives of Americans, and then placed them in the global context that informs much of her work. "For us, this is the first time in my lifetime

that something like this has happened," she said. "But there are so many communities that we don't even know about that have been facing similar challenges for a very long time."

In their work with CRS locally and internationally, Guimond and other USD alumni have had extensive first-hand experience with those other communities: desperate people fleeing civil war in Syria, survivors of famine and other humanitarian disasters

in Africa, and Central Americans claiming asylum who are being held in makeshift camps and shelters right across the U.S. border in Mexico.

"Not to take away from the suffering and fear and other emotions that we as a U.S. society are feeling, but this very real fear we are feeling is felt all around the world," Guimond says. "Not just now, people are facing malaria, HIV/AIDS or Ebola. Or the fear of being deported and

having to leave your home." She wonders if this fraught time in our lives might serve as a platform to highlight the suffering and stress that millions around the world endure every day.

If that's the wide-angle lens through which Guimond sees the planet, Jessica Howell '07 (MA) has used the telephoto. Howell, who earned her master's in peace and justice studies, spent several years working on CRS programs in the Middle East, including Gaza, Turkey, Afghanistan and Pakistan.

"Situations that have necessitated a humanitarian response are painful and distressing and demoralizing," she says. "And yet there can be such hope in

the midst of it all. CRS predominantly hires staff from the communities in which we work. Being part of that team is an incredible privilege.”

Howell now manages the Midwest region for CRS. Working out of Minneapolis, she is responsible for outreach in 12 states. “We’re trying to build a movement to bring transformative change to poor and vulnerable communities around the world, largely through legislative advocacy to shape U.S. policy on critical global issues.”

Maria Arroyo ‘07 (MA) is Howell’s counterpart in the agency’s western region, based in San Diego. After completing an undergraduate degree in business and briefly working in the corporate world, Arroyo began working in her Orange County parish, completed a master’s in theology, and then earned another master’s in pastoral care and counseling. While working on that degree at USD, electives she took through the Kroc School helped her find her new path.

“I volunteered in India, I did a study abroad in Argentina, I took a trip to Peru. I volunteered across the border in Mexico,” Arroyo says. “It gave me an international approach and complemented my pastoral work as well.” She’s been with CRS ever since, save for a two-year hiatus during which she lived part of the time in Mexico.

For all three women, CRS is a base from which they view the world with realism and empathy. No challenge is insurmountable. “Families who were already living in extreme poverty are still living in extreme poverty,” says Guimond. “I think the biggest thing is, the work doesn’t stop.”

*From left to right, Craig Stephens, Patricia Simone, Niña Francesca, Erica, Ella Guimond, ‘13 (BA) and Kat Saxton in El Salvador.*

[generosity]

# RX FOR BETTER HEALTHCARE

## Father’s gift starts scholarship for graduate nursing

by Liz Harman

When Madison Molotky told her dad how much she liked her doctoral of nursing practice (DNP) program at the Hahn School of Nursing and Health Science, he took notice.

“We are thrilled with her progress,” says Greg Molotky. In particular, he likes how much practical experience the future family nurse practitioner is receiving. “To me, as a business individual, hands-on experience is the most important thing you can do” He liked what he heard from his daughter so much that he decided to make a \$5,000 gift to start the USD’s first scholarship for DNP students. The family is excited that Madison will be the first in the family to earn an advanced degree when she completes the program in 2021.

Hahn School of Nursing Dean Jane Georges says the gift will support the DNP program that is playing an important role in today’s rapidly evolving health care system and nurses with doctoral degrees are in great demand.

The DNP program, started at USD in 2008, prepares nurses at the highest level of proficiency as they learn to translate science into clinical practice, Georges explains. Students develop the skills to lead collaboratively, integrate research into care and design better health care delivery systems. USD’s program is known for its “clinical excellence” and

most DNP graduates have gone on to leadership roles in clinical practice and nursing education across the nation and around the world, she says.

The program has two pathways. The first includes students with bachelor’s or master’s degrees who want to become nurse practitioners, nursing informaticists and health systems leaders with clinical practice expertise at the doctoral level. Under the second, nurses with master’s degrees can enroll in the program to gain additional knowledge and clinical expertise in a defined area of advanced nursing practice.

In Madison Molotky’s case, she’s hoping to build on her bachelor’s degree from the University of San Francisco to deliver maternal health care to women using the latest in evidence-based practice and research. As a youngster, she knew she wanted a career helping people in need.

As the nursing school graduates more DNP students, Georges hopes others will want to join in adding to the Molotky’s gift and the new scholarship fund. “We’re hoping it’s a seed that will grow into a mighty tree.”

To learn more, go to [sandiego.edu/nursing/giving](http://sandiego.edu/nursing/giving)



MADISON AND GREG MOLOTKY





RYAN T. BLYSTONE

[ *accolades* ]

# TEAM FIRST, THEN ACTION

**Nayve, Silva recognized as leaders in community engagement**

by *Ryan T. Blystone*

**C**hris Nayve and Maria Silva have the same approach to community engagement service. The focus is team-first, followed by action. It's all about working alongside the community and — ideally — developing a deep relationship.

Nayve and Silva, who are both connected to USD's Karen and Tom Mulvaney Center for Community, Awareness and Social Action, are strong proponents for

collaborative success. But neither of them seeks the spotlight. So, it's no surprise that when both Nayve and Silva learned they were recognized for their respective work by the Campus Compact organization in the spring of 2020, they were quick to share their success with others.

Nayve, a triple USD alumnus ('98 BA, '06 JD, '07 MBA), is the recipient of the Nadinne Cruz Community Engagement Professional

Award. Silva, who earned her undergraduate degree in sociology in 2012, received the California Campus Compact's Richard E. Cone Award for Emerging Leaders in Community Engagement.

"Nadinne Cruz has been a friend and mentor to me for many years," says Nayve, associate vice president for community engagement and anchor initiatives. "To receive an award named after someone who wholehearted-

ly lives justice and equity and focuses on how academic institutions can more equally partner in justice-focused ways, I'm standing in awe of that.

"I'm so appreciative of the team and people who put this together; the way I think about it is that I'm just a representative of our collective work. This award is a shared recognition."

Silva calls her selection "humbling" and "unbelievable." She's been working within the Mulvaney Center since her first year as an undergraduate student, and acknowledges the guidance she's had working alongside Nayve, John Loggins and former director Elaine Elliott.

"I've had incredible role mod-

els in Chris, John and Elaine,” says Silva, who is from Nogales, Mexico. “This award makes me stop and reflect on the trust I’ve been able to establish with our community members and to think of myself as an emerging leader as a woman of color.”

California Campus Compact Executive Director Elaine Ikeda, PhD, says, “We are grateful for Maria’s powerful leadership. She epitomizes what this award truly means. We’re excited to highlight her exemplary work in the field of service-learning and civic engagement.”

Nayve says Silva’s binational orientation to Mexico and the United States is critical to her approach, giving her a unique insight in navigating literal and figurative border crossings.

“Maria is one of the very few people I have met who unambiguously and wholeheartedly lives and practices the concept of radical hospitality in a way that truly holds the academy accountable to equity, community, love and mutuality,” he says.

Silva believes the award is proof of the value of collaboration, building relationships and partnerships. As a woman of color, she’s aware that receiving the Cone award isn’t just about recognizing her, but those coming up after her.

“It’s validation that this work matters and is valued,” Silva says. “It’s a special recognition because of the inclusive spaces that have been created for diverse voices to be heard.”

A multitude of partnerships, programs and initiatives keep Nayve and his colleagues busy, year-round. He and his staff have worked everywhere from Linda Vista to Tijuana and New Orleans to Duncans, Jamaica. His earliest work in San Diego while a USD student led to programs implemented by at least five individual schools.

“What I find most valuable is his ability to remain humble and to be a true believer in the power of collaborative work,” says Emalyn Leppard, a STEAM Resource teacher in the San Diego Unified School District and USD graduate alumna. “After all of these years — the travel, accolades, speaking engagements and rise to a prestigious position with the university community — Chris is still at the table, sleeves rolled up, working to address ongoing issues and new problems as they arise.”

As USD moved to remote learning during the spring semester due to the COVID-19 pandemic, Nayve and Silva were determined to adapt to the circumstances. “A sociology course that Chris and I co-teach along with two community partners has transitioned to remote community engagement projects,” says Silva.

“These include creating a digital portfolio of songs and poems written inside immigration detention center, designing ‘know your rights’ visuals/infographics/materials for asylum seekers and doing call-ins with folks inside detention centers to check in on them.”

Clearly, the work doesn’t stop, even when you’re already winners. 🧠

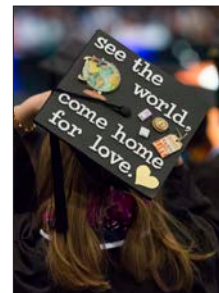


**Chris Nayve** (‘98 BA, ‘06 JD, ‘07 MBA).

## [ RAYS OF HOPE ]

### **Congratulations Class of 2020!**

The health and safety of our students and their families is important to all of us at USD. That’s why the decision was made this spring, in the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic, to wait to gather together until this fall. That’s when we’ll make our commencement ceremonies the centerpiece of Homecoming and Family Weekend on Oct. 16-18, 2020. Learn more at [sandiego.edu/commencement](http://sandiego.edu/commencement).



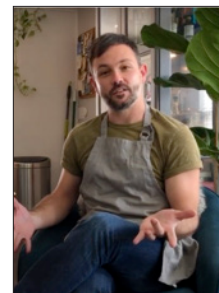
### **New Tapestries of Saints**

Executive Director of University Design Mary Whelan commissioned artist John Nava to create portraits of Saints Tekakwitha and Serra which now hang in the main entry of Saints Hall to recognize the renaming of the building. The tapestries — which were installed in mid-April on the Feast Day for St. Tekakwitha — will be available to view by campus visitors when campus is reopened.



### **Philosophy and Taste**

USD Philosophy Professor Nicholas Riggle, PhD, saw a perfect opportunity to not only cook something delicious, but to create a fun and interactive lesson for his students at the same time. In his video, “Cooking with Friedrich Schiller,” he prepares a unique twist on risotto, while at the same time explaining the importance of the aesthetic state of the ingredients he uses. Learn more at [sandiego.edu/news/cas/detail.php?\\_focus=76142](http://sandiego.edu/news/cas/detail.php?_focus=76142).



### **USD Sustainability Makes an Impact**

Nine permanent collection bins on campus came in handy when USD had to move all students off campus due to COVID-19 safety measures this spring. During the mid-March move out, more than 23,000 pounds of materials were collected, including gently used clothing, linens, housewares, electronics, books and toiletries. The items were donated to Disabled American Veterans for its donation program.







COURTESY OF SHARON QUALIS

[mutuality]

# FAMILIES, AT HOME TOGETHER

USD parents share their tales from sheltering in place

by Julene Snyder

**A**cross the country, Torero families sheltering in place are finding creative ways to not just tolerate one another, but cherish this unexpected time in each other's company.

Parent and Family Relations reached out to members of the Parent Board to ask them how things are going on the home front. Their responses were

candid, moving, funny and thoughtful.

"This time has given us all a chance to slow down and appreciate what we have," said Robin Darmon, whose daughter, Sarah, is a junior. "We will certainly return to 'normal' life with much greater appreciation for those things we previously took for granted."

Brandan Walsh, father of

second-year Catherine, offered up the following words of encouragement: "Pray! Our children attend a Catholic institution for a reason. God is always there for us in times of hardship, and this is just the time."

Parent Bart Story, whose child, Brandt Jager-Story is a first-year, says that there's definitely some good coming out of the situation. "By sharing space we're getting

better at understanding everyone's perspective and opinions," he said.

Kirk Jefferies, whose daughter Annabelle is a junior, found some comfort in a place many Americans have turned to during these uncertain times: Netflix. "Joe Exotic and other fun series have brought the family together, and reassured us that as bad as things are, we are not as crazy as some others."

Carlyn Bushman, whose four children are recent USD graduates, noted that sometimes there are unexpected benefits to having a full house. "We had a dance party in our kitchen Saturday night at 1:30 am! They are keeping us young!"

Sharon Qualis, whose daughter, Julia is a senior, also has her niece, a USD graduate student, in the house.

“On a positive note, we are enjoying making and eating meals together, playing games, and holding Zoom calls with extended family and friends,” she said; “We’ve also seen some interesting attire around the house. Our blue Snuggie blanket has become a very popular attire for our daughter (pictured)! It’s Torero blue of course!”

Ann Marie Skalecki, whose son, George is a junior, had this to say. “This unknown has been good for bringing everyone together to help one another and care about everyone on such a different level. It is very good to bring people back to the simple things in life.”

Laurie Bradley, whose son, Joseph, is a senior, is a proponent of finding fun in the midst of uncertainty. “Our family likes to play games, so we all joined a Zoom meeting and played bingo! We had relatives from Chicago, New Orleans, Los Angeles and San Diego get in on the fun!”

On a more serious note, Julie Cohn, whose son, Nicholas, is a senior, notes that it’s important to look for the silver lining. In her particular case, she’s been impressed at how her son has juggled a full course load, senior honors thesis and helped transition the campus writing center to video conference tutoring needs to assist USD students.

“We are appreciative that USD gave him not just academic knowledge, but the leadership skills he needs to succeed in life.”

And we at the University of San Diego deeply appreciate all the parents, families and students who are doing what they can to make the best of things — even when it sometimes feels as if our worlds have suddenly shrunk. 🧘

[coziness]

# TINY TOREROS STORYTIME

## New podcast aimed at the littles launches

by *Julene Snyder*

Parents looking for a way to entertain their toddlers, preschoolers and young children as they shelter in place have a new resource by the name of Tiny Toreros Story Time, a free podcast that’s “designed to be listened to throughout the day, or as you get ready for bedtime.”

Stories are narrated in English and Spanish by Director of International Engagement and Alumni Outreach Claudia Gonzales ’99 (BA), ’03 (MA), and started streaming on March 28, 2020. New episodes will be going up every week. Gonzales, who travels quite a bit for work, kept connected with her nieces — age 2 and 5 — while she was on the road by narrating and recording stories for them using her iPhone. “That way, if we were in different

time zones, they could still listen at bedtime.” Now that so many are hunkered down at home, she thought, “Why not read these stories for all of the Torero kids?”

In her online introduction to the podcast, Gonzales says, “the Alumni Association, like many of our alumni, is looking for ways to stay engaged and connected with each other.” With just a minimal amount of promotion on social media in the past week, the podcast already has listeners far beyond the U.S., ranging from Australia to Canada to Italy to Germany to the Philippines and beyond.

Gonzales warmly welcomes listeners at the beginning of the first episode by asking, “Are you ready for a story? Great! All right little ones, get comfy, get cozy.

Sit back, relax and enjoy. Today’s story is *The Gruffalo’s Child*, written by Julia Donaldson.”

Her warm, engaging voice invokes the very feelings of coziness that a story told by a beloved family member would. And the tale unfolds: *The Gruffalo’s child* encounters other creatures in a perhaps misguided quest to find the whereabouts of the Big Bad Mouse they had been told about. There will be no spoilers here, but suffice to say, the *Gruffalo’s child* finds more than they bargained for.

Gonzales closes with a cheery, “Be sure to check back for more stories, read just for you. Take care, tiny Toreros.” And that, as they say, is the end. 🧘

[podparadise.com/odcast/1504008131](http://podparadise.com/odcast/1504008131)



ILLUSTRATION BY MARINA WOODS



# TORERO ATHLETICS



PHOTO COURTESY OF THANA FAYAD

[twin passions]

## SINGING HER HEART OUT

**Thana Fayad is extraordinary on and off the court**

by Don Norcross

**T**hana Fayad stepped out of the car and looked up at the Normal Heights music club marquee. There, in bold letters, was her name.

A 21-year-old University of San Diego graduate student and standout volleyball player, Fayad

was the headline performer at Lestat's West that night in mid-February. During her 38-minute set, she performed the single "Into the Woods," which was released that night on Spotify.

When asked how it felt to see her name atop a marquee,

Fayad recalls, "It was very, very humbling, and I was proud of myself to come so far, so quickly."

At that moment, Fayad had no idea that the world was in the midst of a frightening change. By early May, the coronavirus pandemic had topped 3.5 million

cases and nearly 250,000 deaths worldwide.

For Fayad, the outbreak meant the cancelation of a show, no volleyball practices, no rehearsals with her music colleagues. "It's a very strange time," she says. "Unlike anything anybody has ever seen."

Music and volleyball have been Fayad's twin passions for some time. She was taking piano lessons by the age of 5, voice lessons by 11. Raised in British Columbia, she entered a Canadian version of American Idol when she was

about 11, and finished second.

One of five children, Fayad was restricted to one hour a day on the Internet in her teens and spent that time downloading music. Her influences lean toward Amy Winehouse, Adele and Alicia Keys. Always dabbling with lyrics, in her early teens Fayad wrote a song entitled, "Marry My Piano."

"I don't need a man," Fayad says of her thoughts back then. "I'll just marry my piano."

Fayad's two older sisters played volleyball and she shadowed them to the courts. Fayad grew to 6 feet tall, was blessed with some hops and a windmill right-arm swing. Former USD associate head coach Brent Hilliard spotted Fayad at a tournament, the Toreros offered a scholarship and the Canadian was bound for California.

She played well in her first year in 2016, then missed almost the entire next two seasons when she suffered two major knee injuries that required surgeries. After suffering the second injury in December 2017, Fayad wondered if her volleyball career was over. She remembers her mother crying on the phone when told her the news.

"Nobody can say I didn't think about quitting," Fayad says. "Multiple times."

But Fayad dedicated herself to the arduous rehabbing task a second time. Last fall, in her comeback season, she earned All-West Coast Conference honors. On a team that advanced to the NCAA Tournament for the 22nd time in the last 24 seasons, Fayad finished second on the team with 298 kills and third with 260 digs. She has one more year of eligibility.

"I've never seen a more determined athlete," says USD head volleyball coach Jennifer Petrie,

When Fayad suffered her second knee injury, her mother suggested she use the down time to rekindle her passion for music. Inspired by her battle to recover from the second surgery, Fayad

wrote the lyrics to "Into the Woods." Part of the lyrics read: When I fall, I don't want to mask the pain / It will only help me fight again / When I fall, my power's born again.

In December of 2018, Fayad put an ad on Craigslist. She identified herself as a singer/songwriter who wanted to get more involved in the music industry and noted that she aspired to be a professional musician after college. Andy Gallagher — a local guitarist and songwriter who plays in the band Trains Across the Sea — responded to the ad. Fayad and Gallagher have been working together for more than a year and have written about 20 songs.

"She's got an incredible voice," says Gallagher. "The question is, what do she and I have to say with that voice?"

Even in conversation, Fayad has a distinctive sound. Husky, a bit hoarse. As for her singing, she has been described as "soulful, jazzy."

"I've heard the phrase West Coast Blues," says Gallagher. "I certainly wouldn't disagree with that."

Fayad earned her bachelor's degree in Communication Studies. She's pursuing a master's in Leadership Studies. Playing a team sport, sometimes in front of thousands, doesn't faze Fayad. But singing in front of an audience at an intimate venue?

"All eyes are on me," she says. "It can be scary. Is there going to be applause at the end or will they throw tomatoes? As of now, it's pretty uncomfortable."

Fayad has performed at local coffee houses, bars and cafes. That night at Lestat's West, management kept the door open during her performance. A homeless man wandered by during Fayad's February set. He stood in the doorway, smiling. Says Fayad, "Which I thought was kind of cute." 🎵



PHOTOGRAPHY

## DEAR TOREROS:

Our focus since the inception of the COVID-19 crisis has been to continue to deliver the services necessary for our scholar-athletes' success.

While there will not be any practice or competition for the remainder of the spring semester, our coaches remain in frequent communication with members of their teams, and continue to lead, teach and mentor from afar.

We will undoubtedly look back on the spring of 2020 as the year in which all of our spring sports seasons ended so abruptly, but will also remember the year for the extraordinary achievements of so many of our teams and scholar-athletes.

These successes include, but are not limited to: 124 total wins in all sports (the 2nd most among West Coast Conference schools); conference championships and NCAA Playoff/Tournament appearances in both football and volleyball; a scintillating finish and run to the WCC championship game and the brink of the NCAA Tournament by the women's basketball team; four All-American awards earned by men's soccer player Miguel Berry (the first-round draft choice of Major League Soccer's Columbus Crew), football players Michael Bandy and Dalton Kincaid, and volleyball player Grace Frohling; two Academic All-Americans (men's soccer's Berry and Henry Lander), and three conference Coaches of the Year; Dale Lindsey (football), Jennifer Petrie (volleyball) and Cindy Fisher (women's basketball).

Most importantly, our scholar-athletes earned a cumulative GPA of 3.20, the highest on record, and contributed several thousand hours of service in our community. It has, indeed, been a very special year that we will not forget.

*Warm regards,  
Bill McGillis  
Associate Vice President/  
Executive Director for Athletics*



# #Toreros Together

STORIES OF  
COMPASSION,  
COURAGE,  
INSIGHT  
AND RESILIENCE



The impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on our community, our country and our world is unprecedented. Over the course of this spring, the University of San Diego community has come together in innovative and inspiring ways to confront this most urgent of challenges. Perhaps not surprisingly, people were eager to help and found ways to make a difference in the midst of uncertainty. Following are just a few examples of the ways members of the Torero community dug deep and got to work: They manufactured ventilators. They produced much-needed personal protective equipment. They wrote editorials that were cited in the Congressional Record of the U.S. Congress. They came together in song and shared the sound of their voices with the wider world. They volunteered to serve on the front lines at the pandemic's epicenter and shared stories of what they witnessed upon their return. They advocated for children. They found ways to join in community prayer. They inspire us to rise above our fears and be part of the solution.

[Bookmark sandiego.edu/toreroaltogether](https://sandiego.edu/toreroaltogether) to follow new stories of compassion, courage, insight and resilience that define the Torero spirit.



## The Sound of Hope

When Shiley-Marcos School of Engineering Dean Chell Roberts met with Dean Jane Georges from the Hahn School of Nursing in March, he asked what his school could do to help. She quickly suggested finding a way to manufacture personal protective equipment (PPE) would be welcomed. Roberts immediately conducted a search and found an article from UCLA detailing specifications for 3D-printed face shield prototypes. He then reached out to his Mechanical Lab Manager, Steve Saxer, PE, knowing the school had the freed-up lab space and equipment, as well as the skeleton staff to produce PPE prototypes. The process was slow to start, initially yielding only six to eight face shield headbands per day. But before long, the whirring of 3D printers graced the silenced hallways with the sound of hope. “We are now trying to run all four 3D printers day and night,” explains Saxer. He also enlisted the help of recently graduated integrated engineering alumnus Michael Korody ‘20 and Chadmond Wu, president of the USD 3D Printing Club, to print face shields using the same specifications from their home 3D printers. “We will keep printing them until there is no more need — or until our printers break down,” says Saxer.



Read more at [https://www.sandiego.edu/news/engineering/detail.php?\\_focus=76320](https://www.sandiego.edu/news/engineering/detail.php?_focus=76320)

## Surprise Guest

In late April, Mortar Board alumnus Jonny Kim ‘12 (BA) made a surprise appearance via Zoom at the 20th celebration of San Diego’s Alcalá Chapter of Mortar Board. Kim is a NASA astronaut as well as a lieutenant



in the U.S. Navy Reserves. He has also been a decorated Navy SEAL and a physician who graduated with a doctorate in medicine from Harvard Medical School. This past January he graduated from NASA’s astronaut candidate training school. One subject he shared with current students, faculty alumni and others was the importance of resiliency and persistence: “I think in order to become the best version of ourselves, we have to fail because we learn from our mistakes. Learn as much as you can from failure.” Read more at [sandiego.edu/torerogether/detail.php?\\_focus=76294](https://www.sandiego.edu/torerogether/detail.php?_focus=76294).

## True Thought Leadership

The work of School of Nursing Associate Professor Eileen Fry-Bowers has appeared in the *Congressional Record* of the U.S. Congress. Her work was cited by Senator Cassidy in a hearing held by the Senate Committee

on Health, Education, Labor and Pensions on the subject of “COVID-19: Safely Getting Back to Work and Back to School” on May 12, 2020. Senator Cassidy cited an editorial published by Dr. Fry-Bowers in the *Journal of Pediatric Nursing* entitled, “Children Are at Risk from COVID-19.” Dean Jane Georges commented, “That our faculty in the Hahn School of Nursing and Health Science are producing such important work shaping national policy during this crisis demonstrates our school’s commitment to becoming thought leaders in American nursing.”

## Part of the Solution

School of Business alumnus Patricio Keegan ‘18 (MBA) is the global director of marketing at Tecme, a manufacturer of mechanical ventilators used in ICUs, which are currently in high demand due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Based in Argentina, Tecme sells its ventilators to more than 55 countries including the United States. Prior to the pandemic, it exported 80 percent of his products.



Now, as Argentina is also in quarantine to try and flatten the curve, Tecme is working to fulfill all of its orders at home so it can begin exporting internationally again — especially to the U.S. which currently has

the most COVID-19 cases in the world. “We’ve doubled our production, and we want to do even more,” says Keegan. “We’ve hired people, trained people, expanded our assembly line.”

Read more at [sandiego.edu/torerogether/detail.php?\\_focus=76275](https://www.sandiego.edu/torerogether/detail.php?_focus=76275)

## A Tuneful Response

The Concert Choir, under the co-direction of Emilie Amrein and Paul Infantino ‘07, created a remote recording project of “O Love” by Elaine Hagenberg in mid-April. The song begins, “O Love, that will not let me go / O Love, I rest my weary soul in Thee / I give the back the life I owe / That in thy ocean depths its flow / may richer fuller be.” All 30 students recorded their own voice parts and submitted photos of their memories of USD to sync with the music. For your listening and viewing pleasure, enjoy this recording, which was titled, *Live from Our Living Rooms*. See the video at [youtube.com/watch?v=e8LSZdcbEAE&feature=youtu.be](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=e8LSZdcbEAE&feature=youtu.be)

## Arts for Your Heart

The university’s Humanity Center has some great ideas for online resources for those who are sheltering in place to keep our minds engaged and spirits high. The list is updated weekly. Some recent suggestions include a collection of episodes of *There’s More*, a podcast that features diverse stories about how USD community members pursue a purpose-filled life by confronting humanity’s urgent challenges, highlighting USD’s liberal arts tradition by exploring the human condition through the practice of changemaking. Also find links to weekly concerts by the New York Philharmonic, an online exhibition on

Monet and the birth of impressionism by Berlin's Städel Museum, a live cam of the Lone Pine Koala Sanctuary in Australia, virtual tours of 31 national parks and much more.

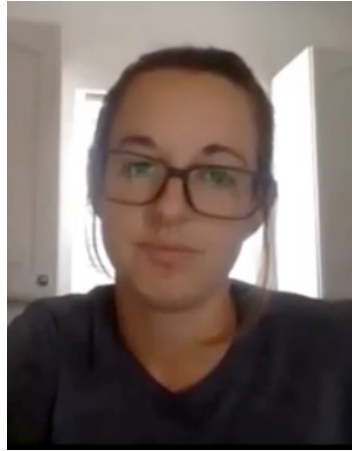
Get your culture on at [sandiego.edu/news/detail.php?\\_focus=76065](http://sandiego.edu/news/detail.php?_focus=76065).

## Sewing Hope

For Corey Johnston, MFA, an adjunct assistant professor in the University of San Diego Department of Theatre, sewing is an act of compassion. When the County of San Diego began requiring all public-facing employees to wear masks, Johnston knew he was in a position to help. As the faculty costume supervisor at USD, Johnston not only had the materials he needed but also the equipment required to begin production. With a \$1,000 donation from the USD Changemaker Hub to purchase additional supplies, Johnston set to work creating masks. "I knew the theatre program—of all programs on campus—would be uniquely situated to do this. It's that simple," says Johnston. "I knew we had some small portion of resources on hand when currently everyone is looking for them, and the only place on campus that has sewing machines. It was the perfect storm of opportunity and responsibility." Learn more at [sandiego.edu/torerogether/detail.php?\\_focus=76210](http://sandiego.edu/torerogether/detail.php?_focus=76210).

## Center of the Storm

Doctor of Nursing Practice student Elena Johns volunteered at an NYC-area hospital to help the overwhelmed system handle coronavirus patients. Johns worked as an ICU nurse before deciding to return to school at USD and earn her DNP with a concentration in palliative and end-of-life care. Elena said she chose to go to New York to



help patients who are unable to be with their families; she arrived on April 6 and worked for an unnamed Brooklyn hospital for a month, returning to San Diego May 5. She says she returns a different person because of her experiences working in the nation's COVID-19 epicenter and remains committed about caring for those at the end of their lives. Watch a video at [youtube.com/watch?v=EumZM\\_STc3M](https://youtube.com/watch?v=EumZM_STc3M).

## Looking to the Future

Joan B. Kroc School of Peace Studies Professor Topher McDougal shares his thoughts about the need for inclusive economics in a recent blog post. He writes, "There is a growing worry that the longer the COVID-19 pandemic continues, the more the initially apparent spirit of solidarity and magnanimity will dwindle, giving way to resentment and perhaps even hostility as an historically unequal society's divisions are made increasingly apparent." McDougal is quick to note his own relative privilege: "Speaking for myself, I have experienced many silver linings: more time getting to know my kids, less time driving tediously from Point A to B and back again. Meanwhile, many are worrying whether their meager savings and reduced incomes can hold out for longer than the economy must be shuttered."

Read more at <http://www.sandiego.edu/inclusive-econ>

## On the Front Lines

Doctor of Nursing Practice student Shalaine Corbilla works with COVID patients at Sharp Grossmont Hospital. For her, going to work is not just a duty, it is a responsibility and one she signed up for when she became a nurse. She recognizes she is putting herself at risk for getting the virus, but she goes to work anyway. "I check myself every day because I have a high risk of contracting COVID because all the patients we have are either positive for COVID or suspected to have the virus. So, I check my temperature multiple times a day. I always monitor for symptoms, which gives you an increased amount of stress because then you think, 'oh, is that cough the start of something or does my throat hurt because I'm getting a sore throat or does it hurt because I'm dry?' So, there's a lot of anxiety about it." Read more at [sandiego.edu/torerogether/detail.php?\\_focus=76558](http://sandiego.edu/torerogether/detail.php?_focus=76558)

## Keeping Kids Safe

Jessica Heldman of USD's Children's Advocacy Institute was quoted in the Voice of San Diego in an article about



the decrease of child abuse calls to the Child Welfare Services Child Abuse Hotline. While a decrease may seem good, many child advocates are worried it is bad news; mandated reporters of potential abuse, like educators, medical care providers and childcare providers do not have frequent in-person contact with children when schools are closed and shelter-in-place orders are in place. According to the article, the week after schools closed calls to the child abuse hotline plummeted by fifty percent. Calls in April are projected to track even lower. "We actually become more concerned about abuse when we see fewer reports," said Heldman. "A decrease in the number of calls to hotlines doesn't mean there is less abuse."

Read more at [voiceofsandiego.org/topics/news/child-abuse-calls-have-dropped-and-thats-not-a-good-thing](http://voiceofsandiego.org/topics/news/child-abuse-calls-have-dropped-and-thats-not-a-good-thing)

## Spiritually Speaking

University Ministry invites members of the community to come together by reading and contributing to an online prayer board. "For the many other unsung heroes: the cashiers, the mailmen, the bank tellers, the grocery store clerks, the pharmacist, the janitors, the subway operators, as well as the nurses, doctors and city and state leaders, whom all show up to work in these times of uncertainty to provide service for others despite the fear of what may come, and especially to my mother, we pray for health and strength," says one heartfelt contribution.

Read more at [padlet.com/mlovetecolyer/j0tc46155v74](http://padlet.com/mlovetecolyer/j0tc46155v74) 🌐

— Compiled by Julene Snyder

Submit worthy stories via email to [dcim@sandiego.edu](mailto:dcim@sandiego.edu).





# NURSES DO WONDERFUL THINGS

## A Conversation with

*Jane Georges, PhD, became the fourth dean of the Hahn School of Nursing and Health Science in July 2018. She spoke with USD Magazine in mid-April 2020 for a wide-ranging conversation that included her thoughts about the future of nursing education in the wake of COVID-19 and the ways that the nursing community is rising to meet the challenges of the pandemic.*

**Q:** How are you? Is it challenging for you to work remotely?  
**A:** Personally, I find it sort of lonely.

**A:** I am finding that to be true as well. I miss hearing people laugh. It's funny how you don't know what you miss until it's gone. But we try to stay close to our faculty and our students. We're doing fine, I think.

**Q:** How are you and how your students and faculty are adjusting?

**A:** The thing that makes our school really unique is that we are a graduate school of nursing and we take great pride in that. Our students — whether they're in our master's entry program in nursing (MEPN) program, doctor of nursing practice (DNP) or PhD programs — are here to get a graduate degree.

One thing that makes us unique at USD is that we have about 450 students, and the vast majority of them are working nursing professionals. What has become very clear to all of us in the past few weeks is that our students are working on the front lines, right now, saving lives in San Diego. They're working in critical care settings, they're working in community health settings, and what has really





# School of Nursing Dean Jane Georges

given me a lot of pride in our students is that they're doing this work so very unselfishly.

This is a time when enormous stresses are being put on everyone. They're continuing their studies remotely in our school while doing some extremely demanding and actually heroic jobs.

**Q:** I saw the video of first-year DNP student Elena Johns. Has she left for New York yet?

**A:** Yes, she felt a real need to go to New York personally and offer her help to those nurses. That kind of unselfishness is really congruent with what our school is about. We like to say that our school of nursing is like no other. And one reason is that our emphasis is on excellence in nursing education. And

another reason is our open emphasis on compassion and caring.

In Elena's case, we don't just talk about it, we live that way. I'm so proud that she is actually representative of the working nursing professionals that come to us for a higher degree. It's not about them. It's about their patients, it's about compassion and it's about doing the right thing.

**Q:** I understand that you're personally affected by COVID-19 because you have a family member that you're unable to visit?

**A:** Yes. My older sister is disabled and in an assisted living facility, and as a result of this crisis, I can no longer see her in person. I have not seen a dearly loved family member in some weeks now, and I feel that. It makes me understand now, even more than I





did before, the role that nurses play in being there for patients. Everybody needs that human presence, and in a time when family can't be there, nurses play that role of being there to show human kindness so that folks are not alone on their healthcare journey.

Nurses, throughout the U.S., are doing creative and wonderful things. Using Zoom or whatever they can to connect families and patients. But more than anything, at this point, the critical care setting is more like a war zone, where there may not be time for that. But nurses can give that assurance to families that 'Your loved one is not alone and will not be alone in this whole experience.'

Nurses are the only profession who are with the patient 24 hours a day. Physicians come in, make an assessment, write their orders and leave. We're there with that patient for 8 or 12 hours at a time, all day, every day. And that makes the scope of nursing very different. We have to have those interpersonal skills, which are really essential for human beings to heal and get better. Even at the end of life, when we know the outcome will not be good, to be there with them, and have a nursing presence alongside of them, is very powerful.

**Q:** Have you spoken with any nursing alumni — perhaps administrators at local hospitals — about how things are going for them?

**A:** The data are preliminary but I'm very happy to say that self-isolation seems to be flattening the curve. We've been very fortunate in San Diego; it's a tribute to our administrators here that they were paying attention to this and they took actions early on. My hope and my prayer for all of San Diego at this point is that we won't be seeing the tragedy which we could have been seeing. That's a tribute to all our health care professionals,

including our county public health officials. However, it really is too early to say for sure.

**Q:** The question that everybody has is: When? When can we go back to normal life? People just want to be back to normal.

**A:** That's natural for all of us as humans. We're going through an unprecedented experience. Nobody has a crystal ball. The good news — and I think we need to focus on the positive — is that Californians, by and large, are doing a really great job of flattening the curve. They really stepped up and, at great personal sacrifice, are stopping the spread of this terrible virus. With that said, I think we look to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and their scientists to help us understand what that kind of return to normal is going to look like.

It's important that we all take a deep breath and look at the facts. The very positive fact today is that the curve is definitely flattening in California. As we find out more about the physiology of having this virus, what it looks like when one recovers and what it looks like in terms of antibodies, we'll have more answers to that.

**Q:** Knowing that we don't have all the data, if you were to hazard a guess, would you think we'd be back on campus for the fall semester?

**A:** I can't say one way or another. Of course, President Harris and the leadership team are responsible for making those decisions. Because this is unprecedented, it's very difficult even for those of us who are trained in epidemiology to have a sense of when it will be OK to go back.

There are a lot of terms being thrown around like 'herd immunity.' I don't know what that looks like in the real world, and neither do

the physicians and scientists that I've spoken to. I think the coming months are going to give us a much better picture of what life is going to look like. (USD President James Harris recently announced a plan to reopen campus for the fall semester, including on-campus classes. See editorial on the inside front cover for further details).

**Q:** For nursing in particular, there's practical experience needed to earn graduate degrees. How does that work with remote learning?

**A:** Clinical experience is actually the heart and soul of nursing education at every level. We're very lucky that we have the wonderful Dickinson Family Simulation Center at our school, which is able to simulate all kinds of outcomes, both in primary care and acute care.

Associate Dean for Advanced Practice Programs Karen Macauley has worked very hard to make sure that doctor of nursing practice students are involved in telehealth for their clinical experiences this semester. Telehealth is the wave of the future; it's the ability of a primary care clinician to assess and diagnose a patient using technological means such as Zoom or other apps that are available.

In a way, this crisis has provided us with an opportunity to jump right in and get our students involved with telehealth and giving care in that way. We know that it's not possible right now for our pre-licensure students to be in clinical settings, and we're making other adjustments to our curriculum to ensure that their education is not interrupted.

We are slightly adjusting our curriculum so that theory courses, such as the pre-licensure program headed by Associate Dean Kathy Marsh, can perhaps be preloaded and conducted via remote learning. Then, hopefully, clinical experiences can be opened up later this year.

We're doing our best to be sure that nursing education is not interrupted. We're also working to make sure that the experiences students have in our simulation center, which is really incredible, can be conducted in a remote fashion. We're being as creative as we can so that we can continue to graduate nurses who can immediately give a lot of much-needed care in our community.

**Q:** Are you concerned about the possibility of medical professionals starting to fall ill themselves?

**A:** It's possible. One scenario that everyone is looking at — the American Association of Colleges of Nursing is aware that this may happen — is that should the American nursing workforce become inadequate, the AACN has asked us to be prepared to step in as nurse faculty and for our students to give care. We are ready and willing to do that. But at this point, I don't foresee our American nursing workforce being overwhelmed. I think we're going to be OK.

**Q:** What are your thoughts about the shortage of masks and Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)? Is this something you or your colleagues are concerned about?

**A:** Nurses throughout the U.S. are concerned about this. We've done our part in our school by donating a large portion of the PPE that we have for training purposes to local clinical settings and our clinical partners. We've also been working with faculty in the Shiley-Marcos School of Engineering; they are able to make plastic face shields using a 3-D computer. Although it's a slow process, we've been able to funnel those face shields to our clinical partners. 🦺

---

**Doctor of Nursing Practice students like Elena Johns (left) and Shalaine Corbilla (right) are committed to providing the best care to patients during the pandemic.**







PUTTING

**AidChild**  
Café & Gallery  
Since 2002  
a1uganda.com

**Proceeds to students living with HIV**

077 96 999 22 \* New location! \* At African Village



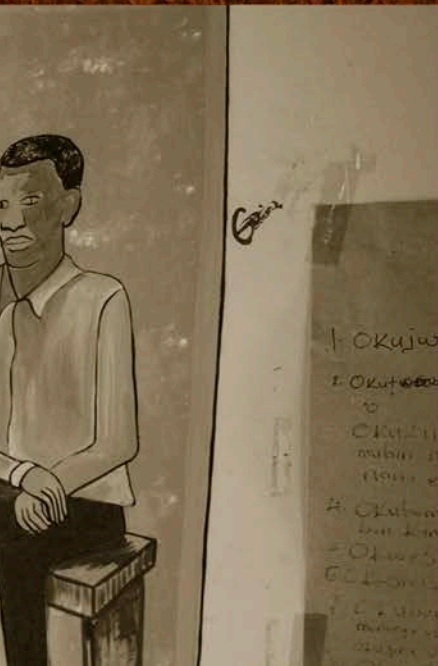




# IN A WORD: RESILIENCE

Words and photography by Ryan T. Blystone

INTERDISCIPLINARY RESEARCH INTO ACTION IN UGANDA



**Editor's Note:** *It seems a lifetime ago that a group of USD faculty members and students travelled to Uganda. But January 2020 was just a few short months ago. That's when the group, accompanied by USD News Center editor and frequent USD Magazine contributor Ryan T. Blystone, flew to the other side of the world. Their work remains important, even as the world's attention has shifted in light of the health crisis brought about by the spread of COVID-19.*



One definition of research is a “studious inquiry or examination aimed at the discovery and interpretation of new knowledge.” For proof positive of the importance of research, one should look no further than an Intersession trip by an interdisciplinary group of four University of San Diego faculty members and eight students to Uganda.

For nearly three weeks, spent mostly in the city of Mbarara,

---

*USD student Molly Klein measures the height of a young child during a medical clinic day in the village of Kyabirukwa.*



the group — accompanied by USD President James T. Harris and his wife Mary for part of the trip — continued a research mission to deliver on the importance of clean water in the region as a major component of public health.

The university’s scientific research, nursing student involvement and relationship-building with academic, spiritual and organization leaders in Uganda has roots stretching back to 2008. What began as a chemistry complement to USD’s Hahn School of Nursing and

Health Science’s support for an archbishop’s request to build Holy Innocents Children’s Hospital in Mbarara has blossomed into a valuable research commitment by USD faculty and students.

Jim Bolender, PhD, an associate professor of chemistry and a faculty member since 1996, got involved through then-nursing professor Anita Hunter. She asked Bolender to see if the new hospital — which opened in 2009 and has served 200,000 patients since — would pollute the Rwizi River, Mbarara’s main water source.

“The river does have huge en-

vironmental and contamination problems,” says Bolender, who has now traveled to Uganda 20 times. “Over the course of the past 12 years, our project has expanded to include working with Uganda’s National Sewage and Water Corp., testing water at 25 different sites and helping train technicians on their water-testing techniques.”

The project has grown in scope. Lecturer Keith Macdonald (Biology) and Professors Frank Jacobitz (Mechanical Engineering), Martha Fuller (Nursing) and their

respective students have zeroed in on the region of southwestern Uganda. Chemistry study-abroad classes have examined water purification practices; students are working on a joint project with Mbarara University of Science & Technology (MUST) and other local partners. There is an international collaboration between USD, MUST and Holy Innocents with worldwide experts from France, Israel, New Zealand, Washington, D.C., and Berkeley. Additionally, USD faculty met with Mbarara University’s school of medicine, engineering and science faculty to create a local resource and give Ugandans a sustainable water quality monitoring improvement project.

“Our project really covers monitoring and determining what the problems are beyond sanitation,” Bolender explains. “Sanitation is still a huge issue in the developing world, but there are underlying issues that are chemical and are naturally occurring from the geology. There are places that have arsenic and uranium in the water at levels that are above the World Health Organization limits for what people should be exposed to.”

One potential challenge for the project is the lingering effects of the coronavirus (COVID-19), which began afflicting people around the world not long after the USD group left. In March 2020, Uganda imposed a ban on all foreign travelers entering the country to slow the virus’s spread.

While the trip wasn’t affected, the pandemic does give Bolender and all others involved pause as they consider their next move. But one trait this relationship has is a desire to make it work. Put succinctly and positively by Ndaruhutse Ruzaaza Gad, MUST’s education program coordinator, the key is “resilience!”

### ***Experiencing Uganda***

The 2020 research trip brought

together biochemistry majors Molly Klein, Marci Strong and Kendyl Maher, along with 2019 behavioral neuroscience alumna Natalie North-Cole to assist Macdonald and Bolender with water quality sample collecting at multiple locations as well as testing for several different chemicals, metals and other contaminants.

This was the second trip to Uganda for Klein, Strong and North-Cole. They were enrolled in Bolender’s study-abroad class in January 2019; each returned this year as an experienced researcher.

“It was an awesome class. I learned all the techniques to do the water testing,” North-Cole says. “When the opportunity came to join the team this year, I was excited to do it. I love Uganda, it’s a wonderful place, one that not a lot of people get to experience. The research is so meaningful and the people here are so appreciative that we come and help them with such a critical issue.”

Klein was a leader in collecting water samples at the Nakivale Refugee Settlement — which is the largest refugee settlement camp in Uganda with more than 120,000 people — and at two locations in the Kyabirukwa village, where the entire USD group assisted Holy Innocents staff with a medical clinic, and at a village in Kashongi.

Klein’s Uganda trips have given her a great appreciation of the holistic nature of the work.

“I definitely did not realize how complicated certain issues are, especially something like water quality,” she says. “Clean water is a basic right, everyone should have access — just get a filter for the water. But, in Uganda, you have to think about so many different steps just to drink the water. It’s not just, ‘how clean the water is to drink, but how can we make it sustainable? How can Ugandans implement what we come up with and keep the project running? Is it cost-effective?’



It encompasses a lot more than just the chemistry side.”

Exploring one of those issues is where mechanical engineering senior Christina Kozlovsky and her research comes in.

“Any surface water source we have is going to have bacteria from the runoff into those water supplies,” Bolender says.

Finding solutions is what brought Jacobitz, a Shiley-Marcos School of Engineering professor, back to Uganda after advising on a different student project. Jacobitz met with MUST and engineering department officials on the trip, but he’s also the faculty advisor for Kozlovsky and classmate Ava Bellizzi’s senior design project. They’ve built a water filtration system that they want to provide for use in rural areas of Uganda. Considered a possible remediation device, Kozlovsky tested multiple local items to gauge the effectiveness of filtering bacteria.

“I took the water samples we’d get and run them through plant xylem (plant tissue) testing to see

---

*In Uganda, USD students prepared water quality testing devices alongside biology lecturer Keith Macdonald.*

if the bacteria increased or decreased,” Kozlovsky explains. “Ava and I want this device to be sustainable in Uganda using locally found products. Getting the chance to come here, to test the trees that are most found here, is extremely helpful.”

**Providing Sustainable Skills** Helpful is just one way to describe the contributions made by faculty and students from the nursing school. The graduate nursing program renewed its interest in contributing as a service and education provider to Holy Innocents’ hospital. Dr. Fuller and three USD nurse practitioner students — Allison Bryden, Shaylyn White and Cara Fratiani — were a visible and valuable presence throughout the trip.

“Taking nursing students to Holy Innocents is a global health educational piece, a service piece,” Fuller says. “We try to provide sustainable service by helping them obtain equipment they can’t, and provide education they wouldn’t otherwise have access to. When we educate someone, we’re providing a skill that can be sustainable.”

The nursing students, all of whom were newcomers to



---

*Natalie North-Cole pumps as Molly Klein collects a water sample in the village of Kyabirukwa in Uganda as other students, faculty and administrators look on.*

Uganda, each gave one oral presentation to Holy Innocents staff on topics such as basic life support practices, educating staff on ways to better identify deteriorating patients and working with newborn and premature-born babies. For example, Bryden explained a new-to-them method of how best to position a baby who is receiving respiratory support to better enhance ventilation.

The entire USD group worked together throughout the trip, whether it was side-by-side with Holy Innocents staff to serve nearly 500 children at two medical clinics in rural villages or when the nurses, at Fuller’s request, leaned in and learned about the undergraduate students’ water quality project.

“I saw incredible growth among our three nursing students,” Fuller recalls. “I’m very proud of the work they did there. There was a willingness to be open, to open themselves and allow them to be hurt by what they saw. They were able to cope with a lot and that’s a true sign of maturity.”


### **Finding Strength in Each Other**

There were many teachable moments for the whole USD research group in Uganda. There was a lot to savor, especially when seeing the students bond, both in the important work they did and in the friendships that

emerged. By the end, the undergraduate and graduate student labels were gone, as had any fear of the unknown that some admitted to having upon arrival.

“One really important aspect of our team dynamic is how many women were on this trip. I feel really empowered being surrounded by strong women in STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Mathematics),” says North-Cole. “We’re all supportive of each other and that makes us stronger.”

The Harrises agree. Spending time with the research group and witnessing their work up close made quite an impression.

“This trip reinforced for me the significance of high impact learning practices on our students,” President Harris says. “We have remarkable faculty who are dedicated to the growth and development of our students through engaged scholarship. I had the opportunity to witness this firsthand in Uganda. These types of experiences are the best possible way to help our students grow into global citizens and changemakers.” 





# CLASS NOTES



COURTESY OF JAMES BRENNAN

[positivity]

## FIND A NEED, FILL IT

**Toreros lighten the load during the COVID-19 pandemic**

Sometimes, it's the little things that matter most. In this time of social distancing, uncertainty and remote learning and working, it can be easy to feel overwhelmed and unsure of what to do.

Three members of the USD community share what they're

doing to step up and be a part of the solution.

### Small Gesture, Big Impact

It's mid-afternoon on Wednesday, April 1, and James Brennan '96 (BBA) is on the road, driving to the first of the three or four San Diego emergency rooms where

he plans to drop off boxes of Suja Juice for staff on the front lines of the COVID-19 pandemic.

The entrepreneur and co-founder of Suja says he's been making these runs for three weeks. "We plan on doing this every week until this thing is done. it's really just to let them

know we care about them and we appreciate them. It's a small gesture, but it really has an impact."

In a troubled time, Brennan says making these deliveries helps him to find a positive note in a sea of bad news. "It's the one thing I look forward to doing," he says.

Over the years, Brennan (pictured above, at left) has stepped-up when people need help, finding a need and filling it. In 2012, when Hurricane Sandy hit Rockaway Beach — his hometown in Queens, New York — in 2012, he quickly traveled there and spear-

headed rescue efforts, rebuilt homes and did his part to revitalize the community.

“Back when we had the fires and I had all the restaurants, we were cooking meals for the firehouses to let them know how much we appreciated them,” he recalls.

He says the response from those on the front lines of the pandemic in San Diego ERs is moving. “One of the nurses who was all geared up when I pulled up didn’t even really understand what I was doing there. But when one of her friends came out and said, ‘Oh my God, I love Suja, it’s so healthy,’ it all sort of processed for her. She started crying and I wanted to just hug her.”

Brennan urges others to do their part. “In a time of extreme stress and anxiety like this, being in a place of gratitude and service is a great neutralizer. I think it releases endorphins and has all sorts of positive effects on you as an individual. I wouldn’t underestimate it.”

### Find a Need and Fill It

Two USD nursing graduates are on the front lines of supporting their fellow health care workers during the crisis.

Leslie Dela Cruz-Torio ’15 (PhD) and Julie Kathryn Graham ’18 (PhD) helped organize a drive to collect masks, gloves and other personal protection equipment (PPE) for Sharp HealthCare professionals.

Since March 25, their drive in Chula Vista has collected several thousand N95 masks, several hundred isolation gowns and several hundred pairs of gloves from local businesses and individuals. “Small donations add up to a lot,” says Graham. “We’re filling a significant need.”

The donations are as much a morale booster as they are protection for those providing first-line care for the hundreds of patients infected by the virus in San Diego.

“This is hard work. It’s scary,” says Graham, a quality improvement senior specialist. The donations “help health care professionals feel the community is supporting us.”

At the same time, “we are still critically low on PPEs and could really use more donations,” adds Dela Cruz-Torio, a patient safety program coordinator.

Go to <https://www.sharp.com/corona-virus/resources-donations.cfm>

### Helping Close to Home

When Danyella Burciaga ’17 (BA) — a master’s student in USD’s School of Leadership and Education Sciences — saw a post of the Nextdoor app looking for volunteers to help in her Encinitas neighborhood, she was quick to step up.

“I signed up, and before long the app was flooded with elderly folks who needed help with things like getting groceries and prescriptions. So, I thought, ‘Why not go out and pick things up for them?’”

Burciaga was heartened that about 200 others also stepped up to heed that call for help, and says it’s resulted in real connections. “There’s one couple in particular that I’ve built a relationship with. They have a lot of prescriptions, and sometimes they need things like flour. So, they’ll text me, and I’ll wait and see who else needs something, so that I only need to make one trip.” She typically does two such runs per week.

“I have four households with people who are 65 and older that I’ve dedicated my time to.”

She points out that the need can be right next door. “People who want to help should think about what’s needed in their immediate community. And if you can’t go out for them, consider giving them a phone call or text. They’ll appreciate it, and it’s not a small thing.” — *by Julene Snyder and Liz Harman* 📷

## 1970s

[1970] 🎓

**GARY KURUTZ (BA, MA ’72)** was inducted into the California Library Association Hall of Fame in October 2019.

**KEVIN TOOHEY (BA)** reports that his daughter, Michaela, is a student in USD’s Shiley-Marcos School of Engineering working toward a BS/BA degree in mechanical engineering. “I’m proud she chose USD, and I’m happy for her accomplishments,” he says.

[1971]

**VINCE AMMIRATO (JD)** worked on product liability trials for many years and now has a part-time practice so he can assist his son, who is a general practitioner.

[1974]

**DOMINIC (“NICK”) ALESSIO (MEd)** taught students with special needs and various challenges for two years in Melbourne, Australia and then for 30 years in the South Bay area of San Diego. During a two-year leave of absence, he served in the National Civilian Community Corps as a regional outreach coordinator. For 10 years, he was a consultant/practitioner with Brain Gym International, where he assisted people of all ages to enhance learning through simple movements. Nick recently retired after 11 years as a bus driver for the school district in Moscow, Idaho. “It’s important that I recognize Dr. Strunk, who was head of the special education department, and the University of San Diego for being instrumental in setting the foundation that lent to the above experiences,” Nick says. “I will be forever grateful.”

[1976]

**BERNARD CIERNICK (BA), ’82 (MA)** has a new position as operations director with the U.S.-China Catholic Association. It is a small nonprofit based out of Berkeley, California, that creates bridges between Catholics in China and the United States. Go to [www.uscatholicchina.org](http://www.uscatholicchina.org).

## 1980s

[1980] 📷

**MARTY MATES (BBA)** has been employed by the same company since

1982; he was hired after an interview sponsored by the USD Career Development Center. He has enjoyed two international assignments to Chile.

[1981]

**CAROL (DiSTEFANO) MALET-ICH (BBA)** moved back to North Carolina after 21 years in Colorado. She says that she and her husband look forward to being near family — and also the warm weather and Southern hospitality!

[1982]

**MARY (MORGAN) BOWEN (BSN), ’92 (JD), ’96 (DNsc)** retired from her position as a professor of nursing with Ohio University in 2016 and from her position as a nurse practitioner with Hospice of Marion County in 2019.

**GINA CHAMMAS (BBA), ’05 (MSGL)** was appointed senior advisor to The American Anti-Corruption Institute on Middle East and North America (MENA) in January 2019.

[1983]

**DENNIS NEIL JONES (JD)** received the Ventura County Bar Association’s Ben E. Nordman Public Service Award. This award was a recognition of his more than 30-year commitment of public service to his community. He was the 2008 president of the Ventura County Trial Lawyers Association and he volunteers as a settlement officer for the Ventura County Superior Court. He has been named a California Super Lawyer for his expertise in insurance law 12 times. He lives in upper Ojai with his wife, two cavalier King Charles spaniels and “too many cats.” His oldest daughter lives and works in Simi Valley while his youngest attends graduate school in London.

**LESLIE (CONLIN) SACKO (BBA)** bought an acre lot on the beach in Myrtle Beach, South Carolina, in 1986 and moved there last December to build on it. She and her husband, Al, are enjoying the same latitude as San Diego (32 degrees), similar weather and more than 100 golf courses to choose from. Al still travels nationwide for work. Leslie completed her MBA from Pepperdine University in 2005.

[1988]

**JOHN HARBY (BA)** works on the back-end team of the Apple.com e-commerce website.





[wisdom + patience]

# LESSONS TAKEN TO HEART

**Kroc Peace School graduate assists refugee community**

by Liz Harman

Every day the coronavirus crisis goes on, Womani-la Gerald '19 (MA) appreciates the skills he learned in conflict management and resolution a little more.

Even before COVID-19 began upending lives, Gerald was busy working with members of the San Diego refugee community from Africa. Echoes of Faith, the non-

profit he founded in 2017, supports these refugees in a variety of ways, including finding employment and transportation to work, doctors' appointments and shopping centers.

Gerald, who spent three years in a Kenyan refugee camp himself, assists with efforts to help clients integrate into the region's community and econo-

my. He works along with a handful of volunteers, who are also former refugees. Often, they help negotiate on behalf of their clients as they find living arrangements or purchase vehicles.

But those successes came to an abrupt halt as the virus took hold. "Everything has come to a standstill," he said in early

April, the concern evident in his voice. Families who live paycheck to paycheck are wondering how they will pay rent from now on or purchase food and medicine.

To help clients meet those needs, his team first assisted many of the 45 or so families they work with in filing for unemployment. Now they wait. California's Economic Development Department has been overwhelmed by millions of applications.

"We are trying to be hopeful and survive by the grace of God," says Gerald, who has never taken a salary for his

work and moonlighted as a licensed driving instructor while caring for his wife, Jane, two young sons, Edric and Elmore, and father, Charles.

Now Gerald is on call 24/7, using the lessons he learned in facilitation and dialogue at the Joan B. Kroc School of Peace Studies to help clients deal with landlords and creditors.

A recent afternoon found him looking for new housing for a family trying to economize and assisting with their rental application. Another family had a member who needed mental health care, resulting in a \$30,000 medical bill. Gerald is working with them and the provider on a payment plan.

In many cases, landlords and creditors have been helpful, he says. For the most part, “San Diegans are understanding” and willing to be flexible in this time of emergency. He’s also grateful that family members are heeding the nonprofit’s call to wash their hands and practice social distancing. As of yet, none one of them appears to have contracted the virus.

But as the crisis continues, there are other challenges where his own experiences as a refugee and his conflict resolution and mediation skills come into play. When there are conflicts in families, churches or other organizations, “people reach out to me,” he says.

“If I’m confronted in any situation, I apply the wisdom and all the tools I’ve learned, including patience. Right now, there is so much I’m achieving because USD gave me the knowledge,” Gerald adds. The opportunity to learn from his professors and the USD community “are a great blessing and something I will forever cherish.” 🌟

Learn more about Echoes of Faith at [www.efaiths.org](http://www.efaiths.org)

**ERIN LIGHTLE (BA)** and her husband, a member of the Coast Guard, settled back in Southern California after nine years in Alaska. Erin is a mental health consultant for Head Start, and she reports that the youngest of her three sons will graduate from high school this year.

**BILL SPARKS (MBA), '98 (JD)** retired from the Orange County District Attorney’s Office and now works as of counsel with Wallin and Klarich, a criminal defense firm.

[1989] **MARIE GIBLIN ANDERSON (BA)** lives in San Diego and works in medical device sales. “Loving my husband of 15 years, Robert, and my son, who is 13,” she says.

**TONY BATTLEGA (BA)** reports that he lives in the San Francisco Bay Area with his wife, Jill, and their two kids, Mia and Joey. He has been a high school teacher and coach for 28 years.

**KEVIN CARLIN (BA)** has worked in employee benefit sales for 30 years and is currently director of sales for California Dental Network, a dental HMO based in Laguna Hills, California. “Many USD alumni are successful brokers,” he writes, “including Monika Hughes, Pat Casinelli and James Morrison.”

**PATRICIA GARCIA (JD)** was elected to serve a three-year term on the executive board of the California Judges Association.

**CLAUDIA LAINE (BA)** reports that she has been married to her husband, Ed, for 27 years. After staying home to raise her two boys, she worked as a reading instructional assistant at an elementary school for the past 10 years. She says, “love and miss San Diego so much!”

**JULIE NOVAK (DNSc)** has been a tenured endowed professor at the University of Virginia, Purdue University and the University of Texas. She developed 14 nurse-practitioner-led clinics in Indiana, Texas and California. Julie was the first doctoral graduate at the Hahn School of Nursing and Health Science.

**JOEL SELIK (LLM)** is a legal malpractice certified specialist, having completed the requirements by the State Bar of California Board of Legal Specialization.

## 1990s

[1990] 🎓 **SUSAN BUSQUE (BA)** moved to St. Louis and transferred from NBC stations in Maine to KSDK “5 on Your Side” in St. Louis. “Thrilled to be living west of the Mississippi again—and I can almost literally see it just past the Arch from my new office windows,” she says.

**TOM GAINES (BA)** is the community connections coordinator at High Tech High North County in San Marcos, California.

[1991] **JAMES FRAZEE (BA)** was promoted to chief academic technology officer and associate vice president for Instructional Technology Services at San Diego State University in July 2019.

**NADINE NABER (BA)** completed two master’s degrees and a PhD, and she was promoted to full professor at the University of Illinois in Chicago. After publishing five books, she has been developing a career as a public speaker. She gave her first TEDx Talk in December 2019.

[1992] **JEFFREY CRANE (BBA)** visited Cuba on the Team USA adult baseball trip in 2019. He writes, “It was a great cultural experience. We brought baseball equipment to a special needs Little League and school supplies and sports balls to a local middle school near Havana.”

**ANNE YOAKAM ELLSWORTH** transferred from USD to the University of Oklahoma, where she earned a BFA in art history in 1992. She has paintings for sale at [squareup.com/store/annoyoakam](http://squareup.com/store/annoyoakam). “Come see my work in New York!” she says.

**MIKE NEWBY (BA)** lives in Eau Claire, Wisconsin, and says he recently celebrated his 25th wedding anniversary with his wife, Becky. “Enjoying our empty nest years,” he says. Mike has worked in physical therapy for 25 years.

**VINCENT PANDES (BBA)** is currently a partner/managing director at Silvercrest Asset Management Group, which acquired his previous firm, Neosho Capital, in 2019. He lives in Encinitas, California, with

his wife, Nadia (Aladray) Pandes ’93, and their two teenage daughters, Malia and Siena.

**JOSEPH ULAN (BBA)** reports that he and his wife, Maryanne, welcomed a “miracle baby girl named Mj Ulan.”

[1993] **DEBORAH (VIDOSIC) BRESKO (BA)** returned to San Diego and is working again at Escondido Charter High School. “Enjoy being back home,” she says.

[1994] **KATIE WILSON (BA)** adopted her son, Kevin, in 2014. “He is the light of my life!” she says. Katie celebrated 25 years as an employee with the Diocese of San Diego, with the last 14 years as director of the drama program at Cathedral Catholic High School.

[1995] 🎓 **JAY PETTIT (JD)** joined Weintraub Tobin as a shareholder in the firm’s Intellectual Property Group. Practicing in San Diego, Jay, a registered patent attorney, prepares patent and trademark applications for clients in the United States and around the world. He handles complex IP litigation matters in federal and state courts relating to trademark, patent, trade secret and copyright issues. Jay also negotiates and drafts commercial, government and academic contracts, including development agreements, software license agreements and non-disclosure agreements.

[1996] **ANDY GRUSH (BA)** is half of the composer team, the Newton Brothers. The duo has composed the scores for the Netflix series *The Haunting of Hill House*, the Netflix movies *Gerald’s Game* and *Extinction*, and feature films *Oculus* and *Ouija: Origin of Evil*. Most recently, Andy and his partner created the score for the film adaptation of *Doctor Sleep*, Stephen King’s sequel to *The Shining*.

**DAVID MAUERMAN (MBA)** is working with utilities and buried infrastructure owners to improve excavation safety within communities.

**DAVE MULLINS (MFA)** is the author of the forthcoming novel *The Brightest Place in the World* and a collection of short stories



titled Greetings From Below. He received a creative writing fellowship from the National Endowment for the Arts, an individual artist fellowship in literature from the Nebraska Arts Council and the Silver Pen award from the Nevada Writers Hall of Fame. He is an associate professor of English at Creighton University in Omaha, Nebraska, where he lives with his wife and their three children.

**GARY SHARP (JD)** retired from his position as rear admiral lower half with the U.S. Navy after serving as the assistant judge advocate general during his 31-year Navy career. Gary now holds a position as senior executive service counsel in the Office of Chief Counsel at the Internal Revenue Service.

[1998] **KYLE LAKIN (JD)** opened Delphi Law Group, LLP in November 2018 with three partners. The firm has offices in Carlsbad and Indian Wells, California. "We are a full-service firm serving clients in the field of community association law throughout California," Kyle says.

[1999] **DINA DAVALLE (JD)** is now assistant general counsel for Booz Allen Hamilton Inc. in New York City. She oversees transactions related to cyber, international, real estate, strategic sourcing and marketing issues.

**ANNIE ETCHEGOYHEN (BBA)** received national recognition on the 2019 Top Wealth Advisor Moms list by Working Mother and SHOOK Research. A senior financial advisor at Merrill Lynch Wealth Management, Annie also was named on Forbes' 2019 Best-in-State Wealth Advisors and 2018 America's Top Women Wealth Advisors lists.

**TRAMY "EVELYN" HUYNH (BA)** volunteers at the headquarters for Special Olympics in Connecticut. She reports that her husband, Joe Levert, is enjoying teaching mechanical engineering at the University of New Haven and their 5-year-old son enjoys kindergarten and raking leaves.

**MELISSA (LOVELACE) LAND (BA)** writes: "My retail travel agency is celebrating 10 years in

business in 2020! This would not have been possible without the love and support of my husband and family, as well as the resources and connections of the good friends and fellow alumni with whom I've kept in touch with over the years!"

**ANA POPOCA-LOGUE (BSN), '01 (MSN)** completed her doctorate of nursing practice with a second specialty as a psychiatric mental health nurse practitioner. "Nurses rock!" she says.

**BRYAN WEATHERUP (BBA)** moved to Singapore in December. "I took over as executive officer of the U.S. Navy base after leaving the Strike Group job in Japan," he says. His daughter, Arianne, was born in 2019. Siblings Arthur, Carter and Evelyn are 3, 12 and 15, respectively

## 2000s

[2000] **DENISE (EDSON) STICH (LLM)** accepted a new special counsel position at Procopio starting in September 2019. She is a student in the LLM taxation program in USD.

[2001] **ANNIE PETERSEN (BA)** writes, "While a student at USD, I wanted nothing more than to be a broadcast journalist and I succeeded as a two-time Emmy-award-winning producer." During her career, she worked in San Diego, Palm Springs, Las Vegas and Dallas. Now, she is a personal development and leadership coach, working with people going through career and relationship transitions. "They all have one thing in common: a desire to live a more meaningful life," she says.

[2002] **JUSTIN ALMEIDA (BA)** is a chaplain in a clinical pastoral education residency at VA Puget Sound. He expected to graduate in spring 2020 with a Master of Divinity in chaplaincy from Seattle University School of Theology and Ministry.

[2003] **ERIN GIBSON (JD)** has been named to a four-year term on the board of directors of the Federal Circuit Bar Association, a national organization for the bar of the Court of

Appeals for the Federal Circuit. An attorney at DLA Piper, Erin focuses on civil trial practice in federal courts with an emphasis on patent litigation and international trade commission proceedings.

**TIM METCALF (BA), '11 (MSGL)** retired from the U.S. Navy on Dec. 1, 2019, and began working at Sentek Global on Dec. 9, 2019.

**RYAN STACK (BA), '06 (JD)** was elected to the city council of Heber City, Utah. He has served on the city's planning commission since 2015, and says he looks forward to working in this new role as an elected official. Ryan will continue his full-time position as a prosecutor for the Summit County Attorney's Office in Park City, Utah.

[2004] **JUDITH DOWDY (BA), '04 (BBA)** joined Northrop Grumman after graduation as a production controller. Today, she is a program business manager and leads more than 100 people. Judith also is active in mentorship organizations and volunteers at the Los Angeles Regional Food Bank.

**ANNETTE LO (MA)** works for the City Contemporary Dance Company in Hong Kong, where she helps operate a program for in-school dance literacy education. She also is a part-time docent at The Mills in Tsuen Wan, Hong Kong, and gives tours of exhibitions in the Hong Kong Heritage Museum in Sha Tin.

**DIMITRIS MAGEMENEAS (MBA)** teaches finance and career courses at California State University San Marcos; he developed a new system of financial planning called The Five Ps of Money Management. Dimitris also joined Kingsview Asset Management in 2017 as a wealth manager.

**KRISTIN MIKOLAJCZAK (BBA)** and her husband, Steve '05, are certified public accountants. Steve is the vice president of internal audit at Guild Mortgage Company and Kristin teaches accounting part time at San Diego State University.

**DIANA (GOMEZ) TREVINO (MA)** has been in private practice for five years focusing on post-traumatic stress disorder, trauma and anxiety. "I am moving into a

bigger office with the hopes of hiring another clinician and becoming a group practice," she says.

[2006] **JoANN BELLAFFIORE-YORK (BA), '06 (BBA)** and her husband, Tim, welcomed a son, T.J., on Sept. 25, 2019. "Everyone is happy and healthy!" she says.

**JUSTIN HALL (JD)** is CEO of NoveBay Pharma, a pharmaceutical company.

**BRIAN LARROW (BBA)** has been working for First Advantage since 2013 and was promoted to a data analytics and consulting role in September 2017. He holds a Six Sigma Black Belt certification and has worked with more than 80 enterprise clients to improve processes. Brian reports that he got married in 2013 and has two children, Amelie, 4, and Winston, 3. The family lives in Portland, Oregon, where he just bought his first house, a 1906 Craftsman bungalow.

[2007] **MATTHEW PARR (BA), '11 (MA)** and his wife, Amy, welcomed a baby boy and future Torero, Elliott Matthew, on Nov. 20, 2019.

**JULISSA PRECIADO (BA)** writes, "Just bought a house!"

**PATRICIA RANGEL-PEREZ (MA)** is working in the social service field after several college counseling positions. She writes: "Thanks to USD, I was very lucky and haven't had much difficulty with securing various jobs since I've graduated. I'm forever grateful!"

[2008] **MONICA (PEARCE) CAGAYAT (MA)** is now in private practice after more than a decade in healthcare, which allows her to spend more time with her family.

**ZACHARY MOODY (BA)** retired from the U.S. Navy as a lieutenant commander after 20 years of service. He says his wife, Megan, could not be happier. Zachary works at Lockheed Martin Corporation as a research scientist and is enjoying civilian life.

**KELLY SHANNON (BBA)** earned a master's degree in nutrition science and certification as a registered dietitian. She works for Virta Health,

a healthcare tech startup that focuses on chronic disease prevention.

[2009]

**RACHEL FREEMAN (BA)** released a book, *The Hunger*, a reflection on her journey recovering from an unhealthy self-image manifested through an eating disorder, an experience she hopes will help others. "This is my story, but it is not only about me," she says. "It is about everyone who struggles and cannot find the right words to express themselves."

**JOSHUA HAMILTON (BBA)** has been with Amazon for four years and is now working on the company's Prime Video product. "I'm super excited to continue my work in the media space, which builds on my previous experience working at Paramount Pictures in Hollywood and publishing at Amazon," he says.

**MARY (CROCKER) KRIEGSFELD (BBA)** and her husband, Matthew '09, welcomed their second child, Grant Alexander, on Aug. 21, 2019. Grant joins big sister, Claire, 3. Mary is an events and marketing manager for the Market Intelligence Business Group at Institutional Shareholder Services. Matt is a staff manager for the deposit solutions team at Mitek Systems.

**CHRIS MINKOFF (BA), '10 (MEd)** is a high school Spanish teacher at Classical Academy High School in Escondido, California. His wife is a speech-language pathologist with Rady Children's Hospital in Oceanside. They live in Carlsbad with their daughter, Colette, 18 months.

**ERICA MUNA (BBA)** reports that she lives in San Diego with her husband, their 15-month-old daughter, Lily, and two puppies. Erica is a registered nurse at Sharp Memorial Hospital.

## 2010s

[2010] 🎓

**NABEIL HAZU (BA)** provides delivery services for Amazon in the East San Gabriel Valley in Los Angeles County, where about 45,000 packages are delivered every week.

**ALICIA McCULLAR (BA)** completed a two-year federal judicial



**ADVANCE YOUR CAREER**

**WITH CONTINUING EDUCATION**  
*Always Move Forward.*

HUNDREDS OF COURSES TO CHOOSE FROM  
[pce.sandiego.edu](http://pce.sandiego.edu)

 University of San Diego  
**PROFESSIONAL AND CONTINUING EDUCATION**





FAMILIES, AT HOME TOGETHER

says. “We have been fully focused on this mission, as hospitals in New York City have been overwhelmed. We’ve been sending pizzas to hospitals all over the NYC area and have sent more than 4,000+ pizzas to hospital staff, FDNY and NYPD. We’re currently sending 500 pizzas a day.”

The team at the company isn’t just producing the pies, but chipping in to pay for them and dropping them off as well. “We’re matching each pie donated or purchased and delivering the pies to hospitals ourselves,” Le says. “We’ve recently been authorized by the COVID-19 Emergency Task Force to begin delivering to feed first responders at the Javits Center, which has been temporarily turned into a hospital to take on COVID-19 positive patients.”

A recent article in *The New York Post* notes that their efforts haven’t just been appreciated by those on the front lines — though they certainly are, to judge by the photos of smiling masked health care providers surrounded by boxes of pizzas — but by Sauce Pizzeria’s landlord, Ben Kraus, an asset manager at A&E Real Estate Management, who has waived their rent for three months.

“There were a variety of financial ways that we could contribute to the effort. We thought that waiving the rent would be a good first gesture,” Kraus, 31, told *The Post*.

Le and her team remain steadfast in their efforts. “It just clicked for us. We need to help and we can help. We will not stop until this crisis passes. Not until doctors and nurses stop asking us for help.” 🇺🇸

[gofundme.com/f/sauce-pizzeria-covid19](https://gofundme.com/f/sauce-pizzeria-covid19)

*Have a story to share about Toreros responding to the pandemic? We’d love to hear from you! Social: #Toreros-Together Email: [dcim@sandiego.edu](mailto:dcim@sandiego.edu)*

[stepping up]

# A SLICE OF HOPE

**Pizzeria Feeds NYC hospital workers**

by *Julene Snyder*

**A** New York pizzeria is stepping up to feed hospital workers in New York City — as well as in Brooklyn, the Bronx and Queens — in the wake of the region’s upsurge in cases during the COVID-19 pandemic. In less than a month the GoFundMe page “Sauce Pizzeria Loves NYC Hospitals” has raised more than \$90,000 to help fund the do-

nation of thousands of pizzas to more than 20 hospitals in the beleaguered region.

University of San Diego alumna Alisha (Ali) Le ’16 (BA) is the director of marketing for Everyday Hospitality, which consists of Sauce Restaurant, Coco & Cru Café and a few Sauce Pizzeria locations. “It all began when a nurse reached out asking for a

pizza delivery to her unit, explaining they were working double shifts and didn’t have time to make their own meals before a shift,” she recalls. “It had become increasingly hard to get food delivered, as most of the restaurants in NYC were forced to shut down with the new COVID-19 rules of operation.”

Her group stepped in to fill the gap, even though they’d had to let the majority of their staff go when they were no longer allowed to operate their full-service restaurants. “Luckily, we were able to keep most of our pizzeria staff, managers, chefs, delivery teams and marketing team,” she

clerkship and is now a trial attorney with the Department of Justice in Houston, Texas.

[2011]

**JENNIFER (IX) FLAVIN (BBA)** reports that she and Matthew Flavin were married in August 2018 and they bought a house in Redondo Beach, California. She is a school counselor at Santa Monica High School.

**THOMAS JASPER (BACC)** reports that he and his wife, Alex Crownhart '18, relocated to Tacoma, Washington. He is still with Moss Adams but was given the opportunity to work with one of the national practice groups in Seattle and Portland.

**RORY KAY (JD)** was promoted to partner at McDonald Carano. A seasoned litigator and appellate attorney, Rory is experienced in all aspects of commercial and complex litigation, including representing clients before the Nevada Supreme Court and the U.S. Court of Appeals for the 9th Circuit. Rory's community involvement includes extensive pro bono work through the Legal Aid Center of Southern Nevada, where he represents abused and neglected children placed in foster care.

**DEVIN LUDWIG (BA)** is a tenured high school Spanish teacher in the Poway Unified School District. He received his teaching credential from SOLES while completing his undergrad degree at USD.

**MARTAL PREWITT (MA)** is a licensed marriage and family therapist in the BEST (Behavioral Education Skills Training) program at Sacred Heart Children's Hospital in Spokane, Washington. He works in a partial hospitalization program in the child psychiatry unit.

[2012]

**TREVOR CARLSEN '12 (BA)** was awarded a yearlong public policy fellowship with The Fund for American Studies. He will spend the next year discussing the fundamental questions and challenges a free society must address in order to flourish, as well as the unique advantages it can enjoy. Trevor currently is a policy advisor at the U.S. Department of Labor. Previously, he was as a manager of external affairs at Stanford University's Hoover Institution, where he

worked with federal policymakers and Washington, D.C.-area think tanks.

**JESSICA FAHEY (BA)** has worked in the nonprofit sector since her graduation from USD in 2012, specifically working with individuals who have intellectual and developmental disabilities. She says that she enjoys her work and loves to be among family and friends in Kansas City, but she misses the ocean.

[2013]

**GERGANA DROUMEVA (BBA)** reports that she and Aiden Arami '13 were married last summer. They met and started dating at USD. "We're so grateful to USD!" she says.

**TARA IGUIDBASHIAN (BA)** works in trade marketing at the Adidas North America campus in Portland, Oregon.

**ABBY MALCHOW (BBA)** leads Amazon's new military entrepreneurship program to assist small businesses owned by veterans and military spouses. She also created a storefront on Amazon in collaboration with the small-business team to feature military-owned small businesses.

**JESSICA MILLARD (BA)** graduated from Alabama College of Osteopathic Medicine in June 2019. She is in her first year of surgery residency at the University of South Carolina, Greenville.

**CHRISTINA (BRUNINI) RUFFINO (BBA)** reports that she and Michael Ruffino '14 (BS/BA) were married in San Diego on Sept. 21, 2019. Members of the wedding party included fellow alumni Amanda Adams, Vanessa Bellanti, Zac Caras, Allison Corlew, Colleen Harig, Katie Hitchcock, Sabrina (Rodriguez) Kosmas, Delaney (Deutsch) Mann, Justin Ruffino and Morgan Stacey. Christina is a human resources business partner at Brookfield Properties. Michael is an electrical engineer at Boeing; he earned his master's degree in systems architecture and engineering from the University of Southern California.

[2014]

**SARAH ALSHAMMAA (BBA)** is the assistant investment manager in the direct hedge funds department of Kuwait Investment Authority.

**ADAM GERBER (MFA)** is a licensed real estate agent with The Leibowitz Team at Douglas Elliman Real Estate. The team is regularly in the top 3% of agents companywide. "I take great pride in being a graduate of the University of San Diego," he says. "Being a part of such a successful network of like-minded professionals is akin to being a part of a unique family."

**ANTHONY GOMEZ (BACC)** is a senior associate at KPMG and a second-year law student at Loyola Marymount University.

**GARRETT HASBACH (MBA)** is supporting the Apeel Sciences strategy team as they extend the life of fresh fruits and vegetables.

**KATHRYN SILVERMAN (BA)** leads a corporate travel booking team supporting health care staffing.

**TAYLOR WEST (BACC)** works in the Disney Youth Sales department at Disneyland Resort.

[2015] 🎓

**VICTOR GUADARRAMA (BA)** moved to Las Vegas to pursue a career in hospitality convention sales at the Venetian/Palazzo Resort.

**JACLYN (KRIZOVENSKY) KOZLOWSKI (Med)** reports that she and her husband were married on Sept. 1, 2019, in a beautiful outdoor ceremony overlooking Mission Bay. They met in 2011 as bartenders in Washington, D.C. In 2013, Jaclyn earned her MEd at USD. "After six months of long distance, Jeffrey followed me out here and we've been living in Ocean Beach ever since."

**CHRISTIAN MARTIN (BA)** earned certification as a Project Management Professional (PMP).

**TUAN-VIET NGUYEN (BA)** graduated from Poznan University of Medical Sciences (Poland) on June 3, 2019.

**EMILY REID (MSN)** works at a community clinic in San Diego, which provides medical care and medication-assisted treatment for the underinsured and patients with substance abuse disorders.

**ELIZA VERA (BBA)** writes: "At USD, I was sincerely supported and

taken in as one of the campus musicians ... I even got to play with my band for the homecoming concert my senior year and open up for some idols of mine. The support I felt from USD gave me the confidence to continue my career post-college. I started a band called Swimming in Circles with my partner, Jack Williams. We have a great following in San Diego and just completed our first West Coast tour this past November. The amount of USD alumni who came out to support me once again blew my mind!"

**KIM WOODBURY (BS/BA)** is a kit development manufacturing engineer for Thermo Fisher Scientific in San Francisco, where she works on product introduction projects that support next-generation sequencing.

[2016]

**HANI ALAMRI (BA)** writes, "Working in a family business, including real estate. Also, opened new business in woodcraft: Instagram account @hani\_wooden."

**JEFFREY DeFELICE (BS/BA)** is a design engineer at the Chevron Refinery in Richmond, California.

**CHRISTY DeNOVA (BA)** graduated from occupational therapy school in Virginia, where she received a Master of Science in Occupational Therapy degree. She is currently a practicing occupational therapist working at a hand therapy clinic.

**ANGELA HAROLD (BA)** graduated from law school in May and passed the California Bar exam.

**SEAN MILES (MBA)** co-founded Habitbetter, a wellness company focused on helping people build healthy habits through guided daily journaling, with his sister, Katie Miles, a fellow USD alumnus. Together, they work in San Diego developing e-courses that cover stress management, goal setting, nutrition and other wellness topics.

**MELLANIA SAFARIAN (JD)** is chair of the New Lawyer Division and sits on the board of directors for the San Diego County Bar Association.

**MASHA YAKOVLEVA (MA)** is working on her dissertation. She is studying the definitions of self-care in different disciplines





[ t e n a c i o u s ]

# LEARNING ALL THE WAY IN

**Veteran Jodie Grenier '18 (MA) fights for women warriors**

by *Julene Snyder*

**J**odie Grenier has been through some things in her life. The daughter of blue-collar parents, she joined the Marine Corps right out of high school. By the time that 9/11 occurred, she was an intelligence agent whose job was to “protect and mitigate troops on the forward lines.” She knew it was only a matter of time before she and her fellow troops “would be going somewhere.”

She was right. She deployed in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom I and II, where she provided unit commanders with real-time actionable intelligence,

mitigating threats to troops. In 2005, she was honorably discharged from active service and promoted to staff sergeant in 2006 in the Reserves. She spent a decade in intelligence and national security, ultimately serving as an intelligence advisor in Camp Pendleton, training unit commanders, Marines and sailors.

But ultimately, she became frustrated by the glass ceiling she slammed into. “I loved my job, but the law said that women were only allowed to be in certain jobs,” she explains. Her preference would have been to work in counterintel-

ligence, but that wasn’t a possibility for a woman. “I realized I’d reached my peak and that I was no longer going to be fulfilled.”

Her parents assumed she’d simply get another job, perhaps as a police officer. “They thought it would be a seamless transition,” she recalls. “But I wasn’t interested in another regimented lifestyle.”

Instead, she worked on obtaining her undergraduate degree while working as a bartender and waitressing. “It was a humbling experience,” she says. “I mean, I’d been in the same unit with

General Mattis, and now I was telling customers the daily specials in a pizzeria.”

But she kept at it, changing majors a number of times before she ultimately earned her bachelor’s degree in psychology. “Of the five best decisions of my life, that’s one of them. I understand human behavior, and that set the framework to launch me into the nonprofit sector.” She worked with a start-up nonprofit, the Marine Reconnaissance Foundation, for a few years, ultimately becoming a board member and vice president.

When she was hired in 2016 as chief executive officer for what is now the Foundation for Women Warriors, Grenier had just been accepted into the School of Leadership and Education Sciences’ Nonprofit and Leadership master’s program. To say she juggled her time is an understatement:



There was class two or three nights a week and a bi-weekly commute to and from Los Angeles from her San Diego home for a time. Weekends were spent buried in homework.

“School prepared me for the quarantine,” she says with a laugh. “I hardly ever left my house.” And she loved every minute of it. “It was serendipitous, the most amazing experience I have ever had, because when I got this position I had the unique ability to take what I was learning and immediately deploy it. I had that advantage over others in my cohort.”

The organization, then called Military Women in Need, turns 100 years old this year. Grenier wanted to bring it into the modern age.

“I saw a resurgence of women’s empowerment,” she says. “I wanted to bridge the gap between women veterans and civilian women.” With the organization at a turning point, Grenier rebranded it as The Foundation for Women Warriors and stabilized the nonprofit’s budget.

She gives full props to her USD master’s program. “What I learned helped me transform this organization into a fiscally sustainable entity and to be more impactful. The whole faculty prepared me not just to lead an organization through a time of change, but through a pandemic. That’s a testament to the type of education I received.”

Not surprisingly, she’s seeing an uptick in need from women veterans — whose top four concerns are education, employment, housing and childcare — given the economic downturn sparked by the pandemic.

While the challenges are many, Grenier is up to the task. “I’ve dealt with so much change in my life, and I really leaned in on everything I’d learned. Little did I know how valuable it would be.” 🧠

Learn more at <http://foundationfor-womenwarriors.org/>

and its effectiveness for maintaining overall health.

#### [2017]

**KHALED ALASKAR (BS/BA)** is an engineer on Kuwait’s first renewable energy project called Shagaya Renewable Energy Park, where the goal is to supply 20% of Kuwait’s energy from renewable energy sources. Khaled is an instrumentation and control engineer in the maintenance department and performs corrective and preventive maintenance to the instruments in the plant. “We are hoping to educate and popularize alternative energy, so people can understand its importance and benefits as well as attracting capital toward this energy,” he says.

**FRANCISCO FAGOAGA (MS-SCM)** works at Boeing and is actively involved with the Seattle Torero Network.

**DESREE FOSTER** moved from San Diego to the San Francisco Bay Area in June 2018. She passed all four parts of the Certified Public Accounting Exam and became a licensed CPA in July 2019.

**JAMES MASON (MEd)** is a high school science teacher at Augusta Preparatory Day School, where he has taught for 17 years.

#### [2018]

**RAED ALMUTAIRI (BS/BA)** writes: “After graduation, I have been through ups and downs to decide what I’m going to do for the rest of my life. A year later, I got hired by Halliburton Energy Services as an oilfield engineer, and I’m happy with what I do every day.”

**EMILEE CUTRIGHT (MA)** is a program analyst for the Veterans for American Ideals initiative at Human Rights First in Washington, D.C. She supports and advances the policy objectives of VFAI by engaging in research, policy analysis and targeted advocacy with veterans and refugees around the world.

**DANIEL JOECK (MFA)** booked his first gig since moving to New York at the beginning of 2019. He acted in an episode of a crime re-creation show called Dead of Winter.

#### [2019]

**JARED AMORY (JD)** took the bar exam in 2019 and started EcoInfusion, a business that manufactures and distributes sustainable hemp products. He also received a job offer as a law clerk (and attorney upon bar passage), resumed writing his book *Waves of the Mind*, traveled back home to New York and later visited Cancún and Tulum, Mexico.

**SERENA ARTS '99 (MSN), '19 (DNP)** works at Father Joe’s Villages, providing care on-site and in downtown San Diego through street medicine.

**RISHABH DANGI (MBA)** set up a company to export food items such as Indian spices and their extracts and reports plans to expand into exporting textiles and other food products.

**KATIE KNOTT (MBA)** joined Collins Aerospace as manager of internal and executive communications.

**CLAIRE MORALES (BBA)** started working at her first job as a proposal development coordinator at Moravek, Inc.

**ALEXIS NACHT (BA)** is enrolled in the master of science in occupational therapy program at the University of Illinois at Chicago.

**ADNAN NOUH (BA)** writes, “I’ve been trying to further understand my best skill sets in the work field.”

**DANA STEVENSON (MS)** has been working to find a role with his current employer to apply his new master of science in cybersecurity degree, such as in security architecture or cyber ops management. He is planning his next certification track in solutions architecture for Cloud Services.

**JOSE TURRUBIARTEZ (BA)** is studying for the LSAT.

**SARA ZAMANIAN (BA)** is a clinical study associate for Johnson & Johnson.

## In Memoriam

**JOHN BERRAY '94 (BA)** passed away in February 2020 at the age of 48. For the past four years, he

worked as a digital learning coach for the Grossmont Union School District. Most recently, he served as the district’s math curriculum specialist, where his passion for math led to innovations districtwide. John was selected by his students as the Golden Apple Award winner in 2000 and again in 2008. His peers named him West Hills High School Teacher of the Year in 2014, he was named one of five 2014-15 San Diego County Teachers of the Year.

A math teacher by training, John began his career in education at West Hills High School in 1995. His classes were a lively, enjoyable experience wherein he turned the mundane on its ear to motivate his students to see the beauty of mathematics and its omnipresence. A gifted teacher, John helped students grow and guided their understanding of the important connection between their education and the rest of their lives.

In the years since graduating from USD, he came back to campus to talk to future teachers and share his expertise and delight in the profession. John spent 25 years working for the betterment of young people. His friendly smile, caring demeanor, gentle spirit and life lessons will carry forward.

**MEREDITH (LOHNE) VON TSCHARNER '86 (BBA), '89 (MA)** passed away unexpectedly on Nov. 24, 2019, in Denver. Meredith and her husband, Patrick, had been married for more than 28 years and maintained a deep friendship since they met at USD in 1982. They raised three children: Emma Meredith '17 (BA), 25 years old, and twins Matthew Christopher and Nicholas Jameson, 21 years old. Meredith was well-known as a student at USD and lived a life full of love, compassion, generosity and friendship. “She dedicated her life to raising our children and being an incredibly supportive and loving friend and partner to me,” Patrick says. “Our family will miss her smile, presence and unmistakable voice.” A memorial Mass and celebration of life is planned during the summer in San Diego.



## Dear Toreros:

Comfort in community. This is what the USD Alumni Association is striving to provide. These are surreal times, and the staff and volunteers of the USD Alumni Association are committed now more than ever to our mission — to engage and enrich the Torero community for life. President Kim Alessio '87, the Alumni Association Board, and our Alumni Relations staff have been working remotely but diligently to create opportunities for Toreros to stay engaged with each other and the USD community.



Online programming, extensive communication and direct outreach are just a few of the ways we are working to support alumni and students. Perhaps you have provided career advice to a USD senior, signed up for TEAM, joined us for a virtual happy hour or tuned in to Tiny Toreros Story Time. We've "Zoomed" with alumni around the U.S., across Europe and even one of USD's alumni astronauts, Dr. Jonny Kim '12 (although he wasn't in space at the moment).

We have also developed online resources to provide support to our alumni and alumni-owned businesses during this crisis. We encourage you to visit [alumni.sandiego.edu](http://alumni.sandiego.edu) to see the many resources and benefits available.

One of San Diego's "must attend" events of the summer is the USD Wine Classic. Although we won't be gathering in person on campus this year, we are planning an entertaining event for Wine Classic fans on Saturday, July 11. Over the past 11 years, we've hosted thousands of alumni and friends while raising hundreds of thousands of dollars for the Alumni Endowed Scholarship Fund. Our winery friends and amazing volunteers have helped make this event the success it is. You won't want to miss the fun on July 11! More information will be available on our website soon.

You've certainly heard about the challenges that have faced the Class of 2020. We look forward to welcoming these newest alumni back to campus during Homecoming and Family Weekend — October 15-18 — for a special Commencement celebration. In addition, we hope to host several graduation celebrations in Torero Clubs around the country, so keep an eye on your inbox.

Finally, we ask you to share stories of Toreros doing great work by emailing us at [alumni@sandiego.edu](mailto:alumni@sandiego.edu). Community is more important than ever, and we hope you'll join us — online, on the phone and eventually on campus again!

Take good care,

*Charles Bass*  
*Senior Director of Alumni Relations*



Find more stories at [sandiego.edu/usdmag](https://sandiego.edu/usdmag).





OFFICE OF UNIVERSITY PUBLICATIONS  
5998 ALCALÁ PARK  
SAN DIEGO, CA 92110-2492

CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED

NONPROFIT ORG.  
U.S. POSTAGE  
**PAID**  
SAN DIEGO, CA  
PERMIT NO. 365

A large blue rectangular area filled with a dense pattern of gold, metallic-looking confetti or streamers, creating a celebratory and textured background for the main text.

# CONGRATULATIONS CLASS OF 2020