

Winter 2019

## **Santa Clara Magazine, Volume 61 Number 1, Winter 2019**

Santa Clara University

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# Santa Clara Magazine

Tradition as a guide:  
A president in motion  
sits with SCM, *Page 14*

What happens when  
artist become less  
human? *Page 22*

The best guide is  
sometimes the thing  
you carry. *Page 28*

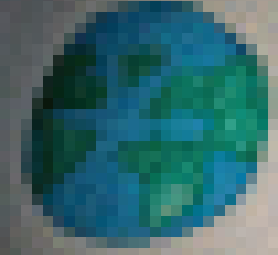
Nebraska's state poet  
on pride of place,  
and words. *Page 37*



BEGINNINGS



NO PLANET B



SAVE



SAVE

FIGHT

## 9/20/19

COULD YOU HEAR them on the streets? From Belgium to Toyoko, in India and New York, protesters marched out of hope and fear, desiring and earning the world's attention. The future—strikers—for the climate argue, is something worth saving. Or as Pope Francis put it: "Young people demand change," he wrote in his encyclical on the environment, *Laudato Si'*. "They wonder how anyone can claim to be building a better future without thinking of the environmental crisis and the sufferings of the excluded." As the international marches of September pushed for broad policy change, Santa Clara brought it to a personal level: What do we do to help? "We need to make a U-turn for humanity and the planet's ability to sustain life as we know it," says **Kristin Kusanovich '88**, a senior lecturer in dance who is spearheading an effort called tUrn. For one week in October, every class and club took on environmental justice: Engineering students focused on carbon capture. Dance students choreographed works based on environmental themes. Francis' encyclical was read filibuster-style. But a day of marching or week of learning is not enough to deliver environmental justice. Santa Clara pledges to promote research and teaching partnerships focused on environmental justice over the next three years, a response to the Pope's call for solidarity with people who face severe threats to their environments and health.

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# Santa Clara Magazine



## DEPARTMENTS

- 3 LETTERS
- 4 MISSION MATTERS
- 5 QUOTE
- 6 BOOK
- 9 AND
- 10 EXCLAMATION
- 11 COPYRIGHT
- 32 BRONCO NEWS
- 33 QUESTION
- 34 NUMBERS
- 37 PLACE
- 40 PLUS
- 43 PLUS
- 48 LAST PAGE

## FEATURES

### 14 In the Beginning

An interview with Santa Clara University President Kevin O'Brien, S.J. on what's next and noticing what we swim in. *Matt Morgan*

### 22 Adam, Eve, and the Apple

If making—and appreciating—art makes us human, what happens when we get help making a masterpiece from something unhuman? *Lauren Loftus*

### 28 Bedrock

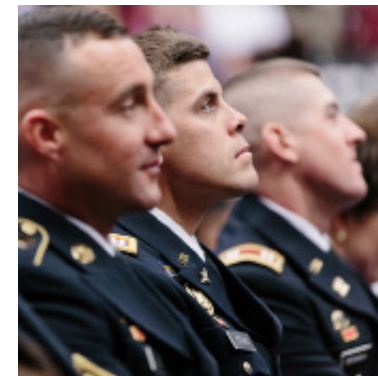
When faced with tough decisions, Santa Clara values stand as good guides, says Leon Panetta '60, J.D. '63. *Leslie Griffy*

*The Cover:* The old Kodak camera was a parting gift, as Kevin O'Brien, S.J. left Georgetown to become the Dean of the Jesuit School of Theology. It was a reminder to think creatively, and perhaps to innovate more quickly than that great camera and film company did. On the cover, he's now the 29th President of SCU. Through the viewfinder, he sees Beginnings and a blank slate on which to build Santa Clara's future.

[magazine.scu.edu](http://magazine.scu.edu)

## DIGITAL EXCLUSIVES

Timely features, videos, slideshows, and podcasts. Here's some of what you'll find at [magazine.scu.edu](http://magazine.scu.edu). Visit us for in-depth exclusives from the stories here, as well as for the latest news and ideas from the Mission campus.



**IT'S ALL HERE** Catch up on the inauguration week activities with photos, videos, and more at [magazine.scu.edu](http://magazine.scu.edu)



**WEAPONS TO ART** Artist Lin Evola '75 takes the tools of conflict and makes them into sculpture, melting donated guns to transform into angels.



**A GIANT MATH PROBLEM** It takes a physicist to assign thousands of students to their dorms. Find out how Phil Kesten puts it together.

IMAGE BY CODY PICKENS

IMAGES COURTESY GETTY, AND BY JIM GENSHEIMER

# Letters

Read more, discuss: [magazine.scu.edu](http://magazine.scu.edu)

## IN GRATITUDE

Michael Engh, S.J. is a "people" person, even though he's a devoted Dodgers fan!

He is, and continues to be, a most approachable man.

Each Jesuit has many qualities, but you always feel comfortable when you are in his company.

Whether you're CEO of a Silicon Valley company, or an incoming freshman, this humble man listens to you. He is the essence of a college leader.

He gave all of us a decade of that kindness, hope, friendship, and work. May God continue to bless him.

John Shean '64

*That human touch made a difference on campus. Now, we need to find out what team counts amongst its fans SCU's 29th President, Kevin O'Brien, S.J. —Editors*

I wanted to thank you for the wonderful tribute to a great woman, my wife, Lorna Panelli. She would have been so pleased and humbled.

Edward Panelli '53, J.D. '55

*Santa Clara is lucky to have been able to count her as ours.*

San Francisco owes Joanne Hayes-White '86 a great deal of gratitude and respect for her tremendous contribution to SFFD. I cannot imagine a more challenging position and she persevered and made a huge difference. Brava!

Anonymous, [magazine.scu.edu](http://magazine.scu.edu)

## GIANTS OF BUCK SHAW, CONTINUED

I found some lineup sheets and programs in my files, showing that the SF Giants also visited SCU on May 3, 1983, and May 13, 1985, during my undergrad years.

The program also lists the final score of each game between 1962 and 1980, so I guess the teams met a couple of times after 1980 as well.

Damien Palermo '85

*We'd take 'em on any day! Go Broncos.*

## BUT WAIT! THERE'S MORE!

I was excited to read about the 10-year anniversary of The Forge. What a truly special place and how wonderful that is has become a permanent part of SCU. I couldn't help but notice that an important person was left out of the history—Patrick Archie. While I know it's not possible to name the many people who were involved in the creation and care of the Forge over the years, Patrick is the person who provided the vision for the Forge and BUG. Neither would have happened without him. I wanted to give a special shout out of gratitude for his involvement, care, and attention to these projects. His ability to bring community and campus together was a great gift to SCU, and his work with BUG in the greater Alma, Gardner, and Washington neighborhoods greatly contributed to the development of the Thriving Neighbors Initiative. May the seeds he planted continue to bear fruit for many years to come.

Laurie Laird '87

*Thank you for sharing with us, and our readers, some of Patrick Archie's story. We are in your, and his, debt. Forge on!*

## LATINX CLUB TURNS 50

I, too, was a member from '73 to '77—times of affirmative action. The club provides a launching pad for student members to extend out to the community and the world, and be caring leaders who happen to be of Hispanic descent.

Eldon Regua '77, Maj. Gen. (R), USA

## USWNT VICTORY!

Julie is still one of my favorite players. SHE DA BOSS!!!!

John Deever

*Soccer fever was at a high pitch for us this summer, too. Great to see so many Broncos.*

## CORRECTIONS:

The story about Kaweni Ibarra's '19 summer internship with Hawaiian tattooist Pa'a 'Alana should have mentioned that the College of Arts and Sciences REAL Program funded the experience and hopes to provide internships for all undergraduates.

# Mission Matters

NEWS FROM SANTA CLARA



*In the beginning, there is pomp, and there is celebration. What follows is hard work. Learn more about how Fr. O'Brien sees his new position—and the world—on page 14.*

## New Era

FRIENDS AND FAMILY, alumni, faculty, and staff gathered in Mass, ceremony, through dedications and special events as Santa Clara University's 29th President, **Kevin O'Brien, S.J.**, took office.

It was a whirlwind week of events this October, culminating with dignitaries from around the world gathered in the Leavey Center for the inauguration of O'Brien as President.

"The work of Santa Clara could not be in better hands than Fr. Kevin O'Brien," says longtime friend and Georgetown President John J. DeGioia.

For his part, O'Brien invited the Santa Clara community to join him in a new adventure—the furthering of Santa Clara values out in the world and on campus by reaching out to one another with open hearts and minds.

"I ask you to join me in continuing to create Santa Clara as a place of generous encounter, as a gathering place where

conversations take place that are steeped in truth, beauty, and goodness," he says, "and where we and our students are inspired to truly encounter others in places well beyond this beautiful corner of the world."

This, he says, is living up to most important part of Santa Clara University's Jesuit, Catholic tradition, the key to learning and improving the world.

"We will be saved by beauty because in appreciating beauty we become more human: grateful for the beauty in and around us, we live more gently, humbly, generously," O'Brien says. "We don't just become better scholars and students pursuing truth: saved by beauty, we become better people."

These values, he says, are among the most crucial of our time.

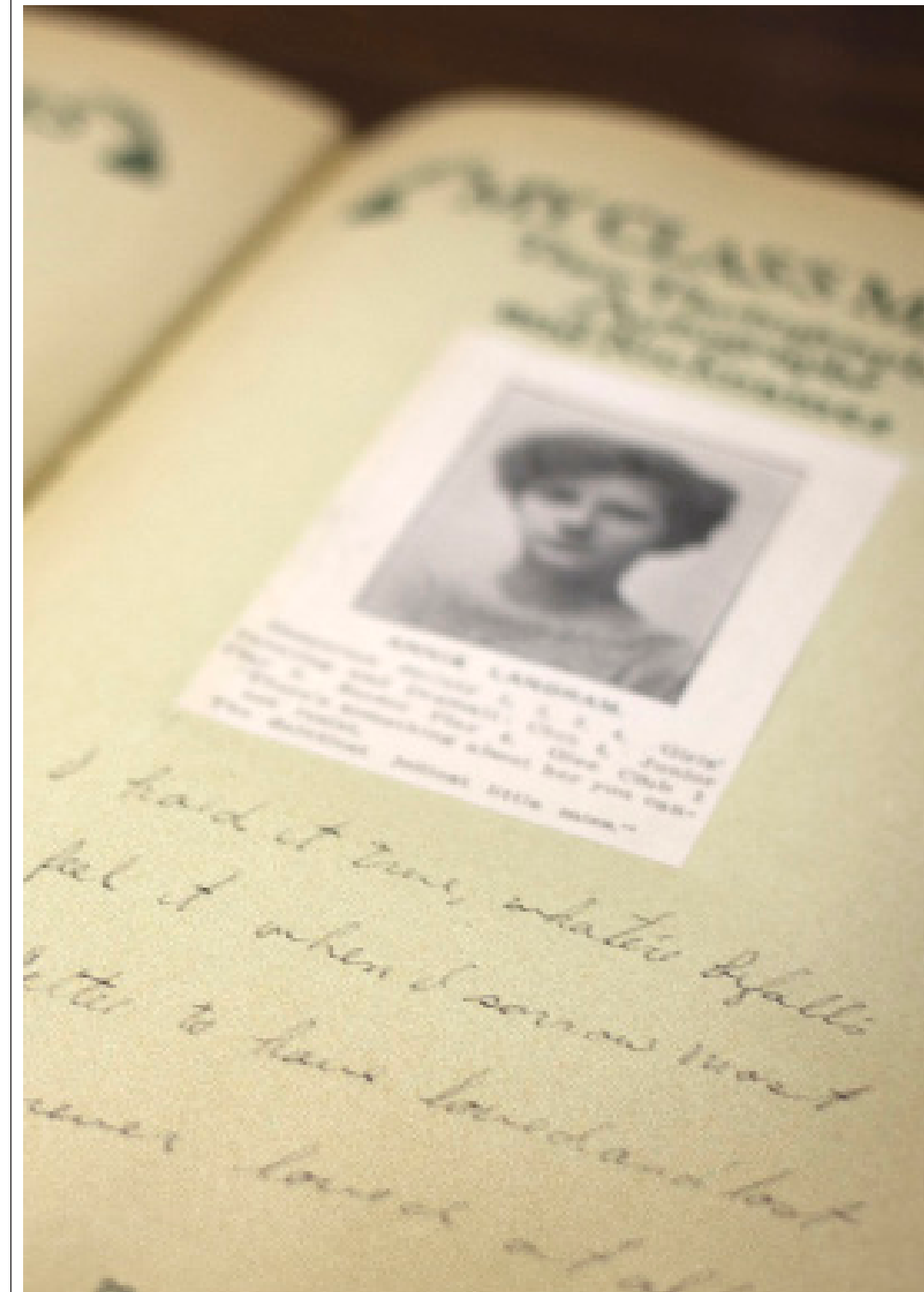
"In an era that questions the existence of truth, the relevance of beauty, and the very possibility of goodness, I invite you to work with me to build a university that declares that such ideals matter," O'Brien says.

"Together, we will accomplish much for the greater glory of God and the good of humanity."

WORDS BY LESLIE GRIFFY; IMAGE BY SCOTT MACDONALD

# ”

**Keep in Touch!** The inscriptions in assistant professor of English **Amy Lueck's** yearbook collection could have been written this year, albeit some with a dose of Victorian propriety. "May your life be one of joy and happiness," reads one. Perusing pages of sock hops and clubs, Lueck noticed that how students edit the books, in effect, shapes high school as we know it.



"We sat side by side in astronomy and walked together in the hall. These lines will remind you that we'll forget each other 'not at all,'" rhymes an inscription in the more than 100 yearbooks assistant professor of English **Amy Lueck** owns. They range from wallet-sized autograph books from the mid-1800s to her own grandfather's annual from 1944.

"No one's confused about what to do when they're handed a yearbook. They have a stockpile of memorized verses to share," Lueck says. What interests her is how the writing and compiling of yearbooks shapes the archetype of the American teenager and the high school experience.

The early yearbooks Lueck found while writing her dissertation in rhetoric and composition at University of Louisville coincide with the massive expansion of access to high school around the turn of the 20th century.

Akin to fill-in-the-blank baby books but for teen tropes, these mass-produced journals contain pages for faculty, athletics, and autographs.

What's cool, she says, is that students have never seemed particularly interested in following the rules. They cross out headers and write new ones, paste photos of their friends, and insert mementos. "They're really playing around with, 'Well what do I want to remember, what do I want this book to capture?'"

Also notable is what's left out. "There's one I've seen from San Jose High School around the time of Japanese Internment that lists the Japanese-American Student Club under the title 'No Longer Here,'" she recalls. "The remaining students are using the yearbook as a space to reaffirm communal bonds in the face of division and rupture."

As a genre, "yearbooks are not just something we have but something we do," Lueck says. "There are countless ways you could describe what happens in high school, but in all these we see patterns that come to really define what high school actually is."

*There are not many places where high school students can define their world. Yearbooks are one of them.*

IMAGE AND WORDS BY LAUREN LOFTUS

T

**The Long Tail of Genocide.** In *The Shadows of 1915*, Jerry Burger writes about a Fresno-based family of survivors. All but one—an infant daughter—made it out of the Ottoman Empire as Turkish rulers systematically murdered 1.5 million Armenians from 1915 to 1923. Thousands of miles away and a generation later, the family struggles with the aftermath of genocide.

*Emeritus psychology professor Jerry Burger sets his new book in 1953 in the Central Valley, where rich farmland drew some of the Armenian diaspora. The story of the Saropian family—matriarch Tarovez and her sons—turns on a hostile encounter between the sons and several Turkish college students.*

**Why did you focus on the generation after genocide?**

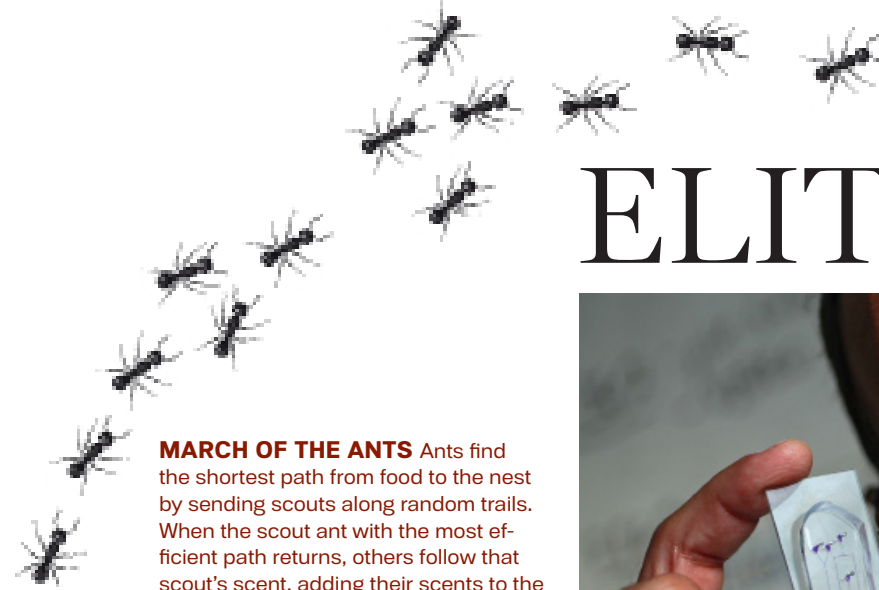
Growing up in Fresno and interacting with Armenian friends and their families, I was struck by two things: First, every family had a story about loved ones lost in the genocide, and these stories were an important part of community identity; second, every member of the Armenian community I encountered had strong feelings about Turks. Hate might be the appropriate word. Certainly, there was anger. It occurred to me that this is an opportunity to explore in fiction a number of interesting concepts—family, culture, trauma, and justice. Questions about justice are raised throughout the book. Most importantly, how can members of the Armenian community reach a sense of justice when the genocide perpetrators not only go unpunished but deny that the genocide happened? As one of my characters says, “Hate is not a solution. But neither is forgetting.”

**Why is justice so central to the human condition?**

Psychologists find that believing in a just world may be critical for our sense of well-being, at least in Western cultures. We know things are not always fair, but we need to believe that in general the world is a just place—that people get what they deserve and they deserve what they get. This is part of why people often have a difficult time overcoming trauma; that is, if these types of things just happen, then there's nothing to keep them from happening again. This is also why injustice on such a grand scale as genocide is unacceptable. But your question touches on another theme I raise in the book, a notion sometimes referred to as “the sins of the father.” I can understand why Armenians feel anger over the lack of justice related to the genocide—I feel it, even though I am not Armenian. But why turn that anger on the next generation of Turks? Are they to pay for the sins of their fathers? Is that justice?



WORDS BY LAUREN LOFTUS. IMAGE COURTESY THE LIBRARY OF CONGRESS



**MARCH OF THE ANTS** Ants find the shortest path from food to the nest by sending scouts along random trails. When the scout ant with the most efficient path returns, others follow that scout's scent, adding their scents to the path and making it easier to find. Oddly enough, this creepy, crawly pathfinding might hold the key to cloud security. That is what Yuhong Liu, assistant professor of computer engineering, is working with her students to prove. Using this follow-the-leader strategy, Liu along with colleagues from California State University, East Bay developed an algorithm to make cloud-computing more efficient and secure.



**HIGH MARKS** This year marks the first time Santa Clara set alongside the likes of Princeton and Pepperdine in *U.S. News & World Report's* rankings of colleges and universities. And SCU did well—no surprise there—by placing No. 54, in the top 15 percent of nearly 400 national-level universities. Santa Clara's reputation, graduation rates, class sizes, and the caliber of the student body powered its high ranking. In 2018, *U.S. News* ranked SCU No. 1 in the West in its regional category, but a change in the classification system elevated SCU to the national university category. “We are extremely gratified that the hard work of Santa Clara University's faculty, staff, and students is being recognized through strong rankings in *U.S. News* and elsewhere,” says President Kevin O'Brien, S.J. *Forbes Magazine* ranked SCU No. 51 of 650 top-tier American colleges and universities and the 10th best college in the Western U.S.

WORDS BY HEIDI WILLIAMS, MATT MORGAN, LUCY NING, AND LESLIE GRIFFY. IMAGES BY CHARLES BARRY AND ADOBE STOCK

# ELITE SCIENCE



*Nature as a microscope: Associate Professor Paul Abbyad uses water droplets to get a better insight into cells.*

HERE IS SOME of what SCU research does: Track nanoparticles in the environment, develop sensors to penetrate cell walls, and use water droplets as tiny test tubes to run multiple tests on a single cell. As of summer 2019, the University can boast five winners of the Henry Dreyfus Teacher-Scholar Award. That's when Paul Abbyad, associate professor of chemistry and biochemistry, became one of a handful of chemists earning the honor. The award includes a \$75,000 grant that will go to Abbyad's research using microfluidics to sort cancer cells based on their metabolism, which could ultimately help better target therapies. It is research that at Santa

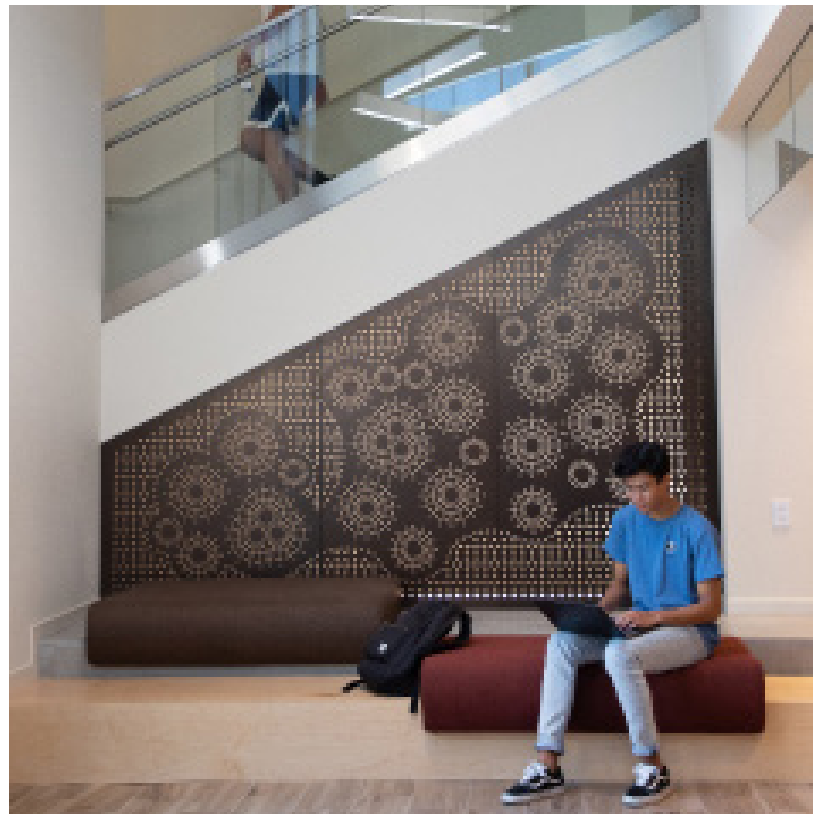
Clara is powered by students. “This award speaks of the great environment at Santa Clara,” says Abbyad. “We can, at the same time, emphasize quality teaching while performing solid research with undergraduate students.” Previous recipients of the Teacher-Scholar at SCU award include Korin Wheeler in 2018, Amelia Fuller in 2017, Eric Tillman in 2009, and Mike Carrasco in 2004. It is an exceptional achievement, says Terri Peretti, interim dean of the College of Arts and Sciences: “I am proud to be able to count our faculty in the Department of Chemistry and Biochemistry among the best in the nation.”

## Confronting the Past

THE ATROCITIES JUSTIFIED using the beliefs of early physical anthropologists detail some of the worst in human history: the Holocaust in Nazi Germany, apartheid in South Africa. “The horrors are big,” assistant professor of Anthropology Robin Nelson says. “The history is bad.” During the 18th and 19th centuries, so-called race science was a strand of physical anthropology that attempted to link moral and intellectual aptitude to race. “We as physical anthropologists have always had a hand in race science,” Nelson says. In 1996, the American Association of Physical Anthropologists, AAPA, tried to right this wrong, publishing a “Statement on Race.” It was a progressive move at the time, but history revealed imperfections. It was too technical and did not speak to cultural impact. To this day, racists repackaged race science to provide cover for hate speech. In late 2017, Nelson joined a group of anthropologists to make the statement more clear and pointed when it came to the impact of race science. The AAPA unanimously adopted the revised statement in March 2019. “We're hoping the document starts as an opener for conversations,” Nelson says. “That this is really just the beginning of the conversations we need to be having.”



FPO



*A focus on the whole: The new residential community on campus hopes to help students take better care of themselves and one another.*

**BUILD FOR ALL** Santa Clara is jumping into Silicon Valley's protracted, complicated, and expensive housing problem with a proposal to build nearly 300 homes, space for a start-up incubator, and retail near the Stephen Schott Baseball Stadium. The below-market housing would be available to faculty and staff from the area's Jesuit education centers—SCU, Bellarmine College Prep, and Cristo Rey Jesuit High School. The proposal requires approval from the cities of San Jose and Santa Clara.

**KEEPING THE FAITH** Approximately 300 boxes that arrived on campus Aug. 26 hold the history of an order, the Sisters of the Holy Family, whose pioneering work in childcare, social service, and education touched thousands in California, Nevada, and Hawaii. Nearly 150 years' worth of history in bound volumes, video and audiotapes, textiles, and other records will now live in Santa Clara's Archives and Special Collections, where they will be cataloged, cared for, and made available to researchers.



**A BIRD IN THE HAND** If there's one thing a woodpecker hates, it's an empty nest, as frequent contributor to SCM and friend of SCU's art programs Edward Rooks notes in one of his lectures at Filoli Gardens this past year. "They have a cache of valuable acorns to protect. So, the birds have evolved to recruit family members to protect it," he says as a lecturer on the garden's summer theme, NEST: Creating Home. Through sacrifice, the family of woodpeckers help each other and make a home. It's this poetry of nature that Rooks captures in his art. His naturalist paintings and photographs are award-winning and have appeared in biological journals, nature magazines, and even on wine labels.

WORDS BY LUCY NINNO, SAHALE GREENWOOD, AND JESSICA HILGER. IMAGES PROVIDED BY ISTOCK AND SCU ARCHIVES

## Room for the Whole

How do you expand a university and keep hold of its values? Opening a residence hall built around the very idea of community is one way. This fall, about 366 first- and second-year students became the first residents of Finn Hall, named in honor of donor and trustee **Stephen A. Finn MBA '76**. As students moved belongings to their rooms, they found an elevator that didn't just plop occupants on a floor but rather put them at the center of a community's social scene—open common areas with kitchens, games, and couches. That is what happens when you plan for community. Finn Hall is home to a residen-

tial learning community that finds its theme in the Jesuit value of caring for the whole person, *cura personalis*. To honor that theme, resident director **Kori Lennon '14** and assistant professor of communication **Chan Thai** plan to organize events and launch new traditions based on a classic wellness model with rotating themes. At Finn Hall, students can join in Monday night yoga and Wednesday well-being workshops on topics ranging from the spiritual to the financial. "We all hope that a hall focused on well-being will help spread that value throughout campus," says Thai.

## THE PITCH

IN THIS SOCCER story, a different type than the ones you may be used to hearing out of Santa Clara, **Ben Davidson '20** found himself literally immersed in a meeting of cultures. And what the Jean Donovan Summer Immersion Fellow found there was brotherhood. It was as Davidson worked with 4Worlds, a non-profit in Portland, that he found himself on the field with kids from the Congo, Bhutan, and Kenya. It was his job to set up pickup games and organize tournaments. Without shared languages or customs, and sometimes without cleats, the kids and Davidson found a shared sport—soccer. As he left at the end of the summer, one of the kids asked, "When are you gonna be back next year?" and Davidson realized a community had developed through a shared love and space of a makeshift soccer field.



**Positively Bronco.** The covers of *Vogue*, *WIRED*, and *Men's Health* got a Bronco makeover. An effort to deepen understanding takes a fresh spin on big-name magazine covers, putting students and their values on display. Inspired by the movement that encourages people to be positive about their bodies, known as #BodyPosi, the positive Bronco images—#BroncoPosi—celebrate inclusivity.

**GLAMOUR**

**MUSLIM WOMEN** come in all skin colors & outfits

**WOMEN of the YEAR**

**SECRET TALENT: Can wrap a hijab in under 10 seconds**

Lana Kaleel '21

Mai Sinada '21

"Make decisions that show that you love yourself. I decided to be a Bronco."

#BRONCO POSI

ASSOCIATED STUDENT GOVERNMENT  
SANTA CLARA UNIVERSITY

WORDS BY ALLY O'CONNOR. IMAGE PROVIDED BY SCU

**Ciara Moezidis '21** came up with the idea of #BroncoPosi magazine covers to "encourage love, promote positivity, and increase solidarity among student groups." In them, students can see themselves, each other, and their values on alternative covers of national magazines. Students who volunteered to be featured on the covers share what they feel should be known about their identity. Those sentiments become headlines.

"Muslim Women Come in All Skin Colors & Outfits" reads one riff on a *Glamour* magazine cover. An issue of *Out* magazine declares, "Love is a terrible thing to hate." The covers pop up on screens and as posters throughout campus, as well as on social media. The campaign aims to open conversations between groups in support of radical inclusion, the idea that all are welcome in this mission of education and service, and that we should greet one another with open minds.

It is a reminder of how "students should strive towards education, not ignorance," says Moezidis. It is more than a well-intentioned art project. Soon after launching the poster campaign, the Associated Student Government worked with the Office for Multicultural Learning to host a Difficult Dialogue series, conversations with people from a variety of backgrounds delving into important political and controversial subjects, focusing on their impact on the community. Featured students also met weekly to discuss groups on the posters.

*The SCU-inspired covers also spawned serious conversations hosted by the Office for Multicultural Learning about identity and current events.*



**Magic.** Naima Fonrose '20 helped make it nightly in her summer internship. On her way to the office, she nearly pinched herself—an intern at the *Tonight Show*. Yeah, that *Tonight Show* starring Jimmy Fallon. Fonrose learned the ins and outs of the entertainment industry, as well as the shortcuts to Rockefeller Center from her apartment near the Upper East Side.

There's research. There's writing. There's standing in for rehearsals. There's barely any time to take a breath.

There's a lot to do when you work at the *Tonight Show*, and production intern Naima Fonrose '20 was into all of it.

"There are so many moving parts, but it's a really fun, warm environment with dedicated people who work together to bring late-night comedy magic to your TV screen every night."

Fonrose was just about five years older than some of her coworkers—her coworkers being the teenage cast of *Stranger Things*. Fonrose helped make a video of the stars of the Netflix hit series and Fallon surprising some of their super fans at the wax museum Madame Tussauds New York.

Add all of it up and it was a giddy rush: "So many things happened constantly, but I honestly just loved going to work every day because I never knew what would happen," Fonrose says.

It was a growing experience.

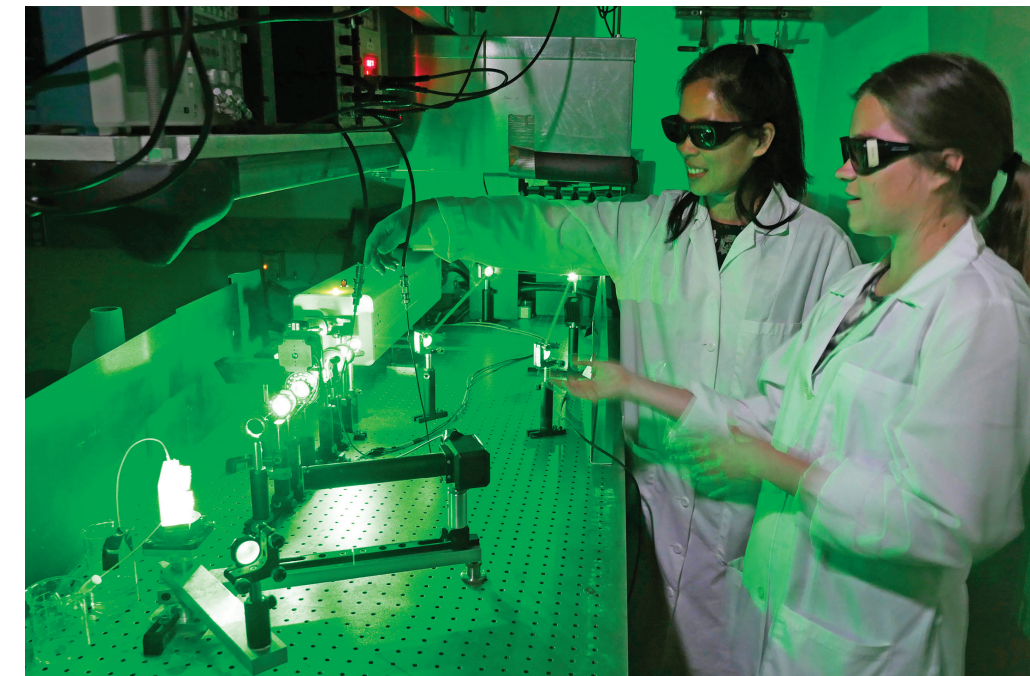
"I have learned so much about entertainment, what it takes to be an excellent employee, and how being nice and working hard will get you so far in life," she says.

And that's how the magic's made: with a strong work ethic and the resolve to put smiles on faces.

*The big time! Naima Fonrose '20 spent the summer living a dream as an intern on the Tonight Show.*



# LASER-FOCUSED



**FRESH LEADERSHIP** The Santa Clara University Board of Directors elected four new trustees, bringing to 46 the number of people who help set policies and strategy for the University. The new trustees, elected at the board's June meeting:



**Luis Arriaga Valenzuela, S.J.** is an attorney, Jesuit priest, and president of ITESO, one of the most prestigious Jesuit universities in Latin

America. He has taught human rights and legal ethics at various universities, including Loyola Law School, Stanford University, Universidad Iberoamericana, and Santa Clara.



**Elizabeth Connelly '15** is a medical student at Stanford University School of Medicine, where she volunteers with Stanford's Cardinal Free Clinics.

During her undergraduate studies at SCU, she was a Honzel fellow with the Markkula Center.



**Stephen A. Finn MBA '76** is the former CEO and chairman of the board of Trust Company of America. Finn served on the SCU Board of Regents

from 2006-2018 and is currently a regent emeritus. His support for the University includes gifts for Finn Residence Hall and Leavey School of Business.



**Peter B. Morin '85** joins the Board of Trustees as an *ex officio* representative as chair of the University's Board of Regents. He founded

and is managing director of Watermark Companies, a private investment firm. He is also chairman of Adopt-A-Highway Maintenance Corp., a company he founded.

*Coming Soon: A new laser for Grace Stokes and her students as part of the new STEM facility, making them among the only undergraduates in the country with access to such a high-power tool.*

STUDENTS CAN SEE themselves in scientists of the future and the past in classes with **Grace Stokes**, Clare Boothe Luce assistant professor in chemistry. In her lab, students investigate how peptoids, man-made imitations of natural proteins, interact with cell membranes—research that could result in better-targeted medicines. "Everything is done by students. They learn how to operate the laser that we use to study peptoids and lipids," she says. Thanks to a National Science Foundation award, students will soon have hands-on experience with even more powerful equipment. Over

the next five years, Stokes will receive \$475,000 from this grant to funnel back into her student-operated lab. Students also gain a sense of perspective from Stokes' classes. "Oftentimes I think they don't see examples of their ethnicities in our chemistry class; they don't see scientists that look like them," she says. So, this fall, her general chemistry students are researching chemists from all corners of the world. "I really want to be able to increase the representation of Hispanic or black students in chemistry. I hope that this will allow them to find a sense of identity in these chemists."

# Musical Roots

**Rhiannon Giddens**, Frank Sinatra Chair in the Performing Arts, held her first on-campus concert this fall. Jazz musician and collaborator Francesco Turrisi performed with her.

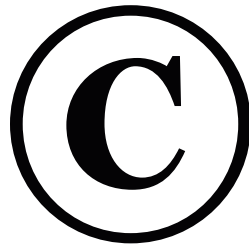


AMERICANA ARTIST **RHIANNON Giddens** and her banjo are on campus, as the MacArthur Genius musician holds the Frank Sinatra Chair in the Performing Arts. Giddens' musical background ranges from bluegrass and blues to opera and Celtic music. As this year's chair, she works with students and performs on campus. And she comes highly recommended. In 2011, Giddens won her first Grammy for the album *Genuine Negro Jig* by the string band she co-founded, Carolina Chocolate Drops. Since then she's scored four more Grammy nods, and, in 2016, Giddens was the first American to win BBC Radio 2 Folk Awards: Folk Singer of the Year. That's the same year she won the prestigious Steve Martin Prize for Excellence in Banjo and Bluegrass. In the Sinatra chair she follows actor **Taye Diggs**, political satirist **W. Kamau Bell**, playwright **Anna Deavere Smith**, and the band **Silk Road Ensemble**. The chair was established with funds from the 14th Annual Golden Circle Party.

WORDS BY LUCY NINO. IMAGE COURTESY NAIMA FONROSE

WORDS BY LUCY NINO AND LESLIE GRIFFY. IMAGES COURTESY SCU





**Hard Work, Joyous Visions.** Put Antarctic photography and finance together. That might seem impossible until you meet **Joelle Rokovich '84, MBA '90**. Globetrotting Rokovich stepped outside of the world of debits and credits to pursue photography—and keeps finding parallels between her life in business and her adventurous artistic endeavors. It is about putting in the hours and grabbing your moment—in the office

at Juniper Networks or watching emperor penguins as they inquisitively peck at your boot. Doing well and having a bit of luck pay off. The perfect image from the Arctic Circle shows her subjects aren't just polar bears. They are mothers sauntering side by side in rhythm with their cubs, curiously staring into the heart of her lens. Her travels have allowed her to see things iconic—wild horses on the beach in France—and a bird's-eye view of a volcano spewing lava.



*By sky and by sea: Joelle Rokovich caught the nation's most hazardous volcano in the midst of one of its most dangerous eruptions—Kilauea destroyed more than 700 homes in May 2018. She shot this image between July 15-17, as she explored the area in boats and airplanes. The eruption subsided Aug. 4, 2018.*



## In the Beginning

Santa Clara's new President—a Jesuit always in motion—on noticing the things around us, looking into the future, and using tradition as a guide.

**BY MATT MORGAN**

If you look closely at artistic depictions of St. Ignatius throughout history, you'll notice a few details most have in common. First, the priest who co-founded of the Society of Jesus is often dressed as a pilgrim, staff in hand. Second, in many of the statues and paintings, one foot is raised in the air, signaling motion.

This might seem insignificant, but in the story of the Jesuits, it's an important detail. In his Letter to Mateo Sebastián de Morrano, St. Ignatius writes of "a Society that needs to have, so to speak, one foot in the air ready to hasten from place to place, according to our vocation and the Institute which we follow in our Lord." Since their founding in 1540, Jesuits have been radically mobile, going where help is needed. So much so that the idea of setting roots too deep—even at first when they set up schools, or in this instance, in the form of a piece of art with two feet planted too firmly on the ground—can be cause for unease.

Santa Clara University's 29th President, **Kevin O'Brien, S.J.**, is no exception. From Canada to Florida to Syracuse, Philadelphia, Boston, India, Bolivia, Mexico, Baltimore, Washington, D.C. and now the Bay Area, O'Brien has stayed in motion, going where help is needed. And that hasn't changed since starting his new role as President on July 1. His travels in the first months have taken him across the country and internationally to Africa. On campus, O'Brien is known by some as the walking President, moving from meeting to meeting during the day or in the evenings, at a slower pace, enjoying the campus scenery during a stroll or going to a soccer game. He even delivered his first campus communication as President during his walk from the Jesuit Residences to Walsh Hall.

Fr. O'Brien did, however, take a moment from movement one evening this fall to sit down with Santa Clara Magazine and reflect on the present and future of Santa Clara. Here's an excerpt from the conversation.

**SANTA CLARA MAGAZINE:** Your path to the Jesuits started in the classroom, leaving the law profession to teach high school before joining the Jesuits. You have spent much of your Jesuit life on college campuses. So I wanted to start with a bit of a throwback. In your classes, you were known to show a video of author David Foster Wallace's *This Is Water*, his commencement speech at Kenyon College in 2005. In the speech, Wallace talks about the value of education and weighs the importance of knowledge vs. awareness. Why did you share that with students?

**O'BRIEN:** I frequently used it in my class at Georgetown for seniors to frame the importance of a Jesuit education. I actually still use it on the road when I'm doing presentations. What's distinctive about Jesuit education is three movements: being attentive, being reflective, and being loving. I think David Foster Wallace presents those first two movements in ways that are very approachable to different people, whether spiritual or not. It's a different way of expressing the importance of being aware of what and who is around you and being reflec-

tive, not reactive, about your everyday experiences.

**SCM:** Wallace talks about how our default setting as humans is to view the world through the lens of ourselves. "How the line at the grocery store annoys me; How traffic on the highway gets in my way"—oblivious to the experiences of those around us. He explains that it's hard—but important—work to be a "little less arrogant" and a "little more critical" about our certainties and to try to be aware of the water around us.

**O'BRIEN:** Right, and that default setting is how we get into trouble. I think that's the call for all of us, to remind ourselves we're not the center of the universe. That we're important, we have worth, and we have something to say, but we are accountable to other people—both those we know and those we don't. Jesuit education calls us to be attentive to what's around us and who is around us, to reflect on the meaning of those experiences, so we can respond in a loving way. The movement is extroverted, moving us outward. And that's what Jesuit education should do.

**SCM:** That awareness and consideration is something you've talked a bit about recently. In your first communication as President, you laid out four priorities. One was building a deeper culture of trust, respect, and shared mission among students, faculty, and staff on campus. That's important but difficult because you can't legislate respect.

**O'BRIEN:** You model it. Because you can't change a culture by legislation or by fiat, but you change cultures by modeling virtues, values, and behaviors you hope the culture will itself express.

What we've experienced in this country and even in the Church—the ideological divides, the corrosive rhetoric, the dismissiveness of people who are different or foreign or "other" to us, the labeling and pigeonholing in ideological camps or parties—affects our campus at times. I think other campuses would say the same. We're not immune to the currents in our world. I think they can impact the way we think of and treat each other. So we have to be very intentional about acting counter-culturally to any current that breeds division or rancor.

We have to be more trusting. Coming from the Jesuit spiritual tradition, one of the ways to bridge divides is



OPENING IMAGE BY CODY PICKENS

IMAGE BY SCOTT MACDONALD

to presume the goodwill of another as much as you can. There's a line that opens up Ignatius' *Spiritual Exercises* that says we should do everything we can to put a positive interpretation on another's statement. If the statement is such that we are unable to do that, we should correct them in truth and in love. It is easy to label and categorize people, but if you presume goodwill, we're less apt to do that, and as a result, relationship and community are possible. So we need to give people a break sometimes. We need to be more gentle with ourselves and other people.

Additionally, for St. Ignatius, gratitude is essential to building community. Gratitude has a way of automatically pulling us out of ourselves. Gratitude to God or

other people for the gifts we receive. If we are able to instill a habit of gratitude, we become other-centered. And grateful people are usually happier people, as a wise Jesuit once observed!

**SCM:** By other-centered, you mean by being thankful you're not the center of the universe for that moment?

**O'BRIEN:** Exactly. You realize there's a giver of the gift, that you need other people, and that you need to connect with others to live meaningfully. Our culture often promotes a sort of radical independence, which is not very human. We need community and connection. We're at a University where we're benefiting from a long tradition.

A moment of reflection. SCU President Fr. Kevin O'Brien pauses for a moment of prayer before the inauguration.



*Students first: O'Brien and Associated Student Government President Sahil Sagar '21 snap a selfie.*

So we should be grateful for those who came before and grateful for what we bring or what we are given now.

**SCM:** Another one of your priorities is better engaging with Silicon Valley. I think we're still trying to figure out what that means here. How will you know if we're successful?

**O'BRIEN:** What we need is more strategic outreach in Silicon Valley and the neighboring communities. We have a lot of people doing a lot of great things; we just need to coordinate more. As a Jesuit university, we must also connect the successful enterprises of the Valley with those who have been left behind by the tech revolution. Because when I say we're in the Valley, it's not just Silicon Valley. It's the neighboring communities, as well. So we are concerned not just about centers of influence in tech. We're interested in communities that have been marginalized even while serving centers of affluence. Part of what we can do is bridge the two valleys, so to speak.

**SCM:** At Convocation, you gave the traditional presidential address but also had a town-hall-style question and answer with Interim Provost Lisa Kloppenberg. That's not been done at Santa Clara in the past. What was the thinking behind that?

**O'BRIEN:** Because I didn't think at this moment we needed a formal address. I think people were really hungry for engagement and getting to know me. We did a PowerPoint presentation for the address, trying to inject some humor into it, and then most importantly we wanted to open up for questions, both in person and online. I also think it was important that it would be Lisa and I up there together, as President and interim provost, working together and talking as colleagues.

**SCM:** What's the difference between engagement and confrontation?

**O'BRIEN:** Engagement is about learning from each other. You can be clear about your principles and who

you are, and what you're advocating. But also be open to common ground, or, if not that, at least open to understanding the other. Confrontation precludes such listening. It's all about scoring points.

**SCM:** During the town hall, you talked about admitting when you were wrong or when you failed. Why was it important to say that so early in your presidency?

**O'BRIEN:** That's just good leadership. It's transparency. I want to build a culture of principled, transparent, and timely decision-making, which means I'm clear about who I am, I'm clear about our mission and values. I make decisions in a way that's based on principle. Someone might disagree with the outcome of the decision, but they know why the decision was made. I think when people have more information they're less anxious or suspicious. Part of that, too, is when I mess up or get it wrong, when I apply the principle the wrong way, or when I hurt someone or am not thoughtful enough, that I admit my mistake and apologize.

Honestly, I find the act of admitting when I'm wrong to be kind of liberating. As I get older I'm less of a perfectionist. When I spoke to the first-year class at Welcome Weekend, I talked about the need to do that. That it's okay to combat the culture of perfectionism. It's okay not to have all the answers or to get it right all the time, and that when we mess up, we learn to forgive each other. We're so much less forgiving as a society. I think we can hold people accountable without being a jerk.

**SCM:** You mentioned at convocation having the four priorities—access and affordability; building a culture of deeper trust and transparency; completing the Campaign; more coordinated outreach to Silicon Valley and our community—written on your bathroom mirror. Were you being literal?

**O'BRIEN:** No, no, that was a metaphor, but I do think about them every day. They help me focus my day. These priorities are what I've heard during my conversations with people during the search process and the transition. My days are so full that it can be easy to lose focus. These priorities keep me focused for my first year.

As a president, I need to always frame our work in terms of our mission. That's why I always talk about the three components of our mission over and over again. As a Catholic and Jesuit university, we are committed to the formation of our students in mind, body, and spirit, which means we're concerned about all of who a student is. We reverence them, we challenge them, we support them not just in their education, but formation as per-

sons. Second, we support the research and inquiry of our faculty as teacher-scholars. Balancing scholarship and teaching is challenging, but they inform each other. Because we are a Jesuit university, our research and inquiry must address real-world problems and human needs. Finally, as a Catholic and Jesuit university, we serve the common good and the Church by promoting a more just, gentle, and sustainable world. We're about something more than ourselves. These three components describe who we are and what we do as a university. I rely on them to help me make decisions about how to spend time and resources. If a project or invitation isn't promoting our central mission, someone else should do it.

**SCM:** You've lived throughout the world in your career. When you're in a position of leadership, you need to get to know a place quickly. How do you do that?

**O'BRIEN:** Well, I think that's in our Jesuit roots. People didn't know what to make of the early Jesuits as a religious order because we weren't focused on a particular place or ministry as other religious orders were. We were founded to meet needs no one else was meeting. We would go anywhere to meet them. People asked the early Jesuits, "Why aren't you living in a monastery in the hills?" Well, our monastery is the world. Our home is the road. That's in our DNA. We're on the move. We're mobile. We have this radical availability. We still do it today, going anywhere, doing any type of work, for the greater glory of God and service of others. We have Jesuits who are actors, Jesuits who are artists, Jesuits who are lawyers, Jesuits who are doctors, Jesuits who are teachers, Jesuits who are parish priests.

I've gotten used to life "on the road." I try to be open and available. I've learned to put myself out there in different social circumstances, different types of work. I like to get to know the area, whether hiking or restaurants or whatever. I also know I have to be very patient—it takes time to get to know people and a community—so I try not to be hard on myself when it doesn't immediately fit.

At the beginning of my Jesuit life, it was hard because I really invest in people and I invest in places. I give myself over. It was hard giving myself so completely, knowing I might have to leave. That's the real challenge of a Jesuit's life. When I left Florida to join the Jesuits, in the first year I felt my home was back in Florida. After a couple more years, I felt I had no home. I felt so uprooted moving from place to place. A few years later, it finally hit me: It's not that my home is in Florida or that my home is nowhere, it's that my home is anywhere—anywhere I'm sent or anywhere people welcome me. That's when I learned to really invest in the places and people I

Jesuit education calls us to be attentive to what's around us and who is around us, to reflect on the meaning of those experiences, so we can respond in a loving way.

IMAGE BY SCOTT MACDONALD

was sent to. God has filled my life beyond my imagining, including here at Santa Clara.

As we know, getting to know people on a deep level requires time and attention. Gradually that attention turns to reverence, which is a little deeper than respect. I begin to see that God is at work in them, and that God has an invitation for me in that other person. That God has something to teach me through the other person.

**SCM:** Is it harder to dislike somebody when you approach them through God's vision for them?

**O'BRIEN:** Exactly. When we really see the other deeply, we realize they have unexpected talents or gifts. We also realize that everyone carries invisible crosses around. So hopefully we become more patient and understanding. Like anyone, I can easily write someone off too quickly. I can easily get resentful. My challenge is to try to ask, "How does God see that person?" That helps me love them.

**SCM:** What about this place feels most like home, so far?

**O'BRIEN:** Growing up in south Florida, the palm trees! But there is something else. After work, I usually go to Mass and dinner with our Jesuit community, and then I walk back to my office in Walsh Hall to prepare for the next day. I'll look out my window, at the sun setting over the Mission Church, and say, "That's why I'm here." That makes me feel most at home. The Mission Church as an explicitly religious place calls to me to be a Jesuit priest before a president. At the same time, the Mission also reminds me that this place has a mission, a calling for everyone. We have a center here. Our faculty and staff and students express our Jesuit mission in different ways. And that makes our mission come alive in gloriously unexpected ways!

**SCM:** You wanted to get into politics when you were younger. How does being a university president fit that?

**O'BRIEN:** Growing up, I always loved politics and social studies. I loved watching the news as a kid. I went to Georgetown and majored in government and history, and politics just always attracted me. Being in Washington only multiplied that. Then I went home for law school—the University of Florida law school was the place where careers were made politically in the state. My interest in politics was based on a desire to serve. My faith and family taught me the need to serve and the blessing of service. Politics was a way to do that. But honestly there was a lot of youthful ambition involved

and downright ego, too. I think we're all people of mixed motives at times! Ultimately God transformed that desire to serve people into a desire to become a Jesuit and a teacher. When I was in Washington for 10 years, I got to know a lot of politicians and public officials. I realized I could have had their life but was much happier doing my work as a Jesuit, helping them and helping them help other people.

The reason we know so much about St. Ignatius is because he wrote thousands of letters. In his writings, a phrase often comes up: "to help souls," which really means "to help people." It's very simple really. That's what I want to do every day. By investing in the education and formation of our students and development of our faculty and staff, I can help Santa Clara help the communities of which we are a part. There are so many opportunities to help, in large and small ways.

**SCM:** Do you consider yourself an ambitious person? What motivates you?

**O'BRIEN:** Sometimes there is unhealthy ambition, when we focus only on ourselves. But there is also a holy ambition. God uses our deep desires and passions to do good. Sometimes I experience that ambition as restlessness for what Ignatius called the *magis*, or "the more." What more can I do to be of service? How can I be more generous and loving? This is not about workaholism, which I have to be careful about. It's really about going deeper in our work, our relationships, our prayer, and our service. My restless ambition now is to help this University become all it can be, to serve our community and the world, and also to help the Church. Santa Clara is an incredible platform to do a lot of good. My job is to harness the good of the people here and unleash it. That's an awesome thing to do. I think about Welcome Weekend, looking at 1,500 new students and realizing we have the opportunity to harness all their youthful idealism and goodness, and hone their zeal to do a lot of good.

**SCM:** In your first few months as president, you made it a point to go out and meet people. What are the conversations you'll remember in five or ten years?

**O'BRIEN:** My third day or so, I met with all the facilities workers, landscapers, and public safety officers. We hosted a breakfast for them to just introduce myself. They keep the University running, day to day. Presidents come and go. The workers and landscapers often stay for many, many years. I wanted to thank them.

My walk to work from the Jesuit Community is short, but it's a beautiful walk. I love gardening and in the

When we really see the other deeply, we realize they have unexpected talents or gifts. We also realize that everyone carries invisible crosses around.



mornings I'll walk by gardeners tending to the grounds or the roses. I'll often check in and talk to them about what they're doing and the planting because I just love that. I see the care that they're taking. Their work is done with love. They make our home so beautiful. I know how much they care for me and others who live and work here.

When I initially met with the cabinet and deans and other senior leadership, I asked all of them the same questions: "What is it you really find most meaningful about your work here? Why is it you came here? Why do you stay? What most challenges you or do you struggle with?" Those conversations were really engaging, and I was amazed at how much they love this place and care so deeply about the mission. It was inspiring. Also, they could easily name their struggles, yet they cared so much that they wanted to work through them, together. After these conversations, I realized how much I wanted to be with these people, serving a mission greater than ourselves and having some fun along the way. They will challenge me and make me a better person. And together we will make Santa Clara a better place.

In August, I went to Africa to give the inaugural address at Hekima Jesuit college, which is the Jesuit college in Nairobi, and I was amazed by the reach of Santa

Clara. I saw two Santa Clara sweatshirts! I had breakfast with six alums of the Jesuit School of Theology. They were all talking about their time here. On that same trip, I visited sites where students from Miller Center worked over the summer. They had left by then, but the people there told me about the work. The reach, the impact we can have beyond borders—that meant a lot.

In my first weeks, I've also been amazed at the number of students who stop me to just say "Hello." Even over the summer, people stopped and introduced themselves, which I think is really cool. I remember once I was walking to the dry cleaner on Benton. I passed this young person and I didn't know whether he was a student or not, and I just said, "Hi," and he goes, "Oh, you're Fr. O'Brien. I'm one of your students." That made me feel so good—"one of my students." I began to feel at home.

**SCM:** A lot of what you've done in this role is meet and talk with people. What are the areas where you want to stop talking and roll up your sleeves and get to work?

**O'BRIEN:** The challenge with that question is that a major part of my job is to talk to a variety of audiences!

*The labor of many goes into building the University. Here the robes of trustees, academics, staff, and others wait for their wearers.*

IMAGE BY SCOTT MACDONALD

(Laughs). What I quickly realized is that so much of this position—which is different than others—is how much public speaking I do. To welcome groups to campus, to share our Santa Clara story with others, to talk about our mission, to give public addresses on campus and off. I'm amazed at how often I have to speak publicly.

In one sense this is a position you can never fully prepare for. You have to start doing the job and learn along the way, relying on other people to help you do it. I love empowering other people to do their job well and help them find meaning in it. I want to provide direction and guidance but to then step back and not get in the way. I also need to make decisions in a timely and transparent way, so that people are clear about what the decision is and can help move us forward.

I should also say, I need to stop talking and give myself time for reflection and prayer. We all need that in some way.

**SCM:** Obviously in the middle of a \$1 billion campaign, there's going to be talk of money and what can be done with it. One is supporting people—scholarships, endowed chairs, salary. Another is capital projects. When Steve Nash was on campus for his Hall of Fame induction in 2017, he mentioned how little the Santa Clara today resembled the one from his time on campus, but that this place had good bones. For those who long for the days of that Santa Clara, why are the new buildings so important to our future?

**O'BRIEN:** Buildings certainly serve a function, but they're also descriptive of who we are. Look at the buildings we've done for the last 10 years. They reflect our priorities. We have big academic buildings: Dowd Art and Art history, Charney Hall of Law, Sobrato Campus for Discovery and Innovation, and the renovation of Bannon Alumni House and Benson. Then, we have Finn Residence Hall, the Athletic Excellence Center, and we did the restoration of the Mission Church. These are all expressions of who we are academically, artistically, spiritually, athletically, and socially. But I think what's most important is what takes place inside them, because it's the people and the work that gives them life.

**SCM:** There's a conversation on campus, among alumni: the role of religion in this institution. Is it where it should be. How do you approach that?

**O'BRIEN:** As a university, we are committed to excellence in teaching and learning, research and scholarship. But as a Jesuit and Catholic university, we do that in a distinctive way, or with a distinctive accent. We care for

each other inside the classroom, outside the classroom. That's what we call *cura personalis*—caring for each person in their uniqueness, in mind, body and spirit. For many, religious or spiritual development is part of that caring. Our commitment to justice and ethical reflection also reflects our identity as teachers and learners.

Another way we reflect our Jesuit, Catholic tradition is in the breadth of our tradition. Sometimes we equate "Catholic" with ethical or moral questions, and certainly these questions are central. But the Catholic intellectual tradition is so much broader. It's artistic. It's liturgical. It's philosophical. It's theological. It's literary. The Catholic intellectual tradition tries to bring together faith and reason, and encourage dialogue among religions and cultures. Our tradition is always trying to reconcile what others consider opposites. And we are at our best when we are radically hospitable and inclusive.

A wise Jesuit, who was a former president of another university, once said that tradition is not an anchor that fixes us in place or holds us back. Rather, it's a rudder that guides us on to the future through the ups and downs and different currents the river might present to us. There is a tendency for any of us to use tradition as an anchor. It's safe and secure and familiar. We need to be grounded in that way. We need to know who we are. But ultimately, we need to also let go a bit, so that we can become the people—the University—that God is summoning us to be. God has something in store for Santa Clara that we are not fully imagining now, so we can keep our hands on the rudder but lightly enough to go where the next frontier is.

One example of our living tradition is the decision in the 1960s to admit women to Santa Clara. Thank God! That was a big change, but we're better for it, we're still who we are, but even better. Curriculum changes, buildings are built or renovated. But the mission remains and guides us on the river of our distinguished history.

**SCM:** You talk a lot about being aware and reflective. Do you think much about legacy?

**O'BRIEN:** I'm reading *The University of Santa Clara: A History, 1851-1977* by the Jesuit professor Gerald McKeivitt. He taught in our history department. As I've been reading the book, I think, "Oh my, what is someone going to write about me one day?" I just want to be worthy of the trust people have placed in me here. I want to make sure that when I leave here, I've left the University, and above all, the people, better than when I arrived, and that somehow, with the help of God and others, I contributed to the good work that this University has done for a very long time.

The Catholic intellectual tradition tries to bring together faith and reason, and encourage dialog among religions and cultures. Our tradition is always trying to reconcile what others consider opposites.



IMAGE BY CODY PICKENS



# ADAM, EVE, AND THE APPLE OF INTELLIGENCE

If making—and appreciating—art makes us human, what happens when we get help making a masterpiece from something unhuman?

WORDS BY LAUREN LOFTUS  
ILLUSTRATIONS BY GOSIA HERBA

IN ONE OF Swedish artist Pierre Brassau's paintings from 1964, whorling, cobalt blue channels on a sunset-orange canvas are bifurcated by a purposeful vertical magenta line, suggesting a craving for order in a post-war world.

"Pierre Brassau paints with powerful strokes, but also with clear determination," declared one of many critics fawning over the four paintings by the as-yet-unseen new abstractionist at an exhibit in Gothenburg, Sweden. Just one critic remained unimpressed, claiming "only an ape could have done this."

They were right. For Pierre was really Peter, a 4-year-old chimpanzee who lived in Sweden's Borås Zoo. Peter reportedly preferred eating the oil paints to painting with them. His favorite color was cobalt blue, for its tart flavor.

The Peter/Pierre prank was pulled off by journalist Åke Axelsson, who wanted to test the prowess of snooty art critics claiming to be able to distinguish between good and bad abstract art. Perhaps sheepishly, the critic who praised Pierre's powerful strokes maintained the Brassaus were the best in the exhibition. One even sold for the equivalent of \$700 in today's dollars after the hoax was revealed.

If beauty—and art for that matter—is in the eye of the beholder, who cares if it was best captured by something other than human?

Apparently, humans care.

Fast forward more than half a century and the debate has swapped apes for Apple. In a 2017 experiment out of Rutgers University, Facebook, and the College of Charleston, researchers were surprised that most participants preferred computer-generated artwork over the human-made stuff, calling it more novel, complex, and surprising. What's more, the majority could not distinguish between pieces made by humans and those made by artificial intelligence (AI) programmed to review 80,000 paintings from the last few hundred years and then to generate new visuals and styles.

Not every participant was thrilled by the duping. "Humans have a strong bias against thinking about computers as being creative," says app developer and

Santa Clara University Computer Science Assistant Professor **Maya Ackerman** in the *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences* journal. This is because art creation is seen as a strictly human venture.

Our ability to be creative, in other words, is what makes us human. Art gives us meaning.

But Ackerman and her colleagues in the emerging field of computational creativity do not view the issue in such black-and-white terms. Sometimes they envision a future where AI is not poo-pooed in the (often snooty) art world but celebrated for its creative capacities.

Invited to speak at the UN AI for Global Good Summit in Geneva this summer, Ackerman says she focused on the positive impacts creative computers can have on society. “We always talk about AI creating a better world, but most of us imagine AI doing all the boring stuff—vacuuming, cooking, folding laundry—so we’re freed up to be artists, singers, and writers. This is so misguided,” she says. “If being human is being creative, if that’s our highest vision of how we spend our time, AI can help with that. It can help us engage in the stuff that makes us happy. It can help us be more human.”

Still, questions remain: If computers can tap into the mysterious creative process, if an algorithm can create work deemed more beautiful than solely human-made counterpieces, as this technology becomes widely accessible, enabling more and more humans to be creative, who gets credit? Who has the talent: the computers or a bunch of primates?

## So with AI, it seems, we’ve identified the treasure before plotting the map.

### THE INFINITE LOOP

“On your desk, do you have an inkwell and blocking paper? No? Good lord, why not?” exclaims SCU associate professor of computer engineering **Ahmed Amer**. In mock exasperation, Amer spotlights the anxiety humans feel over being replaceable by new technology. Using word processing software instead of a quill does not make a reporter less of a writer, he insists. “There’s this feeling many have that if anyone [or anything] can do a thing, then it’s no longer a valuable skill. I believe they’re wrong.”

Amer recounts a story from his first job out of college in which he was tasked with creating promotional materials for an event. “Commissioning an artist would have cost us thousands of dollars and taken much longer. So instead, we slapped something together in Photoshop on a shoestring budget,” he says. “It’s not going to hang in the Louvre,” but it got the job done.

To be sure, there will be casualties. Professional calligraphers, for example, aren’t getting as many commissions as they did 200 years ago. Art has always been pervious to

technological advancement, but that doesn’t destroy the need for human creative input, Amer says. “When people talk about AI and creativity, the way I think about it, we’re just creating better brushes.”

Photography is a prime example of this art-making evolution. At first, photography was dismissed because it came from a machine versus human hands. And many artists viewed it as a threat to their mediums.

Though it did replace some things, such as painted portraiture as a marker of social hierarchy, photography was ultimately hugely beneficial to the arts. It breathed new life into an old art form, allowing painters to abandon the pursuit of hyper-realism popular in the mid-1800s and explore other avenues of expression. See: the Impressionists.

Each time a new art form is introduced, there is a period of revolt before acceptance and eventual embrace. And the cycle continues *ad nauseam*. Photography was followed by film, which was followed by animation, which was followed by generative art. That last category is art created in part by a nonhuman autonomous system. Think of *Electric Sheep*, the ever-morphing neon blobs that appear when your computer goes to sleep, created by open-source code developed by mathematician and software artist Scott Draves.

“Wherever there is controversy in AI as an artistic tool, I predict the same trajectory,” writes Aaron Hertzmann, principal scientist at Adobe Research in San Francisco, in his 2018 article “Can Computers Create Art?” in the journal *Arts*. “Eventually, new AI tools will be fully recognized as artists’ tools.” Ultimately, Hertzmann concludes that computers, while useful tools of artistic expression, are not artists. The humans programming the computers are.

Take Harold Cohen. In the early 1970s, the classically trained British painter began displaying artwork produced by his computer program AARON. Though the artwork AARON produces has become more complex over the decades, AARON cannot change styles based on whim or learn new imagery without a human writing new code for it.

But what about the *Painting Fool*, a computer program started by University of London computational creativity professor Simon Colton? The *Painting Fool*’s website is narrated in the first-person by the program, which calls itself an “aspiring painter” aiming to be taken seriously as “a creative artist” that gets to sign its own work. It will do so, it claims, by exhibiting behaviors deemed skillful, appreciative, and imaginative in its artwork.

The field of computational creativity lingers between the lines drawn by the two algorithmic artists. In the new textbook series *Computational Synthesis and Creative Systems*, published in 2019, computational creativity is defined as an emerging branch of AI that explores the potential of computers to be more than tools and become creators and co-creators in their own right.

Amer cautions against reading too much into that, though, lest you fall down a *deus ex machina* rabbit hole. “Have you come across the term ‘artificial general intelligence’? If you do, run the other way,” he says. “It’s talking about when computers will think and do like humans. It belittles computers, and it belittles us because we don’t know [the limit of] what we can do yet.”

### WHAT DO WE KNOW?

Consider the machine learning technique within AI called a neural network. It’s an algorithm modeled after the hu-

man brain and designed to recognize patterns. But neuroscientists still know very little about the mind. Despite grand advancements in the field, there’s still a seemingly infinite number of pathways to explore.

So with AI, it seems, we’ve identified the treasure before plotting the map.

We don’t know from which areas of the brain originate understanding and creativity, explains neuroscientist John E. Dowling in his 2018 book *Understanding the Brain: From Cells to Behavior to Cognition*. We definitely don’t know what consciousness is.

Part of the issue is our estimation of creativity—and, by association, art and beauty and aesthetic appreciation—has evolved as humans have evolved, modifying and transforming since cave people carved figures into their cave walls.

Santa Clara electrical engineering professor **Aleksandar Zecevic**, who studies the nature of truth and beauty, as well as interdisciplinary aesthetics, says, “First of all, the whole idea of beauty being completely relative, I think, is wrong simply because all of us have certain built-in preferences.” This is because humans have collectively been exposed to certain forms occurring in nature for millions of years, so those forms resonate with us.

There’s a famous saying about art Zecevic uses to describe this. He cannot remember who said it, but it’s along the lines of, “It’s not that I know what I like, it’s that I like what I know.” But while there are certain things most humans are drawn to, because we’re anatomically built the same way, the other half of the equation isn’t so simple. “Your impression of something also depends on your experiences and your emotional status,” he says. “So you and I can look at exactly the same painting and have completely different impressions.”

This is where computers are lagging behind humans, he says. Programmers can feed AI a bunch of information about those things that have been proven favorable or beautiful to most humans but the computer can only spit out more of the same. “Humans are going to sometimes produce something totally new and different.”

Take Cubism. For hundreds of years, perspective was immovable in art. “There was this absolute point of reference from which to look at the world,” Zecevic says. Then, at the turn of the 20th century, in walks Picasso, who throws perspective in the trash. Or rather, shifts it slightly. All of a sudden, we could see “multiple views at the same time, like a broken mirror.”

There is a parallel spark in the realm of science around the same time, he says, with the rise of quantum mechanics and Einstein’s theory of relativity. Now, there are no absolutes. “There are multiple points of reference, just as in art, and they’re all equally valid.” What’s more, he says, these movements were born not of reaction but of intuition; yet another very murky, very human quality. We (and we alone) are capable of imagining what’s possible.

Pretty things can come from computers, Zecevic says—those things we’ve all agreed are beautiful over 200,000 years of modern human existence. But that only comprises the tip of the iceberg, the stuff we can see and know. The new stuff, the stuff of creativity, is going to come from the unconscious mind that lies beneath the surface, where imagination, intuition, and shifting perspective are hidden from the light.

Not everyone sees it exactly this way, of course. Rafael



Pérez y Pérez, a professor at Universidad Autónoma Metropolitana in Mexico City and the chair of the international Association for Computational Creativity from 2014 to 2019, built MEXICA, a computer program that produced the first book of short stories written completely by AI.

The tales in *MEXICA: 20 years-20 stories* about the God-like ancient inhabitants of Mexico are perfunctory and repetitive, though sometimes the prose can be downright elegant and lyrical. “The princess woke up while the songs of the birds covered the sky,” begins one.

Pérez y Pérez explains in the afterword that MEXICA is a tool to better understand the creative writing process. It follows a theory popularized in the late 1990s called the ER Model, or engagement and reflection. Engagement refers to idea production (i.e., characters, plot, etc.) and reflection refers to evaluation and modification. MEXICA writes stories as a sequence of actions then reflects on what it’s written to ensure the actions are justified, and the resulting narrative is novel.

SCU adjunct lecturer in creative writing and author **David Keaton** says this model makes sense, to a point. In recording the number of times an action has been employed in previous stories, Keaton says MEXICA “does sound a lot like scouring a manuscript for redundancies, variety, etc.” Also, the ongoing rating of narrative flow and coherence, narrative structure, content, and suspense will ring famil-





iar to anyone who's taken an intro to creative writing class.

But for Keaton, what really separates man from machine is the ability to end the creative process. MEXICA determines a story is finished by ensuring all plot conflicts are resolved. If only Shakespeare could walk away so easy. "Maybe the unease and lack of satisfaction by the artist in the art they produce, no matter how many revisions or reflections, is the one thing that will distinguish a computer creator from a human one," Keaton says.

#### MY COWORKER, THE COMPUTER

From 2013 to 2016, the executive branch of the European Union funded an international action called PROSECCO, to "Promote the Scientific Exploration of Computational Creativity." Anchored in the belief that computers can be more than facilitators of human creativity—in the sense that Photoshop facilitates a graphic designer's vision for a new Nike swoosh—PROSECCO envisions a future in which computers can rise to the level of co-creators that share responsibility with a human peer.

This view is not shaped by a desire to replace humans with machines, nor by a perceived lack of human creativity in the marketplace, but by the very fact that large chunks of human creativity remain unknown and therefore untapped. Researchers in the field agree that this ambitious vision will take years and years to realize.

But while the world awaits the coming of a fully computerized artist that can not only paint or write a story or play an instrument, but also evaluate its results and explain how the art was created, computational co-creativity has already arrived.

"I believe that in many ways co-creativity is a lot more exciting than creative machines who don't need us," SCU's Ackerman says. "Collaboration with creative machines offers the opportunity to take human creativity to new heights, elevating our humanity, and bringing joy to the lives of many."

Coming from this belief that computers can be valuable members of the team versus machines gunning for world domination, in early 2019 Ackerman and her team at WaveAI released ALYSIA, an app that harnesses AI to write original songs. A classically trained opera singer, Ackerman came up with the idea while earning her Ph.D. in computer science and attempting to write her own music as a hobby.

"I could sing, I could write lyrics, I learned how to be a producer, all that stuff, but the natural language of the music wasn't gelling," she says. "I couldn't figure out how to create music that fit the lyrics." Figuring she could use what she knew about AI to solve her songwriting woes, Ackerman created a machine learning model for vocal melodies.

Fed a diet of thousands of songs—from many different artists in many different styles—the computer learned what melodies would work best with what syntax, exponentially expediting the songwriting process. Give it a phrase, and ALYSIA will spit out several melodies to choose from.

Today, ALYSIA is available for free in the AppStore (with an optional upgrade for a small fee to access more personalization and editing capabilities). The lyrics assistant generates editable lines based on a user's chosen themes. Jonesing for a sappy ballad? Enter "love" and "time," and ALYSIA might suggest, "Hope and peace will find us here," for the first line. The melody partner then transforms those lyrics into original tunes, based on the chosen genre such as country or R&B. Once a hit is written, the user or a robot sings and records the final song.

ALYSIA cuts through the static that often fogs the human brain; self-flagellation, doubt of one's own talent, merciless writer's block. "Machine learning inverts everything," Ackerman says. "You give it a song and it asks, 'What happened here?' It doesn't rely on human introspection—it just looks at the results and learns the essence of writing music."

Before releasing the app to the public, Ackerman teamed up with James Morgan, an instructor of digital media art at San Jose State University, to record an operatic aria using an Italian version of ALYSIA trained on the music of Puccini. Its name, of course, is Robocini.

The opera takes place in the World of Warcraft, an online virtual game populated by players around the world, and is sung by a new mother who's returning to her job as a raider. Morgan wrote the lyrics in English, which were then translated by a student who speaks Italian. Robocini composed the music notes, and Ackerman sang.

Having previously worked with human musicians to score a musical, Morgan says this process felt much more collaborative despite there being a non-human on the team. "It was like a black box. I would tell the live musicians what I'd like for one of the songs or give them lyrics, and then they would come back with this music that was completely done," he says. "The process was so opaque. I didn't have any real sense for what was going on."

But working with Robocini, he learned something. "I started to pick up kind of an intuitive sense of being able to read music a little bit."

As for whether he ever felt his artistic vision was chal-

lenged or musical talent threatened by an unfeeling robot, Morgan maintains the opposite occurred. Robocini brought a deep level of expertise to the table, "whereas I didn't have the time or energy to go off and study how to write an opera," he says. "By bringing in a collaborator, and in this case a collaborator that sits and works quietly on my laptop, I won't say [the process] was easy but it made it very light." In other words, Robocini made him more creative.

#### DEMOCRATIZING CREATIVITY

Technology throws wide open the door to the world of art. Those who would never have had the access to tools of creation just a few decades ago now do, says **Brian Smith**, VR specialist and director of the SCU Imaginarium. Donning a headset and using touch controllers to "sculpt" in another dimension what appears to be an elephant head with the VR tool Quill, Smith says, "I do one virtual painting a day whereas if I was painting in oil, it would take me forever."

Plus, these tools eliminate at least the immediate need for a physical medium, which can be hard to work with, expensive, and time-consuming. Imagine sculpting a life-sized elephant head out of clay. In this way, VR and other computer tools free up the artist to be more creative, to dare to imagine the previously impossible. "If you spend your life making one masterpiece song or painting, I'm not sure what that's accomplishing," Smith says, seemingly forgetting that Michelangelo painted the Sistine Chapel for years and sculpted the *Pietà* without the use of VR. "Using these tools helps you explore more."

Still, he's not wrong about the empowerment that accompanies the technological democratization of artistic tools once only available to artists with a capital A.

It's early photography all over again. The second version of the Brownie, introduced in 1901, produced decent snapshots and cost \$2. Suddenly, everyone could make photography, whether or not they had training or "an eye" for it. Today, cameras have been replaced with the smartphone and anyone can make a pretty good photo, thanks to easy-to-use, built-in filters.

As AI has revolutionized and leveled the playing field, humans will inevitably ask "Is it going to change our perception of [an] art form? Are we going to start rethinking the value of it?" asks David Ayman Shamma, a Bay Area computer scientist who served as director of research at Yahoo! Labs and Flickr.

When creativity is democratized, what becomes of talent—or, rather, our perception of it? If we've arrived in a world where anyone can take a decent photo, or write a song, or sculpt an elephant head in a virtual world, will the next Beethoven or Van Gogh find the footing to rise above?

Shamma, for one, isn't too worried about it. "I play guitar. I'm not great but I learned enough where I can do something and be happy with it," he says, noting that playing music or being otherwise creative is a matter of personal fulfillment. Plus, there's no real correlation between the increased production of art and it being "good" art. Humans, after all, don't need computers to tell us whether we like or dislike something. We excel at doling out judgment.

The real stars will continue shining the brightest, says SCU's Ackerman, despite democratization. "They're just going to have a few more tools helping them out." She points to the music software GarageBand, which upset many mu-

sicians when it first came out because it produced songs without the need for live instruments. "But then it opened up the door to new art forms. ... It ultimately took us to new levels," she says. "When technology helps you with a creative task, you can focus on other things. And people are so creative—it's not like we're going to stop."

By debating the democratization of creativity, we may be losing sight of the benefits of, you know, actually creating. "A lot of times people have misconceptions about creating art and who is worthy of it," says SCU psychology major **Kyra Sjarif '14**, now an art therapist at an in-patient rehabilitation center in Philadelphia. "From my perspective, creativity is something that everyone has access to. And it's not necessarily about production. It's about the doing."

Flow is something Sjarif talks a lot about—that experience of being so completely present and focused in the creative process that we lose track of time. "There's a lot of inherent value in the process," she says. Instead of worrying about whether this painting or song will be a masterpiece, we should relish the "intrinsic joy" that's sparked while painting or singing.

When the AI-generated "Portrait of Edmond De Belamy" was auctioned at the famed New York auction house Christie's for a staggering \$432,000 in 2018, who rejoiced? Surely not the credited artist, which signed the print of the blurry, lifeless-eyed Edmond with a line of code from its algorithm. Though the three humans who make up the Paris-based arts collective Obvious that produced Edmond were likely thrilled by the cash infusion.

But certainly, the promise of monetary returns is not enough to fuel the desire to create. It wasn't for Van Gogh and it wasn't for Congo the Chimp, the London Zoo's artis-

## When creativity is democratized, what becomes of talent—or, rather, our perception of it?

tic wunderkind in the 1950s. Congo was prolific—painting more than 400 canvases in frenetic, bold, Pollock-esque splatters—and his art beloved by famous human artists including Picasso, Miro, and Dali.

In 2005, three of his tempera paintings were sold at auction for nearly \$26,000. Sadly, Congo died of tuberculosis in 1964, but it's safe to assume he would not have cared about his newfound wealth.

In an old newsreel covering one of his exhibits, Congo is filmed hard at work. Sitting behind a desk, he dips a brush in a small pot of paint, carefully brings the brush to his puckered lips for a quick taste of tempera, and begins wildly painting large swaths of bright paint on a dark canvas. He looks to the camera on occasion and appears content, happy even. The primate was in the flow.



## Bedrock

Sometimes the best guide is the thing you carry with you, and **Leon Panetta '60, J.D. '63** carried Santa Clara values far.

**BY LESLIE GRIFFY**

LIKE MANY CATHOLICS, **Leon Panetta '60, J.D. '63** keeps a rosary in his pocket at all times. It is a lovely thing for contemplation: silver crucifix with five sets of 10 white beads. Pope Benedict XVI gave it to him during an audience at the Vatican in 2013.

The Pope reportedly thanked the then-defense secretary for “helping to keep the world safe.” In return, Panetta asked the Pontiff, “Pray for me.”

The rosary has lived in his pockets every day since, replacing the one he'd used before. The meditations it represents were translated for Panetta into real-world morality and ethics by Jesuits and professors as he studied political science and law at Santa Clara, and by the military professionals he served with in ROTC. These small stones are also emblematic of a moral grounding, a belief in a better world, a bedrock.

“The fundamental thing about a Santa Clara education is it teaches you right from wrong—and it gives you a conscience that is there to guide you, sometimes through very tough temptations,” he says. “In politics, there are a hell of a lot of temptations.”

As a former congressman, White House chief of staff, head of the CIA, and secretary of defense, Panetta faced down temptations to take shortcuts or do the politically expedient thing—and that core held him true. That moral truth, that conscience, is something he thinks the next generation is going to need, too.

He is in a conference room at the Panetta Institute, a political think tank he founded at California State University, Monterey Bay, a campus born on the bones of the former Fort Ord Army base by a policy he helped craft. He's in a reflective mood.

“I always had deep down inside of me that sense of right and wrong. And I made decisions that I thought were right, sometimes costing me my job,” Panetta says.

#### A CHOICE

One such inflection point came in 1969, Panetta says.

It is the year his third child, son **James Panetta J.D. '96**, was born. The year Panetta's mother died. It found him far from his Monterey Bay home.

Panetta had moved his young family—wife Sylvia and two kids—to Washington, D.C. After a few years as a legislative assistant to Thomas Kuchel, a member of the U.S. Senate from California, he landed a position in the new Nixon administration.

By March 1969, Panetta had moved from assistant to the secretary of the Department of Health, Education and Welfare to director of the department's Office of Civil Rights—charged with enforcing school desegregation laws, among other things. He was 31.

Under the 1964 Civil Rights Act schools could get money to desegregate, while those that failed to desegregate would lose all federal funding. “That was the hammer I had,” Panetta says. “I knew those laws. And I was committed to them.”

At this time, American politics were shifting. Strom Thurmond, representing South Carolina in the U.S. Senate, had made his switch from Democrat to Republican. In 1957, he delivered a 24-hour filibuster against the Civil Rights Act of that year. In 1968, Thurmond campaigned hard for Nixon—an act that reassured white Southerners enriched by generations of Jim Crow laws that the former vice president from California saw things their way, even as Nixon spoke in support of desegregation.

“We were dealing with all of the Southern states that had for almost 200 years segregated white from black children,” Panetta says. It was Panetta's job to begin to fix that wrong, using the Civil Rights Act.

#### CHECKING FOR CAR BOMBS

Nearly as soon as Panetta started work, the pushback began. Schools in Thurmond's South Carolina were the first to face sanctions for failure to desegregate. Thurmond and others lobbied the White House and fellow lawmakers to slow—or stop—the process. Panetta was under pressure.

“I faced a very tough decision, whether or not I continued to enforce the law as required or whether I should play politics and back off,” Panetta says. He talked to his wife.

“You have to do what's right,” he remembers her saying, ““what you think is right.”” He says he thanked her for that. “I knew she would bear a lot of the brunt if I was fired from my job.”

Panetta pushed on. He remembers visiting Southern states, and some Northern ones too, to guide schools losing out on federal dollars into a more just future. In his book *Worthy Fights*, Panetta recalls stretching a piece of tape from his car hood to its body during those visits. He and his staff would make sure that seal wasn't broken when they returned.

“Bombs were on our minds,” he wrote.

As he worked on, the pushback continued. Southern lawmakers told him they had an understanding with the administration, and that Panetta was out of line. He sought reassurances from the White House. But a meeting with Chief Domestic Advisor John Ehrlichman left him not feeling reassured at all.

#### FIRED BY PRESS

In late 1969, Panetta wrote his resignation letter. His boss, Secretary Robert Finch, rejected it. Panetta believed he would stay on and continue to fight for desegregation. But other officials had different ideas.

On Feb. 17, 1970, *The Washington Daily News* carried the headline “Nixon Seeks to Fire HEW's Rights Chief for Liberal Views.” Panetta knew they meant him.

Another headline, in *The Washington Post*, said he had quit. He remembers discussing it with Finch.

“There's this rumor I've resigned,” he said.

“It's not true,” Finch said. “Deny it.”

Panetta did. But when reporters asked Press Secretary Ron Ziegler, “Did Panetta resign?” Ziegler told them he had.

“The fundamental thing about a Santa Clara education is it teaches you right from wrong—and it gives you a conscience that is there to guide you.”



*Desegregation. The first government shutdown over the budget. The capture of Osama bin Laden. There's been little in Washington that Panetta hasn't been a part of: He was Bill Clinton's budget director and later his Chief of Staff. In the Obama Administration, he headed up the CIA and Department of Defense.*

“It was pretty clear that I was being fired,” Panetta says.

He was without a job, 3,000 miles from home, with three young kids—one just a year old.

To him, it was worth it. He felt there was a right way to end segregation—and it cost him his job.

#### TAKE A STAND

“I remember a Jesuit at Santa Clara who said, ‘You know God gives you life, but you have to determine whether you have a life. You have to fight for it,’ Panetta says. “I often remember that because the fact is we can bless ourselves with hope that everything is going to be fine. But if, in the end, you are not willing to fight to make that the case, it is not going to happen.”

And fighting to make things fine—or better or just—is what Panetta spent his career doing. He came home. He ran for office. He was elected to the U.S. House of Representatives from a district stretching from Monterey Bay to Gilroy to the San Luis Obispo County line, the same district his son Jimmy represents today.

In the hallway of the Panetta Institute hangs a *Monterey Herald* front page from when he was first elected. Panetta points to the black and white photograph next to it. “That's my father's truck. I still have it, repainted it and pulled out all dings.”

The wall reflects other victories. Sea otters, the mascot for the university he helped found on the former Fort Ord—and furry residents of the bay waters he helped protect from offshore drilling—are a prominent feature. There are photos of Panetta with former President Bill Clinton, whom he served as chief of staff, and with former President Barack Obama, for whom he headed the CIA and later the Department of Defense when Navy SEALs killed Osama bin Laden.

He's done all of that. And he believes there are still stands worth taking to build up community and defend democracy.

“There is a lot of anger out there. There is a lot of division. There's a lot of hatred. Things that we fought throughout our history are all coming together now,” Panetta says. “And I think it is going to be a time when strong individuals of faith and value are going to have to stand up and look at people and say, ‘That's wrong.’”

#### PANETTA PLAZA

That's where that education and those bedrock values—truth and respect for one another brought to life at Santa Clara—matter. They are stones we all carry in our pocket.

“Those fundamental values are what Santa Clara has always been about,” Panetta says as he considers the grounding of his life. “Whether you are going to get a job in Silicon Valley, or going to be a lawyer, or any career you choose for the future, those values are going to be important to whether or not you are not only a success in that career but, most importantly, whether or not you are a success as a human being.”

On another day, this time in fall 2018, Panetta stands in the newly open Charney Hall. It is a sunny building where future SCU law students will deepen their understanding of right and wrong, where they will have their meditative moment.

Outside a new plaza is named for him—Panetta Plaza.

At the building's dedication, he stands at a podium before gathered University leaders, donors, Silicon Valley champions, and, most importantly, students.

“Too often we move to move. Not often enough do we move forward,” he says. “I think that is what the University offers: a foundation that enables the ability to advance progress while elevating human dignity.”

# Bronco News

SCU ALUMNI NEAR AND FAR



The future of technology is quickly taking shape in the Capital City as Stewart pushes it to become a tech-testing oasis for the Internet of Things. He is building on Sacramento's key advantage—it is home to an array of state and federal regulatory agencies, plus 120 California legislators, either overseeing or creating new tech laws.

"What we are offering," says Stewart, "is an opportunity for companies to come to Sacramento to demonstrate their viability as a product or service. Then, as a city, we co-develop with them to build solutions that fit what a city like ours needs," he says. "This gives them a product they can go sell, and we get new tech that benefits our citizens."

Working on cutting-edge tech policy is a natural fit for Stewart, who already has a track record for solving problems as a former state deputy director for innovation and entrepreneurship under two California governors.

His life now is like nothing he ever imagined during his trial-

and-error days at SCU, and not just because it sounds like the future. Although he graduated from SCU, back in 1994, poor performance on the court had cost him his full-ride basketball scholarship at the end of his junior year.

Stewart didn't know what a blessing that would be. "I tell people that basketball opened a lot of doors for me," he says. "But not in the traditional way."

Stewart found his way to a job at Fry's Electronics, where he embraced the world of technology. By 2006, he was the IT director for Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger's reelection campaign, which catapulted him to other state government positions, and led to his current job with the City of Sacramento.

That knack for reinvention incubated while he was a kid living in Europe, where his father **Michael Stewart '73**, a standout SCU Hall of Fame hoopster, was an early pioneer in the international basketball scene in France and Italy. (His late mother, **Carolyn Gray Stewart '74**, had met and married his dad at SCU.) Those years overseas had forced Stewart to adopt new languages and cultures to get by.

"My life," jokes the slender city leader, dapper in his three-piece suit, "is the definition of a non-linear career path."

*When Louis Stewart '99 lost his basketball scholarship, he found new doors opened—and those led him to where he is today.*

## A Non-Linear LIFE

Louis Stewart '99 creates a testing ground for tomorrow

Start with driverless and remote-operated cars on test runs through city streets. Add a bike-share-like program for Earth-friendly, electric cars. Throw in a planned experimental service station where robots swap electric car batteries.

What do you have? California's sixth-largest city under the techno-leadership of **Louis Stewart '99**, Sacramento's first chief innovation officer.

# ?

**"Is that all you've got?"** If you played Santa Clara University football from 1963 to 1974, you knew the man behind that question: defensive line coach **Bill McPherson '54**. He knew the players had more to give. Just as every Bronco knew to watch out whenever "Coach Mac" put his cap on backward—a warning that someone had deviated from his meticulous instructions.



Yet even then, **Bill McPherson '54**, the inimitable D-line coach known for his upfront manner and sheer exuberance for the game, would make his point with a gleam in his eye. The cap flip, the banter, his "get-ready" stance of knees bent, hands resting on thighs endeared him to his SCU players, dozens of whom traveled to salute their 87-year-old hero at an event co-organized by **Tim Johnson '71, '74**, and **Charlie Oliver '71, M.A. '75**. "At practice every day, you could

always count on him to bust people up with humor," recalls **Mike Carey '71**, an SCU running back before becoming a professional referee, and the first African-American to officiate a Super Bowl. "He was a combination of discipline and jovial interaction."

Huddling around their beloved leader, the former players eagerly embraced the 6-foot-3 giant and shook his hand, still as big as a bear paw. The teammates reveled in their memories from the gridiron under

the man some called the salt to the pepper of head football coach **Pat Malley '53**. During the 11 years they guided the team, the Broncos went 72-39-2, beating much bigger programs, including the University of Nevada, Las Vegas and University of Hawaii. As head coach, Malley was more a brigadier general-type to many. McPherson, on the other hand, "was like another dad to us," remembers **Tom Narey '72**. "He made football fun."

*As members of SCU football teams gathered for this spring's Bronco Bench gala, they decided to spend time celebrating coach Bill McPherson '54, as well*

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**Lifelong values.** It starts with a desire to help, to do your part. It ends, as these stories often do, with a pack of Broncos chipping in. Santa Clara values reveal themselves in beaches cleaned, food donated, volunteer hours logged, and us. Alumni for Others rallies Broncos for special projects coast to coast. Here's a bit of what they accomplished in the past year.

400

Number of volunteers

34,800

Hours logged through Alumni for Others in 2018

30

Number of projects, from helping out at food banks to participating in beach clean-ups, tackled by Bronco alumni

1994

Year Alumni for Others began



WORDS BY LESLIE GRIFFY, IMAGE COURTESY ISTOCK



**KEY TO THE ORDER** As far back as the late 1500s, St. Ignatius urged Jesuit seminarians to study natural sciences, logic, physics, and math as a way to uncover eternal truth and beauty. Math professor and head of campus ministry **Dennis C. Smolarski, S.J., '69, M.Div., S.T.M. '79** shares his own passion for those foundational pursuits with students every day. And now he and his sister Janet Newell support those essential studies with a scholarship. Using his share of proceeds from the sale of his parents' home, the siblings established the Genevieve and Chester F. Smolarski & Dennis C. Smolarski, S.J., Endowed Family Scholarship Fund, named after their parents. "I was the recipient of a scholarship from SCU when I was in school, so I thought it would be good to help committed students who were juniors and seniors, starting with my own department," said Smolarski.



Getting Santa Clara stories online took a team. You can find InsideSCU streamed live on social media and rebroadcast on YouTube.

**SANTA CLARA STORIES** Triumph on the pitch. Dedication to providing life-changing opportunities to first-generation college students. Tackling Silicon Valley's tricky housing market. These Santa Clara stories and others are featured in a new web series launched in fall 2019. Find InsideSCU live or rebroadcasted online.

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# EMPOWER THE HELPERS



WORKING WITH CLINICIANS and professors taught **Lindsey Lee '19** how ethics improve healthcare. The exposure came as she interned in the Health Care Ethics Internship sponsored by the Markkula Center for Applied Ethics. "Sometimes those ethical moments in medicine are really quiet," she says. "Why do we spend extra time with that patient? We are not just clinicians here to diagnosis you. We are here to help patients from all angles." Lee's excellence as a junior-year intern earned her the Honzel Fellowship, letting her delve deeper into healthcare ethics as a senior. Now in the working world as

a brain trauma researcher, Lee asks questions—"Is this OK? Why are we doing this?"—because she knows the ethics. She also sees an important population that needs courses in medical ethics, too: volunteers. Hospital volunteers are often in positions to see things and ask questions, but unlike Lee, they aren't usually trained to notice those details. "They are often high school students or undergraduates," Lee says. It's an education gap Lee is filling with **Ann Mongoven**, associate director of Health Care Ethics at the Center, by creating an online ethics education module for healthcare volunteer training.

## Journey of a Lifetime

A NEW OPPORTUNITY for those with years of leadership in all fields—and from all faith traditions—takes them on a deep dive into Jesuit thinking. SCU and fellow Jesuit universities Loyola Chicago, Georgetown, and Boston College together host the inaugural class of Ignatian Legacy Fellows. The fellows visit those U.S. universities and head to sites in Peru, Italy, and Spain as part of a 12-month journey exploring big ideas. It is designed to give retirees space to reflect and plan for their next chapters. "There's a focus on interiority as well as exteriority," says **Jim Briggs**, a longtime Santa Clara leader consulting on the program, "which focuses on the question of: 'What's next in my retirement? How can I continue to use the gifts that I have—especially knowledge and experience?'" The fellows began their journey in September.



# HISTORY! LIVE!

MARC DEL PIERO '75, J.D. '78 dreams big. But arranging an all-expenses-paid trip for every 8th-grade student in Monterey County to see *Hamilton*—that's 9,000 children—surpasses nearly everyone's imagination. Not his. After a lengthy correspondence between Del Piero and Luis Miranda, father of *Hamilton* writer Lin-Manuel Miranda and coordinator of the production's charitable arm, tickets to the San Francisco showing were secured at a discounted rate. An ambitious history buff, Del Piero serves on the board of the King Foundation, a Monterey County charity devoted to improving education about the U.S.

Constitution. An estimated \$2 million from the foundation will get students to the show in San Francisco and back. While the former SCU history major was brainstorming program possibilities, Del Piero remembered a comment made by SCU History Professor **George Giacomini '56** that history is as much about rare individuals as it is about significant events. Del Piero says, "We want our students to learn that they are the heirs of the American legacy of democracy, and that it is their duty to preserve and protect the idea that our American concept of democracy embodies the goal of equality in liberty."

*A Hamilton ticket for every child in Monterey County—that's a dream almost as big as creating a Broadway blockbuster from a founding father's story. But both happened.*



**NETWORK. WORKOUT. SUSTAIN.** The biggest Bronco party of the year stretched from yoga to 5K, from preparing for the work of tomorrow to a party at the University's living hub for a sustainable future. Alumni signed up to pack hygiene kits for the homeless at Loaves & Fishes, learned how to future-proof their careers, celebrated at Forge Garden, and more. Stay in touch with the alumni office between reunions. Visit scu.edu/alumni

**FOLLOWING THE PATH** Studying abroad brought the pieces together for **Cecilia Cai '14**. At SCU, she studied music performance, urban education, and Italian studies. It was in Italy in 2013 that she found opera. "That was when I realized what opera was and what being a singer really meant," Cai says. "I didn't fully shift my path at that time, but I started working toward becoming an opera singer." This fall that shift brought her to Verismo Opera, where she tackled Puccini's *Madama Butterfly*. Brava!

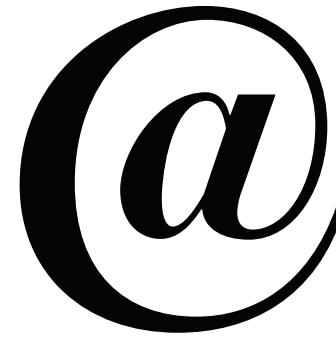
WORDS BY LUCY NINO AND SHAHEE GREENWOOD. IMAGES PROVIDED CAI AND STOCK ART



# A Dog Song

WHERE TO FIND love but at the pound? That's what happens in *Pepito*, a 20-minute opera with music by **Nicolas Lell Benavides '10**. The libretto by Marella Martin Koch performed to sold-out crowds after the Washington National Opera commissioned it as one of three sitcom-length operas, part of the American Opera Initiative. Of the three, at least for the *Washington Post*, *Pepito* held "pride of place." "It wasn't just because dogs and children tend to steal the show. It was because Nicolas Lell Benavides, the composer, and Marella Martin Koch, the librettist, found a way to sketch complete characters in swift sure lines," *Post* reviewer Anne Midgette opined. The opera tells the story of a couple missing connection. Arriving just 20 minutes before the shelter closes, one half of the couple find herself seeking "the right dog." As woman and dog connect, the couple seems to find one another as well.

*Cecilia Cai '14 splits her time between the Bay and abroad as she works as an opera singer.*



**A Way With Words.** Adoration. Confession. Supplication. Thanksgiving. These are the things we do in prayer, in meditative moments, in the spaces where we stop to think. They are also things Nebraska state poet **Matt Mason '90** does in stanzas, through pen on paper. His home state's prairies and open spaces permeate his lines. These prayers are from a place, and a heart.



**Matt Mason '90** takes to the role of Nebraska State Poet like pen to paper. After all, poems are where Mason feels most at home, second only to Nebraska. It's easy to find that evidenced in his pages. "For me, poetry acts as prayer," Mason says. "It's how I process and try to figure out the world around me. In that, writing is an expression of faith." He's true to himself in his poetry, be it about his family, God, or a recent shooting. For Mason, writing is the truest form of self-expression. For that, he urges all of us to read and write more poetry, for our own good. "Writing poetry is a way of

spending time with our concerns, our joy, our dreams, our questions, taking them word by word to describe or explain. That kind of time helps us understand ourselves and the world better," Mason explains. "And by reading poetry, we inhabit someone else's ideas or stories or their confused jumble of emotional expression. It's fun and important—we could really benefit from understanding those around us." When you read Mason's poetry, it's not a scrambled mind you enter. Mason lets his readers in on one of his great loves, his home state of Nebraska. As the state

poet, he gives presentations, leads workshops, and provides outreach in schools and libraries throughout the state, which he thinks is the best part of the deal. "Nebraska is a place where experiences and places go beyond today and touch on other parts of my life, adding more to the poem. Everything about it is wonderful," Mason says. "I often want to ground a reader or listener in a place, as if they're standing next to me, not just hearing me tell them something." And there are few images as vivid as when someone defines "home."

*Home is open. Home is here. At least it is for Matt Mason '90. Nebraska includes famous wide-open spaces and Western rock formations, and friends and family. What better to make a few lines sing?*

WORDS BY LUCY NINO. IMAGE COURTESY ISTOCK

# Class Notes

At [magazine.scu.edu/classnotes](http://magazine.scu.edu/classnotes) see the latest, post an update, share a photo—especially if it's your reunion year. For Broncos who have joined the Gianera Society—that's 50+ years since graduation—every year is reunion year!

**1963** Peter Metz enjoys living in the wonderful retirement community of North Hill in Needham, Mass., about 12 miles from the center of Boston. He is active in his parish, Our Lady Help of Christians in Newton, and is especially involved with the justice and peace committee. He's also committed as much time as he can to working for global nuclear disarmament. He writes that life is good and he feels very fortunate.

**1964** Ramon Luis Jimenez retired from an active operative practice of total joint replacement and arthroscopy, having founded and led a five-person single specialty for 38 years in San Jose. Over the past 40 years, he has served the American Academy of Orthopedic Surgeons and was awarded its diversity award in 2009. He chairs the Charter School Committee for the Foundation for Hispanic Education, which represents three charter high schools attended by 1,500 students, mostly English language learners. He has worked and served on the steering committee of Movement is Life (MIL) since its inception nine years ago. Being a second-generation Mexican American, he writes he is very cognizant of the persistent disparities of health and health care that Hispanics experience, as well as the faulty educational pipeline for these students.

**1967** Don Argue M.A. was confirmed by the U.S. Senate to serve as a commissioner on the Commission on International Religious Freedom for five years. He completed an Ed.D. and served a total of 25 years as president of two universities.

**1969** Cathy Horan-Walker is a financial advisor and has been married to husband Leonard for 42 years. They live in Monterey and have three sons—Patrick Horan-Walker, Chris Horan-Walker '09, and Ryan Moses '19. She is an SCU regent and past president of the alumni board.

**1973** Risë Pichon J.D. '76 received a Lifetime Achievement Award from the Santa Clara County Trial Lawyers Association at its 43rd Annual Judges' Night on May 14. She retired from the bench after 36 years of service.

**1974** Blaque Lyn Haston and Joanna (Fonseca) Haston celebrated their 44th anniversary. They still live in Las Cruces, New Mexico. Lyn is the general manager of ERA Sellers and Buyers Real Estate in El Paso, while Joanna supports the liturgy office of the Diocese of Las Cruces. Business trips east in September and October keep them from attending this year's reunion, but "God willing, we'll see you at our 50th five years from now. Blessings to everyone!"

**1975 REUNION YEAR** Stephanie E. Joannides received the Lifetime Achievement Award from American Community Schools Athens. A senior Superior Court judge for Anchorage, Alaska, Joannides was acknowledged for her professional achievements, exemplary leadership with ethos, and service to humanity. Previously, she served as a judge on the State District Court, the State Superior Court, and as a pro tem judge on the Alaska Court of Criminal Appeals from 1994 to 2011. Judge Joannides is now on senior status and continues to preside over cases both on the State Superior Court and the Alaska Court of Criminal Appeals. She is also the administrator and chief mediator for the Alaska State Supreme Court Mediation Project. ¶ Cheryl Poncini J.D. has been elected the 2019 president of the Alameda County Bar Association. She has also been an Alameda County deputy district attorney for over 41 years.

**1978** Marjorie Baldenweck completed an M.S. in education (teaching English to speakers of foreign languages) in 2017 and is an instructor at Hubei University in the city of Wuhan, Hubei Province, central China. She writes that working in Wuhan gives daily challenges to her creativity but provides endless opportunities to model not only English but Western thinking and Christian values. She shares that students are all capable, mostly eager, and grateful for the chance to learn. Colleagues provide support and friendship (she was hired through AITECE, an agency affiliated with the Irish missionary order Columban Fathers), so she is very content and feels like she's "where I ought to be." Her five children are now grown and independent, and

there are two grandchildren. Her husband, Thomas Baldenweck, was an ROTC instructor at SCU from 1975 to 1978; he died in 1998. ¶ Sandra Burke J.D. '91 has been appointed by the Commissioners of Chester County, Pennsylvania, as director of the Chester County Department of Voter Services. ¶ Nancy (Gerlach) Lee and husband Anthony Lee M.S. '85 recently moved to Frankfurt, Germany, for his job with the Army. Tony works at the U.S. Consulate, and the couple lives in the historic downtown, steps away from St. Bartholomew Cathedral. Their plan is to spend the next few years traveling throughout Europe. ¶ Barbara Spector J.D. has joined JAMS as a mediator, arbitrator, and special master.



Throughout his career, Bud Nameck '79 was known as the voice of Washington State basketball and football. He retires this year.

**1979** After more than 37 years on the airwaves, Bud Nameck '79 is retiring from KXLY in Spokane, Washington. His first 13 years at KXLY were spent as a TV sports director. His next venture was radio, serving as the program director and host of KXLY 920 Morning News. Throughout his career, Nameck called Washington State basketball and football and covered the winter and summer Olympics, NBA playoffs, and PGA Tour events. Nameck will continue to do radio play-by-play for Whitworth University in Spokane.

**1981** Edythe DeMarco, a wealth management advisor at Merrill Lynch in Providence, Rhode Island, was recognized on the 2019 *Forbes* list of Top Women Wealth Advisors. The ranking is based on factors such as industry experience, assets under management, and best practices. Of 7,000 qualified nominations, only 250 were selected as top advisors. DeMarco is an adoptive mother, member of the Board for Foster

Forward, member of the Board of Governors for the Bradley Hospital Foundation, and chair of the Lifespan Planned Giving Committee.

**1982** Lynne Thaxter Brown has retired from the practice of law. She was a civil litigator and certified appellate law specialist.

**1983** Kevin Dowling is a fundraiser for Habitat for Humanity East Bay/Silicon Valley and resides in Hayward. ¶ Keith Lovetro MBA, a leader in the logistics industry with more than 35 years of experience in shipping, freight, and transportation services, has become CEO of OIA Global, a supply chain innovator specializing in global logistics and packaging optimization. ¶ Henry Manayan J.D. has been named CEO of Viratech. He was appointed to a White House advisory group on Asian-Pacific affairs by President Bill Clinton. Manayan served three terms as the mayor of Milpitas and was the first Asian-American person elected to the position. He is also the founder and president of the Transpacific Companies, a finance and investment company based in Silicon Valley and San Diego. ¶ Richard Martig is CFO of Movius, an Atlanta-based mobile communications firm. Previously, he was CFO at Nexenta Systems based in San Jose. ¶ Gil Ochoa J.D. was appointed to the Inland Empire JSAC committee on June 26. For the first time in California history, the public will know the individuals who provide important feedback on judicial candidates for nomination and appointment. The JSACs, a group of attorneys and judges, provide preliminary, nonpartisan feedback on nominees to the state bench to promote a diverse and inclusive process. ¶ David Sandino J.D. has been selected by the Groundwater Resources Association of California to serve as a lecturer in the 2019 David Keith Todd Distinguished Lecture Series, created to honor David Keith Todd for his enormous contributions to groundwater science and technology. ¶ Jim Stapleton has joined Blank Rome, a law firm headquartered in Philadelphia with 13 offices nationwide, as chief business development and marketing officer. Stapleton will be based out of Blank Rome's Washington, D.C., office and will be responsible for leading the firm's business development, marketing, client service, and branding efforts. Prior to this role at Blank Rome, Stapleton served as chief business development and marketing officer of Dickinson Wright. ¶ Glenn Yabuno J.D. has been elected to the San



Bernardino County Superior Court as assistant presiding judge starting Jan. 1, 2020. Yabuno was previously appointed to the court in 2010 and is currently the supervising judge of the Rancho Cucamonga District.

**1985 REUNION YEAR** Noel Cook J.D. has joined the firm of Hanson Bridgett LLP as a partner. He is a member of the firm's intellectual property practice. He concentrates on trademark and copyright enforcement, litigation, counseling, prosecution, and licensing.

**1986** Lori Pegg J.D. received the Pro Bono Project's Silicon Valley Innovator Award at its annual awards dinner. The Pro Bono Project is dedicated to representing clients of limited means and improving access to justice in Santa Clara County.

**1989** Neda N. Dal Cielo J.D. '92 has joined Jackson Lewis P.C. to open the firm's 60th office, located in San Jose. Dal Cielo's specializes in defending employers against allegations of wrongful termination, employment discrimination, and other related claims arising out of employment disputes.

**1991** Cheryl Dumesnil is a co-editor of *We Got This*, an anthology of stories and poems collected from more than 75 mothers raising children without partners. The anthology, which features a diverse range of stories (including one from Amy Poehler), is Dumesnil's sixth book.

**1992** Deborah Armstrong MBA was promoted to assistant principal for multi-tiered support systems at San Benito High School (SBHS), which serves 3,100 students. Prior to her promotion, she taught math at SBHS and was a teacher of the year in

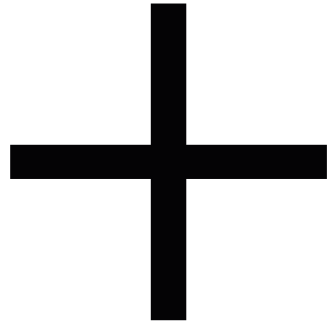
**SHARED EXPERIENCE** Actress Amy Poehler contributed a story to the new anthology on single parenting co-edited by Cheryl Dumesnil '91.

the Hollister School District. She writes that she is really excited to be in her new position and happy to share it with fellow Broncos. ¶ Niall McCarthy J.D. received the 2019 California Lawyer Attorney of the Year Award from the *Daily Journal*. McCarthy was honored with the CLAY Award for securing a \$102 million settlement with oil company BP days before a monthlong trial in the whistleblower case was set to begin. ¶ Cynthia Schmae Nimmo, president and CEO of Women's Funding Network, the largest philanthropic network in the world devoted to women and girls, is the recipient of the 2018 Powerful Woman of the Bay Area Award. She serves on the sustainability commission for the city of Sausalito and began her career as an aide to Dianne Feinstein.

**1993** Ricardo Echeverria J.D. received the Lifetime Legal Achievement Award from Consumer Watchdog, a nonprofit organization dedicated to providing an effective voice for taxpayers and consumers in an era when special interests dominate public discourse, government, and politics. ¶ After 25 years in consulting, K. Richard Engel MBA is now a registered representative and wealth strategist with New York Life. He advises individuals and business owners on accumulating, growing, and protecting wealth. ¶ Christine Morgan J.D. has been promoted to partner at Reed Smith LLP in the firm's San Francisco office.

**1995** Stephanie Burns J.D. has been named general counsel for StubHub. Previously, she worked at Amazon for nearly 15 years, most recently as VP and associate general counsel for worldwide operations. In that role, she led a team of lawyers supporting Amazon's customer fulfillment and logistics, drone delivery, robotics, Prime Now service, customer service, and social responsibility initiatives. ¶ Shawn Wright J.D. has been appointed co-chair of Blank Rome's Washington, D.C., office. As office chair, Wright provides leadership and strategic direction for the office's legal practices and business objectives.

**1998** Aruna Ravichandran MBA '09 graduated from the Kellogg Chief Marketing Officer program in 2019. As a global marketing leader who is passionate about digital transformation, workplace transformation, and DevOps, she serves as VP/CMO of Cisco's Wexel Collaboration business. Ravichandran also enjoys blogging about technology, is an independent blogger for



**That moment when.** When does life change? As **Akilah Monifa J.D. '83** read at a literary event in February 2017, she had no idea her future wife listened in the audience. At the end of the reading, Natalie Devora introduced herself and Akilah realized she'd published a piece of Natalie's in "Arise 2.0," a collection of works by the LGBTQ+ community. This was the beginning.



Even after dating for a couple of years, **Akilah Monifa J.D. '83** and Natalie were not sure marriage was right for them.

But Akilah's intuition was speaking. "I decided it would be foolish to hold on to this notion that I had before that I'll never get married again," says Akilah.

The union is based, in part, on the thing that first brought them together—writing. That's why, following an October 2019 ceremony at Oakland's Bellevue Club, the pair held a reception at the African American Museum and Library in Oakland where Natalie and Akilah took turns reading their work, exploring their own intersectionalities.

Natalie's book, *Black Woman White Skin*, talks about growing up with albinism as a woman of color. The couple shares a passion for telling their truths. And these stories that brought them together all have a theme of love and acceptance.

Akilah and Natalie invited close family and friends to their three-day wedding celebration, including SCU associate professor of law **Margalynne J. Armstrong**.

## Lives Joined

**Maria Angelisa Lacorte '97** married Collin Jensen Lee at Mission Santa Clara on July 6. Rev. Msgr. Wilfredo Marique from St. John the Baptist in Milpitas and Deacon Dan Hudec from St. Frances X. Cabrini in Yucaipa, Calif., presided. Sister Rosemary Everett, formerly of Campus Ministry, was a lector. Also present were **Thao (La) Benioff '02**, **Chris Benioff '01**, **MBA '05**, **Amy Lee '97**, **Maureen McDonnell '97**, **Kelly (Medeiros) Wheeler '97**, **Martin Quiazon '98**, **Kathleen (Barrera) Quiazon '99**, **Gates Matthew Stoner '97, '98**, and **Eileen (Agbay) Sullivan '96**. Maria is a deputy public defender and Collin is a hospital administrator. They live in Southern California.

**Adam Pecoraro '11** married **Lauren (Murray) Pecoraro '12** at Immaculate Conception Church in Seattle on March 16. Members of the wedding party included **Jeri (Vizza) Caldwell '12**, **Stephanie (Esquivias) Masch '12**, **Katy Quigg '12**, **John Seubert '12**, **MS '14**, **Davis Kurzenski '11**, **Ryan Davidson '11**, and **Ryan Fontana '11**, **MS '12**. They were married by Fr. **Tom Lucas M.Th. '94**, with over 40 Broncos in attendance. Adam and Lauren live in San Francisco.

**William Dickinson '12** and Hanna DeArkland married in November 2018 in Palm Springs. William's sisters **Aileen Dickinson '07** and **Sarah Dickinson '18** were in attendance.

*Forbes* and other industry forums, and authored two technology books on DevOps. She received the Silver Stevie Award for Female Executive of the Year in 2018 and serves as an advisory board member for Cal Poly and Panzura. ¶ **David Taghioff J.D.** has a new position as the head of Library Pictures International, a film-financing venture. Taghioff has spent the last eight years as global content strategy division head of Creative Artists Agency, one of Hollywood's top talent representation firms. Library Pictures is a spin-off company of Creative Artists Agency.

**1999 Neda Mansoorian J.D.** has been recognized as a 2019 Northern California Super Lawyer for the sixth year in a row (2014–19). Mansoorian is co-founder and managing partner at Oleander Law Partners LLP in Los Gatos and officially launched her mediation practice this year. ¶ **Judson Werner** and wife **Amelie (Glon) Werner** traveled to Guatemala this past winter with their kids Tristan (8) and Gisele (6) on a volunteer dentistry trip. They provided free dentistry to kids and adults in rural areas who don't otherwise have access. Judson and Amelie have done trips like this before in Jamaica and Uganda, but this was the kids' first volunteer dentistry adventure. Judson practices dentistry in Bellevue, Washington, and Amelie is a UX design studio manager for Kiramazon in Seattle. The family lives in Kirkland.

**2000 Julia Bruck** was named director of communications for the state of Tennessee. She will focus on strengthening relationships with industry representatives, stakeholders, and the public while overseeing internal and external communications within the secretary of state's office. ¶ NPR's TED Radio Hour featured **Nilofer Merchant's MBA** talk on sitting and workplace health. Merchant is also a three-time author and regular *Harvard Business Review* columnist.

**2001 Terry Ahearn J.D.** has joined Duane Morris LLP's Silicon Valley Office as partner in the firm's intellectual property practice group. ¶ **Nicholas Buccola**, the Elizabeth and Morris Glicksman Chair in Political Science at Linfield College, released *The Fire Is Upon Us: James Baldwin, William F. Buckley Jr., and the Debate over Race in America* on Oct. 1. ¶ **Karen (Grupp) Elizalde** is doing great and living in the Philippines with her hus-

**UNDER DEBATE** **Nicholas Buccalo '01** has a new book that's been featured in *The Washington Post*, *New York Times* and on NPR. It focuses on a UK debate between **James Baldwin** and **William F. Buckley Jr.**



band and three daughters, ages 9, 7, and 3. She runs an event company and restaurants *Hobbit Tavern*, *Super Submarine*, *Thai Basil*, and *Jeepney Stop* and is about to open another one on the island of Boracay. She would love to connect with fellow alumni, class of 2001!

**2002 Christine Donovan J.D.** has been appointed as the child support court commissioner for the Superior Court in Contra Costa County.

**2004 Christopher J. Tassone Ph.D.** gave a talk on 3-D printing for perfect metal parts at the SLAC National Accelerator Laboratory on March 26. He works as a staff scientist at SLAC National Accelerator Laboratory, where he uses x-ray beams to probe the atomic structure of materials as they are created to build better performing solar panels, catalysts, and mechanical parts. During his time at SCU he performed research to develop nano-structured water sensors for missions to other planets in collaboration with NASA Ames Research Center.

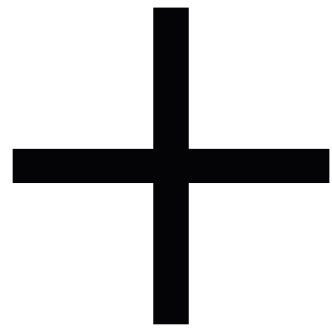
**2005** On Aug. 18, 2018, **Daniel L. Dow J.D.** was promoted to the rank of lieutenant colonel in the Army National Guard. He began his military career as a private in the Army in 1989. Dow serves as the district attorney for San Luis Obispo County.

**2006 Brian Cuneo** was one of five legal professionals named to the *Silicon Valley Business Journal* 2019 class of "40 Under 40" honorees. Each year, the publication highlights 40 outstanding Silicon Valley men and women for their contributions and accomplishments. ¶ **Tyler Davey J.D.** has been elected

partner with Jackson Walker. He joined Jackson Walker in 2015 as a member of the firm's wealth planning practice group. ¶ **Kristin Kinder** has become the director of research and waste stream sustainability at Wastequip, a North American manufacturer of waste handling equipment. In this newly created role, Kinder will serve as the company's resident expert on waste stream improvements and efforts to drive positive environmental change. In 2019, she was awarded Waste360's 40 Under 40, recognizing the next generation of leaders shaping the waste and recycling industry. ¶ **Peter Nissly J.D. '09** is an associate attorney with the firm of Hopkins & Carley representing clients in commercial litigation matters, including those with trade secret, probate, and contract disputes. ¶ **Noam Shendar MBA** was featured on the Voices in Data Storage podcast, in which he shared his technical expertise on software-defined continuous inside storage systems. He is the general manager of Hyperscale Cloud Business at Zадara. ¶ **A. Zell Williams** wrote and directed the play *The Urban Retreat*, which was performed at the Buriel Clay Theater in San Francisco's African American Art & Culture Complex. The play's protagonist, a young rap star, is keen on writing his memoir, so long as his high school English teacher serves as ghostwriter. At SCU, Williams was a student of Theatre Professor **Aldo Billingslea**, who previously directed the play for the Lorraine Hansberry Theatre.

**2007 Richard Bull J.D.** has been promoted to partner in DLA Piper LLP's San Diego office. ¶ **Melissa Keesling** celebrated 10 years at Golden Mortgage Company, Inc., a family-owned Bay Area mortgage company founded by her father and fellow SCU alumnus **Scott Keesling '79** in 1987.





**Dynamic Duo.** Ashley Schweickart '07 and Kyle Stephenson '07 always knew they wanted two children. So when the couple had to learn how to balance parenting two little ones, it was a challenge they took head-on. Joining their first, Indiana, was Quinn, and with him came all new difficulties and delights that will strengthen his family—and maybe cause a few sleepless nights.



When baby makes four, things get busy, says Ashley Schweickart '07.

A little baby making a big entrance, Quinn was welcomed into the world earlier this year by his parents Ashley Schweickart '07 and Kyle Stephenson '07 and a first-time older sister, Indiana.

And while Ashley and Kyle aren't first-time parents, having a second child is a new challenge in itself. "Everything is different the second time around!" Ashley says. Handling a newborn on its own is hard enough, and this time, we have to care for an energetic and emotional toddler too."

But some of the work is familiar.

"Thankfully, we've already been through having a newborn, so it isn't as scary and unknown. We feel more confident in our abilities as parents." Ashley says.

On top of the value of family, Ashley and Kyle want to instill into their kids the values from their time at SCU. "Part of SCU's mission is a commitment to leaving the world a better place and we try to live those ideals every day," Ashley says.

By raising the next generation of leaders, the couple is well on their way to reaching that goal.

## Births & Adoptions

Steve O'Brien '98 and Julianne O'Brien '04 welcomed their second son, James Robert, on Jan. 2. Along with older brother John (age 3), the O'Briens look forward to attending lots of events on the Mission campus and cheering on the Broncos in the years to come.

Beth (Simas) Marcinek '05 and her husband, Matthew, welcomed son Eli Joseph on Feb. 26. Eli is the grandson of Ted Simas '70 and Rita Simas. He joins big brother Evan in their family home in Houston.

Regent Kyle Ozawa '08 and wife Rebecca welcomed baby boy Graham Brayden on April 3.

WORDS BY LUCY NINO. IMAGES COURTESY ASHLEY SCHWEICKART

**2008** Chris Lane '08 is chief marketing officer of Airfield Supply Company. One of the largest licensed cannabis brands in California, he leads brand strategy, creative, and growth to increase access to cannabis for adult customers and patients, such as seniors or veterans, who need pain management. ¶ Alejandra Pérez Leliaert is a physician assistant in Monterey County.

**2009** Alen Mirza published his first book in July, *A Practical Guide to Using International Human Rights and Criminal Law Procedures*, with University of San Francisco School of Law Professor Connie de la Vega. ¶ Alexander Touma J.D. was recognized by the LGBT Bar as a recipient of the 2019's Best Lawyers Under 40 Award.

**2010** George Casey III J.D. '18 is an associate in the real estate transactions and litigation groups with the firm of Hoge Fenton. ¶ Matthew Faustman J.D./MBA co-founded UpCounsel, which provides vetted freelance attorneys to law firms, businesses, and individuals.

**2011** Jessica Jackson J.D. received the 2019 Fearless Advocate Award from the American Constitution Society at its 10th Annual Gala. ¶ Allison Kopf, founder and CEO of Artemis, has been named to *Forbes* 30 Under 30 list and announced a new round of financing. Its core product is a cultivation management platform for agriculture that enables growers to manage plants, people, and processes. While at SCU, she was project manager of the third-place-winning Solar Decathlon team.

**2012** Christina (Tina Shull) Friend J.D. has been appointed city manager of Scotts Valley. Friend is the former assistant city manager of Santa Cruz. ¶ Matthew Savage J.D. '17 has joined the Santa Clara County Office of the District Attorney. Previously, he served as a deputy district attorney for the Contra Costa County District Attorney's Office.

**2013** Caleb Bates J.D. has joined the firm of Fish and Richardson in the patent prosecution and counseling practice as an associate. ¶ Ryan Minarovich, J.D. joined FIGmd, Inc., a multinational health care infrastructure company, as general counsel. He is tasked with helping the company

better develop strategic partnerships in the U.S. and around the world. ¶ Mary Pink M.A. '15 was crowned Miss Vietnam California 2019 at the annual pageant held at the Santa Clara Convention Center on Jan. 26. As a child, Pink attended Silver Oak Elementary in San Jose, where she now teaches a first-grade/second-grade combo class. She has a B.S. in both liberal studies and sociology, an M.A. in teaching, and a teaching credential (MATTC program at SCU). Pink was selected out of a field of 19 pageant contestants to be the queen of the court.

**2014** Cecilia Xing Mei Cai completed the Master of Opera Singing program at the Cremona Claudio Monteverdi Conservatory of Music in Italy with her company Verismo Opera. This summer, she returned to the Bay Area to perform in Puccini's *Madama Butterfly* as Cio-Cio San. ¶ Daniel Lafranchi served in Afghanistan from 2017 to 2018 with the Army after completing his ROTC course at Santa Clara and earning a degree in civil engineering. ¶ After three years living and working in Boston, Nicole Percz is moving back to LA. She is remaining with her company, EF Educational Tours, which organizes travel for high school students and their teachers. Percz writes she is excited to get back to the California sun!

**2015** Gabe Ballard J.D. is director of legal and business development at Crowdza, a Silicon Valley-based startup. ¶ Amia Nash was crowned Miss Silicon Valley 2018 after competing in and winning her Miss America Organization debut. At SCU, she majored in public health and minored in biology, sociology, and religious studies. Nash was a Division I track and cross-country athlete, Associated Student Government class senator, and Arrupe intern at the Ignatian Center for Jesuit Education. She went on to earn an M.S. in community health and prevention research from the Stanford University School of Medicine.

**2016** Hannah T. Yang J.D. is an associate attorney with Kilpatrick Townsend & Stockton in their San Francisco office. Yang is on the trademark and copyright team in the Kilpatrick's intellectual property department, focusing on trademark and copyright litigation in both state and federal courts.

**2017** Javi Benitez is starring in the action

film *Kid Alpha One*, directed by Richard Somes. He is also in the cast of the Philippine drama television series *The General's Daughter*. ¶ Hannah Bertrando J.D. has joined the Santa Clara County Office of the District Attorney. Previously, she served as deputy district attorney at the Fresno County District Attorney's Office.

**2018** Ashley Naff J.D. has joined the Santa Clara County Office of the District Attorney. Most recently, she was a certified post-bar law clerk for the Santa Cruz County District Attorney's Office. ¶ Vishnu S. Pendyala Ph.D. has been appointed an Association for Computing Machinery (ACM) Distinguished Speaker. The association, which is the world's largest educational and scientific computing society, hosts the Distinguished Speaker Program to help foster engagement among emerging professionals, students, and in some cases the public, on a range of topics in computing. ¶ Maria Sanchez was drafted by the Chicago Red Stars during the 2019 National Women's Soccer League draft. ¶ Xiaowen (Nancy) Song LL.M. has been promoted to junior partner at Linda Liu and Partners, a prominent IP law firm in China, as the group leader of the US/EP group. ¶ Tessa Stephenson J.D. has joined the Santa Clara County Office of the District Attorney. Her career began in the office as a volunteer law clerk in early 2017. Most recently, she was assigned to the Palo Alto branch office as a post-bar law clerk. ¶ Collin Walther received a Pathway Essay Award for his "Digital Age Pathway" submission.

**ACTION STAR** Look for Javi Benitez '17 in the movie *Kid Alpha One*.

**2019** Adam Petersen MBA writes that he is thrilled to have been a part of the Santa Clara MBA program with so many talented, intelligent, and successful individuals.



# Obituaries

We publish news of the passing of Broncos as we learn of it. Find obituaries published in their entirety at [magazine.scu.edu/classnotes](http://magazine.scu.edu/classnotes). Family members may also submit obituaries and photos there.

**1943** After World War II service, **Joseph Michael J.D. '48** returned to SCU School of Law. In 1969 he founded a development company building low-income family housing and assisted living centers. Joe died March 26 at age 99.

**1944** **William Grannell** attended SCU on an athletic scholarship and earned a Purple Heart in the battle of Iwo Jima. He served as CEO of Fox Supply Company and Morrison Supply. Bill died Dec. 12, 2018, and is survived by his wife of 70 years, Alice, and their children.

**1949** An SCU Regent for 12 years, **Edward Bevilacqua Sr.** was the founding director of First State Bank of Northern California and the Bronco Bench. His accomplishments included conducting a 200-piece symphonic band at age 17. Edward died June 24.

**Herman "Bud" Ravizza** earned a Purple Heart on the European Front. As a real estate industry leader, Bud helped shape Sacramento. Bud died July 1. His wife of 29 years, Freda, and his children and grandchildren survive him.

**1950** **James Bugbee** married Marie Martin in 1949 and moved to Eureka, where they raised their family. He knew the best places to fish and hunt, and had a story for every person and place. He died Aug. 10, 2018.

**Donald Keith** attended SCU on a baseball scholarship. He married Marilyn Boler and earned his DDS from USC. Don loved all sports, winning several amateur golf championships and landing in the San Diego Sports Hall of Champions. He married Sharon Weir in 1976. He died March 23.

SCU valedictorian **Robert Shindler** served as an Air Force navigator and in the Reserves for 23 years. Between the wars he came home to marry his high school sweetheart, Dorothy, in 1948. Their marriage lasted 71 years. Robert's achievements included designing rest areas along Oregon's Interstate 5. He loved his family, including **Stephanie '93**. Robert died June 19.

**Robert Stoffel** and Ann were members of St. Mary's Catholic Church in Fullerton since 1959. Bob was a popular science teacher in the ABC Unified School District for over 40 years. He died May 6 at age 90.

**1951** Born in 1929, **William R. Kenny Jr.** was a college history professor, an insurance agency owner, and a member of St. Alban's Anglican Church in Pennsylvania. Bob died May 26 and is survived by his wife, Nancy, children, and grandchildren.

After military service **Stephen Pista** joined the family apple business, M.V. Pista Fruit Co. He died March 15 at 91.

**Fr. James V. Schall MST '64** joined the Society of Jesus in 1948 and received a Ph.D. in political theory from Georgetown University. A much-beloved professor, he taught at the Gregorian University in Rome, the University of San Francisco, and Georgetown. He died April 18.

**1952** After marrying Rosemarie, **John "Mitch" Lasgoity** expanded his farming and sheep business. He was honored as Madera County Cattleman of the Year in 2006 and Senior Farmer of the Year in 2017. Mitch died June 26 and is survived by his wife and children, including **Michele '80, MBA '83, Monica '82, MBA '87** and **James '86** and grandchildren **Christine Peters '16** and **Eric Peters '18**.

On Oct. 20, 2018, **George D. Siegfried** died in his sleep holding hands with the love of his life for over 70 years, Dolores. Even in his final days he never stopped telling jokes. He leaves behind a grandson, **William Lewis Whiteside '15, M.S. '17**.

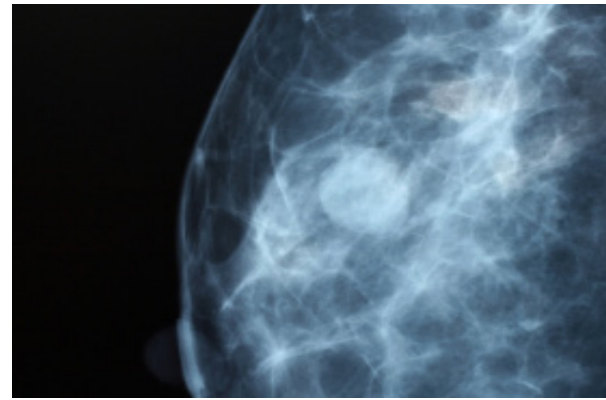
**1953** **Andrew Honzel** married Beverly in 1953, settling in Klamath Falls and raising three children before moving to Portland. Andy was a driving force for Columbia Forest Products—from a single plant in Klamath Falls to the largest producer of hardwood plywood and veneer in North America. He died June 18. His family includes sons **Mark A. Honzel '76** and **Drew A. Honzel '78**, and granddaughter **Dana E. Angelos '10**.

**John "Tom" McNamara** married Patricia in 1952 and was a member of the Atwater California Castle Air Museum Board, Merced Rotary, and the Merced Elks. Most importantly, Tom was a friend. He died on March 19.

**1954** A lawyer in Fillmore for over 60 years, **Joseph P.D. Kern J.D. '60** was a member

of St. Francis of Assisi Parish and an active Rotarian. Joe died Dec. 11, 2018.

**Albert Torres** provided unconditional love to his family, neighbors, friends, and pets. An Army officer, founder of California Land Title Company, and senior VP of Old Republic Title Company, Al died July 1. He leaves his children, including **Catherine '86** and **Mark '77**, and his dog, Bisbee.



**THE ORIGINAL AI** With over 60 patents to his name, **Don Specht '55** co-founded a company dedicated to using neural networks for the detection of cancer in mammograms.

**1955** A devoted husband, father, and renowned scientist and engineer, **Donald F. Specht** was one of the first in the field of artificial neural networks. He died July 7.

**1956** **John Beaulieu MBA '63** loved coaching aspiring entrepreneurs and visiting his sons. He died May 15 surrounded by sons **John Jay '79, Martin '80, Brian '82, Stephen '82**, and Matthew.

**Peter Westfall Berger** and his brother co-founded commercial construction company Berger Bros. He proposed to Eliane just one month after their first date, and they had 9 children. Peter died April 16.

Just like his brothers, **Larry Fry** achieved the rank of Eagle Scout and was an avid golfer. His decision on a career in the Marines that lasted 28 years. Colonel Fry's last assignment was director of communications for the Marine Corps Headquarters. At age 84, he died July 5 in the home he shared with his wife, Michele.

**Stephen McNamara** married Clarice in 1957. They settled in Merced and raised seven children. After his Army service, Stephen opened what became McNamara Sports. Stephen died Feb. 8.

**Bradley Stoutt J.D. '60** served the Southern California public as Riverside County's deputy county counsel, deputy attorney general, and a Superior Court commissioner in Los Angeles County. Brad died May 29.

**1957** The youngest of 9 children, including the late **Daniel '53, Frank Hegarty** co-

founded Western Multiplex Corporation. He died June 7 and is survived by his wife of 59 years, Nancy, and three daughters.

**Carl T. Lang** was a lifelong Sacramento resident, leaving only to attend Cal Poly and SCU. Carl was an electrical engineer. He raised his family in Fair Oaks, and as a longtime parishioner of St. Mel Catholic Church became a Knight of Columbus at age 80. Carl died April 6.

**1958** **William C. Jones** was a professor, foreign service officer, Amnesty USA volunteer, beloved husband, father, and grandfather. He died March 18 at 82.

**1959** A prolific writer, **Clayton Barbeau** won the James D. Phelan Award in Literature for his first novel, *The Ikon*. He married Myra in 1953, and they raised 8 children in San Francisco. As a psychotherapist, Clayton helped thousands of people. He married Maureen in 1989 and died July 26.

**1960** The chemical milling business **Bob Armanasco** founded, Italix, thrives today. He was happiest in the backcountry with his hunting companions, in his vegetable garden, and nurturing wildlife on his Nevada property. He died May 29.

A "recovering lawyer and retired Alaska fish packer," **Alec W. Brindle** practiced law in Seattle for several years before assuming the family business, Wards Cove Packing Co. which he managed until his May 12 death. Alec is survived by his wife, Maddy; his son, Alec Jr., stepchildren, and grandchildren.

Born in West Virginia, **Michael C. DePrie** served in the Army for 22 years, retiring as a decorated lieutenant colonel. He also co-founded DePrie & Adkisson, where he was a CPA for over 25 years. Mike died May 17. Ruth, his wife of 57 years, and his children survive him.

**1961** An SCU valedictorian, **Robert Accinelli** joined the history department at the University of Toronto in 1965, teaching there until his retirement. He traveled extensively, including Iqaluit, Nunavut, as well as in Asia and eastern Europe. He died July 3.

**Joseph B. Bufalini** served in the Navy on the USS *Tarawa* from 1954 to 1957. He also served as a lector, cantor, and Eucharistic minister and was a parishioner of St. Christopher Church for over 40 years. He died July 10.

**1962** As a Bay Area lighting "fixture," during

the Carter administration, **Theodore F. Brayer** was appointed to represent the American Small Business Administration at the White House. His first major endeavor at Brayer Electric was as project manager of the Stanford Linear Accelerator. He served on the SCU Board of Fellows. Ted died April 28. His family includes daughter **Patricia Brayer A. Foster '89**.

**1963** **Henry Hensley** worked for Caltrans, retiring as deputy district director. He also served on the SCU School of Engineering Alumni Board, and in 1999 received the Distinguished Alumni Award from the University. Paul died April 3. He leaves behind his wife of 51 years, Niki, and daughters **Eden '94** and **Heather '95**.

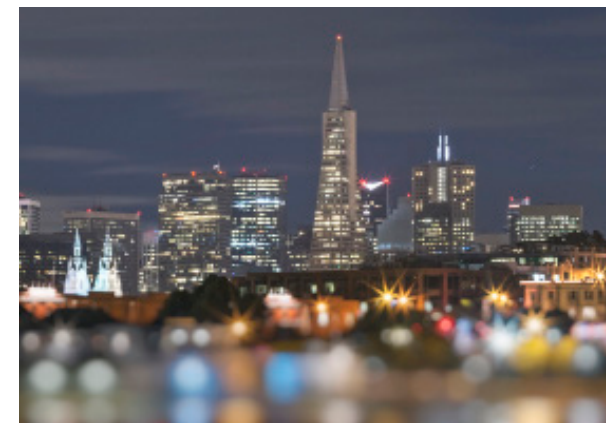
**1964** After moving to Zephyr Cove, **Noel Manoukian J.D.** and his brother started a law firm. He was appointed a Douglas County deputy district attorney in 1965, prosecuting cases at Lake Tahoe, and was named to the Douglas County District bench in 1974 and the Nevada Supreme Court in 1977. He and wife Louise celebrated their 50th anniversary April 8, three days before Noel died.

**1965** **Darrell McLeod M.S.** enjoyed an international teaching career spanning 50 years. After he and wife Sally welcomed their daughters, they moved to Tanzania, where Darrell taught mathematics. Upon their return, Darrell and Sally stayed in San Jose and he taught at Andrew Hill High School. He died in July.

**John O'Keefe MBA '70** served in the Army, reaching the rank of colonel. He worked as the associate director for the Michigan Municipal League for 25 years. John died April 23. He is survived by his son and wife Mary Ellen.

A Marine Corps staff sergeant during the Korean conflict and a graduate of SCU

**ALL OF THE LIGHTS** San Francisco is a well-lit, industrially efficient city thanks to the efforts of family owned Brayer Electric Co. Second-generation owner **Theodore F. Brayer '62** grew the company to even greater heights, having learned from his industrious and iconic father, **George F. Brayer**.



and the University of San Francisco, **Nick Scocca MBA** died July 18 at 88.

**Michael P. Voolich** grew up in a family of salmon fishermen, working on boats between Seattle and Alaska. As a young man he made his way to Washington University in St. Louis, where he met his wife, Erica. His teaching career encompassed woodshop, computer-aided design, and American history. He died May 26 as he lived, snoring with his feet up in front of a Red Sox game.

**1966** **Robert H. Carlstead M.S.** attended the University of Missouri and received a B.S. in business administration in 1952. While at Mizzou, he enrolled in the NROTC and served in the Navy as a first lieutenant. He died April 28.

**John "Jack" Leslie Hillis** served on the board for both Silicon Valley Boys and Girls Clubs and Hearts and Mind Activity Center. He was a financial advisor for over 50 years. He and wife Polly always kissed when their team scored. Jack died May 29.

**Jack Penfield MBA** enjoyed a varied career in publishing, real estate, and finance. In addition to his volunteer work, Jack loved reading, sailing, golf, dinner parties with friends, and the Stamford Symphony. At age 88, he died May 4.

**1967** **Sandra Pelletier** was an avid bridge player who quickly became a life master, playing with the likes of Omar Sharif and Warren Buffett. It was through bridge that she met Maynard; the two eloped to Las Vegas in 2000. She died May 3.

**Timothy Whalley** served as a Naval lieutenant and in the Department of Defense until his retirement. He was an accomplished aviator, instructor, and nuclear engineer as well as a coach, husband, father, grandfather. Tim died April 22.

**1968** **Bernita Lucas MBA** served with the Religious of the Sacred Heart and in the federal civil service. While at the Department of the Interior, she worked extensively with members of the Pine Ridge, Rosebud, and Crow Creek Sioux Reservations and was an adopted member of the Oglala Sioux Tribe. At 91 years old, she died July 24.

**1969** A native of New York, **Francis J. Lynch** spent over 43 years in education, as a teacher, principal, superintendent, county superintendent and adjunct professor. He was the husband of Maureen and father of four. Frank died March 6.

While still a student at SCU, **Adolfo McGovert M.A. '71** accepted a position with the University as associate dean of Student Affairs. In this capacity he began advocating for educational equity on behalf of Latino/a and African American students. He married Cecilia in 1979. Al also worked at Pacific Bell in management before retiring. He died Nov. 4, 2018.



**FINDING HIS PLACE**  
Bishop Robert Christian Jr. '70 spent his junior year abroad at Gonzaga in Florence, where he found himself in a Dominican parish for the first time. The tradition of common prayer and community attracted him, and he was ordained to the priesthood in 1976.

**1970 Bishop Robert Christian Jr.** was ordained to the priesthood in 1976, serving as a teacher to the many who studied with him in Rome. On March 28, 2018, Pope Francis named him Auxiliary Bishop of San Francisco. He died July 11.

Memories of **Jack Grissom** include helping his brother through the window after coming home late from dates. Memories of his college years at SCU and his successful career with the Lockheed Martin Missile and Space Program. Memories of his love of books and dogs as well as his kindness as a brother, uncle, and son. He died Feb. 1.

**Nancy Mazza's** top skill was friendship—she took trips with SCU friends annually, celebrating 50 years of knowing one another. Nance was a supporter of SCU, the National Center for Lesbian Rights, Catholic Charities, and the Democratic party. She died May 1 celebrating her dear wife Susan's 70th birthday.

**Mary McGill** was a lifelong religious educator in the Catholic Church, working in California, Kansas, Louisiana, and Texas. She was well known for her ability to recruit, train, and inspire volunteer teachers. Mary died April 26 with James, her husband, by her side.

**Larry A. Ramsey J.D.** died surrounded by his family Nov. 29, 2018. He is survived by his wife, Minerva, children, and grandchildren.

**1971 Dennis Foley** lived and worked as a computer consultant in Santa Cruz County. He died Jan. 15 and is survived by sisters Martha and Trish and many nieces, nephews, and cousins.

**Frederick Remer J.D.** began his career in criminal defense, becoming an advocate for the downtrodden. Dubbed "Captain Maui" by the locals, Fred escaped to the island often, swapping his suit and briefcase for a good book under a beach tree. A father, grandfather, and friend, he died March 29.

**1974 Marina Neris MBA** was a teacher and basketball coach, printing business owner, office manager, bookstore owner, and IT professional at Yale University. She raised her children in San Jose, where she was a community leader, and loved her Greek heritage and family, of which she was matriarch. Marina died March 13.

**Donald C. Quaintance II J.D.** was born in Hilo, Hawaii. After serving in the Navy, he graduated from Stanford with a B.A. in economics and a J.D. from SCU. He worked as a corporate attorney for Hewlett-Packard. On Sept. 12, 2018, he died in Honolulu.

**1975** Born in Brooklyn in 1940, **Alan L. Tanenbaum J.D.** studied at Columbia, Syracuse, and Santa Clara. After a career as an astrophysicist, he became a family lawyer. He was president of the California Association of Certified Family Law Specialists and of Silicon Valley Jewish Family Services and was also a licensed pilot, and a sometimes look-alike of both Steve Martin and Rich Little. He died Aug. 1, 2018.

**1976 Lawrence Maslyn J.D.** served in the Air Force for 20 years. He was an avid golfer and scored his age when he was 76. He was also a member of St. Thomas Aquinas Catholic Church. On July 28, Larry died comforted by his wife, Carole.

Born in Ukraine, **Jerry Merkelo MBA** worked at Hewlett-Packard and built his own American dream. He loved the U.S. but never lost ties with Ukraine, enjoying a second home in Lviv. A parishioner of St. Michaels Ukrainian Greek Orthodox church in San Francisco, he died July 2 after serving as a devoted husband to Hanna for 21 years.

**1977 Edward Rodriguez J.D.** enjoyed import-export law and business development and man-

agement. Like many other veterans, Edward's overall health was detrimentally affected by Agent Orange, but he never spoke of it. He loved a cold beer, good wine and food, and ordering an array of desserts to share. Eddie died Oct. 29, 2018. He is survived by his wife, Laurretta, and his children.

**1978 Peter Wheadon** was born in Salt Lake City, Utah, and died at the age of 82 on July 17. He was loved and cherished by many people, including his wife, Sydney, and his children, 26 grandchildren, and great-grandchildren.

**1979 Basil P. Fthenakis J.D.** specialized in commercial litigation in Silicon Valley for 20 years before transitioning into technology-related corporate work. He died Sept. 27, 2018.

**1980** A technical illustrator for more than 30 years, **Maureen R. Ingham** was active in the Sterling Institute of Relationship for over 24 years and served as the secretary for BSA Troop 618 in Santa Cruz. Maureen died Jan. 27. She is survived by her husband, Roger, and her son, William.

**Leila C. Tanaka J.D.** was born in Honolulu and retired from the Honolulu Prosecutor's Office. At 64, she died Sept. 16, 2018. She is survived by her brother, Eric, and other family members.

**1981 Donald E. Smith J.D.** '84 practiced business law in Palm Springs for nearly 10 years. Elected to the Banning City Council in 1992, Don was selected as mayor in 1994. He died April 3 at 61.

**1982 Linda Fraley M.A.** worked in palliative care and as a librarian in San Luis Obispo. In neighboring Cambia she owned Spellbinders, a bookstore. She died March 26.

**David McCullough J.D.** continued his family medicine practice as he completed law school at SCU. David and wife Doris had three children. He died March 10.

**Stephen Russell** served as director of the Altar Servers of St. Justin's Parish in Santa Clara for 40 years, receiving the St. Pius X award for service from the Diocese of San Jose. He was an accountant at the diocese and tax preparer. Steve died April 28 and joins parents **Jack J.D. '74** and Bonnie.

**1983 Graham Chloupek MBA** was known for his quiet brilliance, gregarious smile, and

goofy spirit. With a need for speed, he raced his green 1970 911 T Porsche for decades. One of his proudest moments was conquering Machu Picchu with his daughter **Shannon '10**. Graham died May 18 and leaves his bride of almost 38 years, **Patrice '73**.

**David Galiotto** was a kind, generous, and compassionate man who made a positive impact on the world around him. Dave died at home surrounded by his family and pets on April 5.

**1984 Jay Davis** received a full scholarship from SCU and graduated with a degree in linguistics, mastering 20 languages. He worked as an interpreter for the immigration department in San Francisco and attended KPFA radio broadcast school in Berkeley. He was a loving person who would give (literally) the shirt off his back to anyone in need. Jay died April 16.

Sister **Loretta Marie Marbach** entered the Sisters of the Holy Family in 1960. Her earlier ministry experiences as a religious education teacher took her to parishes in California, Hawaii, Nevada, Texas, and Utah. She also served as a special educator in Nevada's West Wendover Elementary School. She died April 9.

**Bryan Murphy** proved that fashion trends come and go but cargo shorts and Ken sandals, often paired with a copy of *The New York Times*, are forever. A foodie specializing in artisanal peanut butter and handcrafted tea, an unhandy handyman, and a person of few but mostly funny words, Bryan pulled the ultimate Irish goodbye and died unexpectedly July 3. He is survived by his children and wife of 32 years, **Deborah '87**.

**1985** Born in Arkansas, **Vicki Metsers MBA** worked at Hewlett-Packard for nearly 40 years. While she and husband **Ron '75** raised three children together in California, Vicki never forgot about her hometown, visiting each Christmas and summer. Vicki died April 5.

**James Reeder** had a long career in health care administration and patient advocacy. In January 2018, he earned his Ph.D. in public policy and administration with an emphasis on public health. He worked at Cook County Hospital as director of medical staff services. Jim joined the Windy City Gay Men's Chorus and Windy City Slickers, where he met his husband Gregory. He died July 29.

Born in 1946, Fr. **Timothy J. Shepard Th.M.** was a Cleveland native, counselor, spiritual director, and librarian. He served in Detroit, Cleveland, and elsewhere and as

a novices director, rector, and alumni coordinator. A Jesuit for 52 years, he died Jan. 25 at 72.

**1991 Lois H. Yoshida J.D.** served as deputy attorney general with California's Department of Justice and Department of Transportation. In 2012, she moved to Washington, D.C., to work for the Federal Aviation Administration. She died Feb. 25.

**1992 Winnie Ying-Yi Kao M.S.** held positions at Google, Visa, and Infoblox. Winnie was fluent in Mandarin, Cantonese, and Shanghainese and enjoyed reading, practicing yoga, and being genuinely engaged in life. A beloved wife, daughter, sister, and auntie, Winnie died May 16.

**1993** After college, **John Reilly MBA** jumped into high-tech sales. He married Kelly in 1995 and their children soon followed. John played the guitar for nearly two decades at the 10:30 a.m. Mass at Our Lady of the Rosary. He loved playing softball with his friends, working in the classroom as a parent aide, and volunteering for field trips. He died July 26.

**David Samuel Snyder** grew up in Boulder and worked in information systems there, where he met Karen Crocker, whom he married in 2004, sharing a son and daughter. He died May 18 at 48 years old.

**1995 Whitney Mark Evans M.A.** worked for the Santa Clara County Valley Transportation Authority for 35 years, retiring in 2015. Riding the rails was the joy of his life, always excitedly anticipating what was around the next bend—sharing stories and photos of his travels with a glass of Burgundy in one hand and a cigar in the other. Mark died March 7.

**1999** A top athlete, **Ann E. Carey MBA** competed as a member of the NCAA varsity diving team at Stanford. After teaching third grade at Nativity Elementary School and working at a high tech startup, Ann became a development and investment real estate manager. Ann died May 19.

**2014 Timothy Wilkens Jr.** studied in Hong Kong and Australia before completing his degrees in finance and economics at SCU. Tim volunteered with the developmentally disabled at Hope Services. He died April 11.

## Faculty, Staff, and Friends

**Mark Aschheim** joined the civil engineering faculty in 2003. During his time at SCU, he served as chair of the department and as the Peter Canisius, S.J., Professor in Civil, Environmental, and Sustainable Engineering. He also played a key early planning role in the Sobrato Campus for Discovery and Innovation. He died June 16.

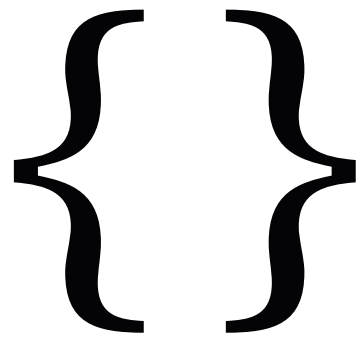
Fr. **Michael J. Buckley** entered the Society of Jesus in 1949. During his academic career, he published prolifically, including his magnum opus, *At the Origins of Modern Atheism*. Fr. Buckley held faculty appointments at JST (where he also served as rector) and at SCU—and as a "Jesuit's Jesuit," was instrumental in reorienting the order toward serving the poor and social justice. He died July 25.

A lifelong lay member of the Immaculate Heart of Mary, **JoAnn Vasquez** earned a Ph.D. from Claremont Graduate University and spent 28 years at SCU—as an associate professor in the counseling psychology and education department, as department dean, and as the first female associate provost. She was in her unfailing generosity, loyalty, keen intellect, and love of life. She died April 26.

**GIVING BACK**  
**Tim Wilkens Jr. '14** co-founded a company to rebuild homes for Santa Rosa and Paradise wildfire victims.



IMAGE COURTESY SF DIOCESE



**The Underground Sound.** In 1948, the first “Kampus Voice of Santa Clara” program hit airwaves thanks to music-loving students and the zeal of a Jesuit. Fifteen years after the invention of FM broadcasting, the vision of **Ferdinand J. Spieler, S.J.** took shape in KSCU-FM’s inaugural broadcast in January 1953—it’s evolved and inspired ever since.



**TURN THE DIAL** Since receiving its license from the Federal Communications Commission, KSCU has broadcast on several frequencies, jumping onto 1953’s airwaves with a carrier of 90.1 before later moving to 89.1. It settled into its 103.3 FM shoes in 1982.

*KSCU was one of the first college radio station to move beyond the education band of the dial—those stations in the lower frequencies.*



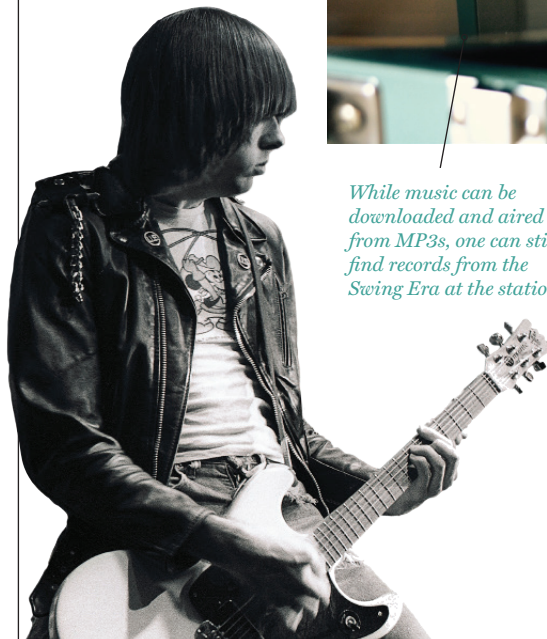
**BRUSHES WITH FAME**

KSCU has seen its fair share of celebrity. While a student and DJ at SCU, storied radio personality Mike “No Name” Nelson interviewed Johnny Ramone before a Ramones concert, during which Ramone took swipes at Nirvana and U2. In 1993, No Doubt came into the studio to speak with DJ Eric Klotz. At that time, Gwen Stefani said she knew of only five people with No Doubt tattoos.



**PRIORITIES CHANGE**

When KSCU played its first notes in 1953, the station aired a range of programs that included classical composers like Beethoven, lectures on topics from ethics to psychology to “Russia Today,” and dramas by Sophocles, Shakespeare, and Eliot. In 1957, **Edward Boland, S.J.** wrote that KSCU prided itself in its opportunity “to reach more people with those intangible things that make man a better man.”



*While music can be downloaded and aired from MP3s, one can still find records from the Swing Era at the station.*

**BELOW GROUND**

By the 1980s, the station had fully adopted its “underground” mission—playing progressive music. The station moved from its studio in Swig Hall to the basement of Benson. CDs and records have been subterraneously accruing for years, and the collections now stack up to a neck-cranning height.



**ON AIR** Both students and visitors have been hosting programs for decades. For a time across the 1980s and '90s, local Ken Leonard hosted “A Step Ahead,” interviewing leaders in business, industry, government, and social services to give students a first-account scoop on the “real world.” “I like the people I know from Santa Clara,” Leonard says.

WORDS BY ERIKA RASMUSSEN, IMAGES COURTESY ISTOCK

# SPACE TO BREATHE

SOMETIMES STUDENTS JUST need a little room to grow. For **Skylar Adams '20** scholarships give her the opportunity to grow, and succeed. “The financial support I’ve received showed me that Santa Clara University cared about my well-being, success, and education before I even stepped onto campus. Because of my scholarships, for the first time in 18 years I was able to breathe,” she says. “My faith grew stronger. I’m financially independent. My mom is now able to support herself and pay rent for the first time in eight years.” Scholarships enabled Adams to study abroad, and become the first in her family since immigrating to visit their Demark home. “I’ve grown into myself and realized that my reach toward others is far more expansive than I ever thought it could be.” Donors to the Campaign for Santa Clara: Innovating with a Mission can support scholarships that help students like Adams reach their dreams. Join them. [campaign.scu.edu](http://campaign.scu.edu)

