

Spring 2011

Pepperdine Magazine - Vol. 3, Iss. 1 (Spring 2011)

Office of Public Affairs, Pepperdine University

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PEPPERDINE magazine

Volume 3 Issue 1 Spring 2011

A THINLY VEILED PROBLEM

A girl's obsession with her weight begins earlier than you might imagine.

MIRACLE IN THE DESERT

Jay and Katherine Wolf rise above impossible odds.

THE ART OF HEALING

How a picture can be worth a thousand thoughts.



TOM SHADYAC

The acclaimed filmmaker and communication professor gave up his wealth and found that less really is more.

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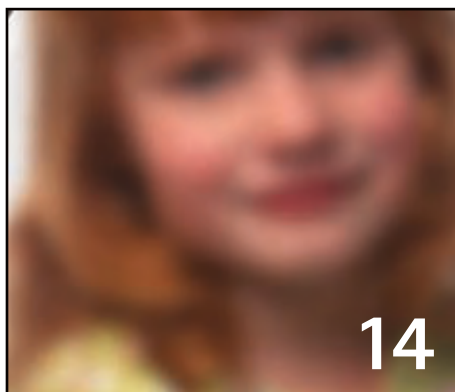
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FEATURES



14

A THINLY VEILED PROBLEM A girl's obsession with her weight begins earlier than you might imagine.



18

MIRACLE IN THE DESERT Jay and Katherine Wolf rise above impossible odds.



22

TOM SHADYAC
The filmmaker gave up his wealth and found that less really is more.



26

THE ART OF HEALING
How a picture can be worth a thousand thoughts.

COMMUNITY

BELIEVERS



- 32** South of Hope
- 34** International Religious Freedom

SCHOLARS



- 36** At Land's End
- 38** The Changing Guard

ATHLETES



- 40** Born to Play
- 42** The International Player

ARTISTS



- 44** *Little Women, Big Voices*
- 46** Behind the Curtain

DEPARTMENTS

2 LETTERS

4 PERSPECTIVES

Building Community for the Future
by *Andrew K. Benton*

6 NEWS

12 SNAPSHOT

30 ALUMNI

48 IN FOCUS

The Reagan Century
by *Douglas W. Kmiec*

PEPPERDINE magazine

Published by

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Pepperdine Magazine is produced with guidance from an advisory board representing a cross-section of the University community.

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Abbreviations—GPC: George Pepperdine College; SC: Seaver College; SOL: School of Law; SPP: School of Public Policy; GSBM: Graziadio School of Business and Management; GSEP: Graduate School of Education and Psychology.

Pepperdine is affiliated with Churches of Christ, of which the University's founder, George Pepperdine, was a lifelong member.

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LETTER FROM THE EDITOR

As production began on this issue of *Pepperdine Magazine*, we learned that the Council for the Advancement & Support of Education had honored our publication with an award in the category "General Interest Magazine—75k+ circulation" in our district. We are grateful for the distinction and proud of what it signifies. We think it means we're doing something right, and hope you feel the same way.

On the heels of this recognition, we're especially excited to share the stories featured in this issue of *Pepperdine Magazine* and introduce you to some special people in the Pepperdine community: communication professor Tom Shadyac, an important Hollywood player who made a pretty uncommon decision; law alumnus Jay Wolf and his wife Katherine, who fill each day with love and faith that inspires us all; and Seaver College psychologist Jennifer Harriger, whose research grapples with crucial issues of self-identity in young girls.

You'll also meet Judge Tacha, new dean of the Pepperdine School of Law; GSEP students and alumni engaged in the healing work of art therapy; Graziadio students strengthening their skills in environmentally sustainable business practice; outstanding Waves athletes; and rising stars on stage (as well as their mentors behind the curtains).

Inside this issue is just a glimpse of the vibrant life of Pepperdine University. Thank you for letting us share it with you.

—Megan Huard

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MEET CARMEN LANDRUM ('38)

I loved reading this delightful story! I enjoyed this glimpse of Pepperdine's earliest history. Thanks Carmen!

—Alyssa Rosenbaum ('05)



FOUR DECADES OF DISCERNMENT

Wayne was my teacher and friend in PKE —1980. Now 30 years later I still hear him say, “remember to keep breathing.” It’s funny, looking back at many years of education, I only remember a couple of teachers. Wayne is one of them.

—James Thomsen
(MBA '80, PKE 48)

What a great article about Wayne Strom and his many contributions to Pepperdine and his students! Wayne was our mentor, instructor, and friend in the Organizational Behavioral section of our program. I can second and endorse the comments made by Lynn Powers (MBA '91, PKE 83) for the article. To this day, I use lessons learned from Wayne in my daily activities. Pepperdine and all his students are the fortunate ones to have benefited from Wayne's teachings and guidance.

—Jay Corley (MBA '78, PKE 32)

Had just sat down to take in *Pepperdine Magazine* and saw the article on Wayne Strom. I immediately laid on the

floor, facing up, legs uncrossed, arms at my side, palms up, and started to BRRRRREATHHHHHHE. The whole time I'm remembering Wayne Strom and realizing just how important these sessions have been in my life for the past 22 years. Wayne is and will always be in the front row of very important people in my life.

Dr. Strom, you forever changed my life in so many facets! So much so, I took your class twice. Yes, twice. I was very delighted to see you in *Pepperdine Magazine*.

—Bryan Radosavcev (MBA '09)

Dear Wayne, it was truly a delight to see you recognized for a career full of accomplishments. It brought back many fond memories of being “Strom-itized.” I can only say an inadequate “thanks” for all the teaching and true wisdom you have shared so freely, through Pepperdine and personally.

—Tom “TC” Cook (MBA '01)

TAKING A BYTE

I'm interested to see what effect this will have on the human eye. Staring at television, e-books, and a computer screen for extended periods of time will, undoubtedly, take its toll on a person's vision. We may be trading convenience for cataracts.

—Dietric Williams



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BUILDING COMMUNITY

for the Future

By Andrew K. Benton
President, Pepperdine University

Opportunities to experience community have been a constant in my years at Pepperdine. For instance, Debby and I have been changed by our time teaching, living, and learning with Pepperdine students, both here and when studying abroad. Even now, if I could be transported to any place in the world, I would choose Piazza della Repubblica, located about two miles from Pepperdine's Villa di Loreto and Residenza Tagliaferri in Florence, Italy. You would find me sipping a cappuccino, discussing life with one of our students, while watching the people of Firenze go about their daily lives.

Tranquil as that may sound, it is actually the vitality of the scene that moves me the most. Parents strolling with their children, merchants engaged in commerce, parishioners headed to church, and a constant thrum of human beings interacting with one another, all while creating a sense of community. When we developed the Mullin Town Square in the center of the Malibu campus, we did so with a keen awareness of the human yearning for life *in community* with others.

Sadly, the American "town square" is vanishing in the rush for brighter, bigger, and more expedient. Something is lost, I think, in this digital age; we need to redouble our civic engagement, to celebrate personally the members of our community, and to, as Tocqueville once said, "imbibe their spirit." Though ubiquitous electronic devices may help keep us connected, there is something about having a shared face-to-face conversation that no handheld device can match.

A strong sense of community facilitates deep learning, and our faculty is the very core of the learning enterprise. As much as I love students, Pepperdine

would have no reason to exist without our faculty and their passion for the life of the mind and the sharing of knowledge. The transformative nature of what happens in our classrooms is nothing short of magical.

Outside the classroom we urge students to ennoble their academic and career attainments with lives of "purpose, service, and leadership." Nothing less. We do so, drawing them close and demonstrating the value of life lived in community with others. We want them to observe that one bold voice

We want to give our students voices for change and societal good. We want the lessons of mind and heart to be absorbed deeply, and to impact indelibly.

can be powerful, but when joined with other voices the world will hear and be changed. We want to give our students voices for change and societal good. We want the lessons of mind and heart to be absorbed deeply, and to impact indelibly.

I have written before about the importance of successful athletics and the contribution those programs have in campus life, alumni engagement, and national reputation. In support of that aspiration, we envision a new athletic and events center as part of the Campaign for Pepperdine, a significant effort we will announce very soon. The facility will be impressive, I am sure, but the impact on our athletic teams and the overall experience of our students will be more impressive still; indeed, I expect

this new facility, with its presence adjacent to the heart of residential life, will become a significant gathering place for the campus community.

We also hope to fund and construct a new residence hall for undergraduate students in their junior year. You may ask, "Why focus on juniors?" Think about it: the first year is always exciting; our second-year students will either study abroad or they will engage in our new Sophomore Experience; and then they return to campus as juniors, with little class identity and the prospect of

graduation just one year away. It is a hard landing! We can do better for our juniors. Moreover, bringing their class together in community as they prepare for their final year will help them identify with one another, establish friendships for life, and enable them to finish strong. We want them to finish strong, with deep affection for *alma mater*.

As with my nostalgic reference to Florence, the "vitality of the scene" within our community is rich and robust. There are so many destinations and opportunities. But one thing is for sure: We want the best for those who are embraced within the Pepperdine family. Nothing less. That is how it should be in any vibrant, caring community. ■

DISTINGUISHED U.S. COURT OF APPEALS CIRCUIT JUDGE NAMED SCHOOL OF LAW DEAN

Deanell Reece Tacha, a Scandia, Kansas, native with a distinguished career in the federal judiciary and higher education, has been named dean of the Pepperdine University School of Law. She will begin her duties on June 1.

“Devoting more than a quarter century of work to both the public and private sectors, including 25 years of service with the U.S. Court of Appeals for the 10th Circuit, Judge Tacha has had an exemplary career in advancing the rule of law, as well as helping to improve society as a whole through her legal efforts and community service,” says President Benton. “As a former professor and associate dean at the University of Kansas School of Law, Judge Tacha also possesses a keen mind for legal education and practice, coupled with solid academic experience that will enable her to lead our law school’s continued pursuit of excellence.”

Judge Tacha has been a judge on the 10th Circuit since 1986. She served as chief judge from January 2001 through 2007. Tacha earned her bachelor of arts degree from the University of Kansas in 1968 and her juris doctor from the University of Michigan in Ann Arbor in 1971, and was a White House Fellow (1971-1972).



➔ **ON THE WEB** Read her full biography: magazine.pepperdine.edu/tacha

TWO PEPPERDINE REGENTS NAMED CAMPAIGN COCHAIRS



Two University Regents will lead 110 alumni and community leaders as the Campaign for Pepperdine goes public on May 14.

George Pepperdine College alumna Marylyn M. Warren ('58) and former ambassador to Jamaica Glen A. Holden have been named the campaign’s cochaIRS, representing volunteer ambassadors in support of the largest campaign in Pepperdine’s 75-year history.

Warren, retired senior vice president of eHarmony.com and former vice president for financial development at the Huntington Library, has also worked in public relations and special events for the Los Angeles Music Center. Her husband and Pepperdine College sweetheart Neil Clark Warren ('56) founded eHarmony.com, one of the country’s most popular relationship websites.

Holden, founder and CEO of The Holden Group, an insurance holding corporation, is active with the Los Angeles World Affairs Council, the Music Center of Los Angeles, and the Council of American Ambassadors. He and his wife Gloria are the generous benefactors to Pepperdine student scholarships and namesakes of the University’s educational center in Argentina.

PEPPERDINE AWARDED W. M. KECK FOUNDATION GRANT TO LAUNCH “STUDENT AS SCHOLAR PROGRAM”

Seaver College has been awarded a four-year grant by the W. M. Keck Foundation for the enrichment of undergraduate scholarship. The grant will facilitate an institutionalized curriculum proposed by a team of Pepperdine faculty and administrators called “Developing the Undergraduate Student as Scholar: An Institutional Approach to Early Student Engagement,” also known as the Student as Scholar Program (SASP).

Beginning in Fall 2011, the grant will provide dynamic opportunities for undergraduate students to participate and engage in interdisciplinary research that will be overseen by a distinguished team of faculty. The program will engage 760 students over four years in original research and scholarship beginning in their first term at Pepperdine. “We think undergraduate students are capable and, in fact, do not have to wait until they are juniors or seniors to engage in advanced research,” explains Lee Kats, project director and associate provost for research.

Pepperdine has a long history of undergraduate research and scholarship, focusing on interdisciplinary and curriculum-based research opportunities. Still, “it could mean a culture shift for Pepperdine,” explains Kats of the program’s impact and long-term effect on the University. “Our traditional courses are important for our curriculum, but this program will initiate the next level of getting our students involved in scholarship and research and development of original ideas.”

➔ ON THE WEB

Read the full story:
magazine.pepperdine.edu/keck-grant



DEAN EMERITUS **RON PHILLIPS** CELEBRATES 40 YEARS AT PEPPERDINE

The School of Law celebrated Ron Phillips’ 40 years at Pepperdine at the 34th Annual School of Law Dinner on March 5 in Beverly Hills, California. The event featured tributes to Phillips from alumni, faculty, and friends of the school. “I am deeply blessed,” said Phillips, vice chancellor and School of Law Dean Emeritus. “Few people have been able to spend such a significant portion of their lives in such a rewarding endeavor.”

Phillips is often referred to as the “architect and administrator of the Pepperdine University School of Law.” He served as dean for 27 years before becoming Dean Emeritus in 1997. A member of the state bars of California and Texas, the American Bar Association, the American Law Institute, the Los Angeles Bar Association, and the Christian Legal Society, Phillips was a California commissioner of the National Conference of Commissioners on Uniform State Laws from 1988 to 2003. A Life Fellow of the American Bar Foundation, he was the chair of the section on the Administration of Law Schools in 1982, and was on the Committee on Courts from 1985 to 1987. He is admitted to practice before the U.S. Supreme Court and U.S. Court of Military Appeals.

➔ ON THE WEB law.pepperdine.edu



Roy Lichtenstein: In Process

PEPPERDINE HOSTS TWO CULTURALLY INTROSPECTIVE ART EXHIBITS

Two diverse art exhibits opened on Pepperdine’s Malibu campus this spring, inviting viewers to explore both the method and meaning of cultural preservation.

Presented by the Frederick R. Weisman Museum of Art, “Roy Lichtenstein: In Process” was on display from January 22 to April 3 and provided rare insight into the artist’s creative process. Lichtenstein’s bold, graphic imagery focuses on the fascinating connections between mass culture, fine art, and everyday life. This exhibit—his first survey of original art shown in Los Angeles since 2002—featured 60 works created between 1973 and 1997 that show the development of his ideas into initial sketches and finished drawings through collages to the finished work.

“To have had an artist of such international stature at the Weisman Museum was a great honor and a testament to the ongoing quality of our art programs,” says museum director Michael Zakian. “People, including myself, who thought they knew this famous modern master came away with a new appreciation for his work and vision.”

Pepperdine Libraries and the Diane and Guilford Glazer Institute for Jewish Studies presented a photography exhibit in Payson Library from February 1 to April 25 titled “Traces of Memory: A Contemporary Look at the Jewish Past in Poland,” which aimed to preserve the history of Poland’s Jewish community and promote modern-day reconciliation between Jewish and Catholic faiths in Poland.

The exhibit, which pieced together the relics of Jewish life and culture in Polish Galicia that still exist, featured photographs by late British photojournalist Chris Schwarz, as well as research and texts by Jonathan Webber, professor at the Institute of European Studies at the Jagiellonian University, Kraków, Poland.



Traces of Memory

➔ ON THE WEB arts.pepperdine.edu/museum and library.pepperdine.edu

DAVENPORT INSTITUTE EXPLORES GEOGRAPHY, IDENTITY, AND CIVIC ENGAGEMENT AT TWO-DAY CONFERENCE



The Davenport Institute for Public Engagement and Civic Leadership at the School of Public Policy presented a conference this spring to examine one's sense of "place" as a necessary condition for the construction of character, citizenship, and membership in society.

The conference, titled "A Place in the World: Geography, Identity, and Civic Engagement in Modern America," featured a wide range of speakers, including theorists and practitioners, city managers and geographers, planners

and historians, and activists and policy makers. They engaged the audience in two days of sustained reflection on the meaning and making of "place" and about how particular places can best encourage personal and civic flourishing.

"The sense of belonging to a 'place' is very important for people to be able to engage well with those around them," explains program codirector Ted McAllister, Edward L. Gaylord Chair and associate professor of public policy. "It allows them to find out who they are and understand

the sources of their identity and therefore what purposes they have in life."

In addition to examining individual concepts of "place" and society, conference sessions explored the nature of local communities in the context of the atomizing forces of globalization and the role of urban planning in fostering these relationships. Other discussions emphasized the importance of rootedness in good citizenship and being capable of participating in the political and policy process.

→ ON THE WEB publicpolicy.pepperdine.edu/davenport-institute

PEPPERDINE REMEMBERS BELOVED FRIENDS OF THE UNIVERSITY

Pepperdine mourns the recent loss of beloved members of the University community: VIRGINIA B. (GINIE) BRAUN, FRAU MARY DREHSEL, and ELINOR NOOTBAAR.



Braun, a longtime friend and benefactor of the University, had served as a member of the Pepperdine Board of Regents since 1995. She and her husband Henry A. Braun contributed generously to Pepperdine over the years. "Ginie radiated life," said President Benton. "She inspired us with her optimism, her faith in God, and her faith in the enduring grace of the human spirit. She will long be remembered by Pepperdine as a shining role model as we endeavor to live up to her ideals and values. She will be missed greatly."



Drehsel was a professor of German and academic coordinator of the Pepperdine University Heidelberg International Program. "Mary touched the hearts of all the students and colleagues who knew her and loved

her," said Charles Hall, dean of international programs. "She was a Christian role model to us all, a loving mother to her children, and an inspiring teacher. The Heidelberg International Program was graced with Mary Drehsel's presence for almost 30 years and will never be the same without her."



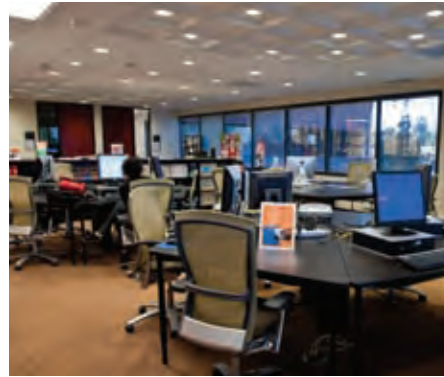
Elinor Nootbaar and her husband Herbert began their relationship with Pepperdine in the 1950s, and went on to endow the Herbert and Elinor Nootbaar Institute on Law, Religion, and Ethics. "Among the many ways Elinor Nootbaar supported the work of the Nootbaar Institute, one of her most important contributions was that of encouragement," said Bob Cochran, director of the Nootbaar Institute. "On many occasions, a conversation with Elinor left me, the Nootbaar Fellows, and others associated with the institute excited to continue the work of bringing the insights and compassion of Christ to the causes of justice and care for those Jesus called 'the least of these.' She will be dearly missed."

→ ON THE WEB magazine.pepperdine.edu/beloved-friends



RENOVATED GRADUATE CAMPUS REOPENS IN ENCINO

Pepperdine's Encino Graduate Campus, which serves students and faculty of the Graziadio School of Business and Management and the Graduate School of Education and Psychology, reopened this spring after a three-month-long renovation project. In addition to the expanded student lounges and meeting areas, classrooms and common areas were outfitted with the latest in audio and visual technology, new faculty and staff spaces were constructed, and the campus library was refurbished to accommodate a computer lab.



➔ **ON THE WEB** View photos and read more about these recent enhancements: magazine.pepperdine.edu/encino-campus

PEPPERDINE RELEASES 2011 ECONOMIC FORECAST OF PRIVATE CAPITAL MARKETS

The Pepperdine Private Capital Markets Project at the Graziadio School of Business and Management released its first economic forecast in January. Led by John Paglia, senior researcher for the project and associate professor of finance, the project team asked 1,224 privately-held businesses, capital suppliers, intermediaries, and service providers to weigh-in on an economic forecast of the next 12 months.

The findings show that their perspective strongly contrasts with their public market counterparts on important growth measures. There remains cause for caution in 2011, but also opportunities that inspire optimism. Topics of exploration included: how businesses of varying sizes differ in their preference on dollar strength; how increasing the federal debt ceiling might impact the economy; predictions for GDP growth; distribution of the economic stimulus measures between publicly traded and privately-held companies; and which countries are viewed as improved locations for expansion or investment.

Paglia has been conducting ongoing research to dig deeper into how current economic issues are specifically affecting private companies. The Pepperdine Private Capital Markets Project is a critical step in this process. Through two survey cycles and published summary reports per year, it will help lenders, investors, and businesses make optimal investment and financing decisions, and better determine where the opportunities to create lasting economic value may be realized.

➔ **ON THE WEB** Learn more about the Pepperdine Private Capital Markets Project: bschool.pepperdine.edu/applied-research



photo: Martin A. Folb

WILSON NAMED HEAD COACH UPON ASBURY'S RETIREMENT

Men's basketball coach Tom Asbury is retiring and associate head coach Marty Wilson ('89) has been named the Waves' new head coach.

Asbury, who had previously overseen some of the Waves' most successful teams as head coach for six seasons from 1989 to 1994, was asked to return to Pepperdine in February 2008 when the program was at a very low point. "We needed a coach with great character, great integrity, and a commitment to academics. We needed a coach who understood what it takes to be successful at Pepperdine," says Steve Potts, who was recently named Pepperdine's new director of athletics. "Who better than one of the most successful men's basketball coaches in Pepperdine history; who better than Tom Asbury?"

Though the Waves were limited to a total of 28 wins in the past three years, Asbury has brought a renewed sense of optimism to the program. Student-athletes were brought in who could succeed at Pepperdine, and the team's overall GPA has soared. The Waves improved to 12 victories this past season, the most the program has seen since 2004-2005. Bringing long-term stability to the program was also a key factor in Asbury's return. Soon after Asbury's rehiring, Wilson joined the staff with the intention that he would one day be Asbury's successor. Three years later, that time has come.

"I'm proud that we get to announce Marty Wilson as the head coach of Pepperdine University men's basketball," says President Benton. "Marty is not just a great coach, not just a former student who did well and competed well as an athlete. He is a good father, a good role model, a good example, and is going to be a great example for the young men that come under his instruction and tutelage."

→ ON THE WEB Learn more about Asbury, Wilson, and the men's basketball team: www.pepperdinesports.com

PARENTS OF URBAN ELEMENTARY STUDENTS VISIT PEPPERDINE TO PARTICIPATE IN COLLEGE-READINESS PROGRAM

Seventy parents visited Pepperdine University in March in an effort to plan for their children's educational future. The seminar and Malibu campus tour is the first in a series of workshops called "College Access 101: Building Bridges from Elementary School to College," designed to help first-generation and low-income students and their families navigate the K-12 educational pipeline toward higher education.

The free events and partnership are coordinated by Anthony Collatos, associate professor of education at the Graduate School of Education and Psychology, and Holmes Avenue Elementary School in the Los Angeles Unified School District, with the support of Los Angeles city councilwoman Jan Perry and Comerica Bank, which also sponsored GSEP's successful Children's Outreach: Advancing Social Transformation and Learning (COASTAL) 5k/10k walk/run in January.

"First-generation students, English-Language Learners (ELL), and immigrants are faced with numerous barriers that make it difficult to understand or reach the college admission process," says Collatos. "Concerned by the low rates of urban students' college eligibility and admission, GSEP created this series of workshops to ensure that all students and their families have the knowledge and guidance necessary to successfully gain admission to a four-year university."

"It is great to see our parents experiencing firsthand how the dream of a university education can become reality," affirms Holmes principal Antonio Amparan. "It takes a village to raise a child—and with the help of our community partners, we are committed to raising our children."

→ ON THE WEB gsep.pepperdine.edu

All Nature Sings!

HUNDREDS OF TALENTED PEPPERDINE STUDENTS CAME TOGETHER THIS SPRING TO PRODUCE THE 39TH ANNUAL SONGFEST, ONE OF THE UNIVERSITY'S MOST BELOVED TRADITIONS SINCE ITS 1973 DEBUT. THE COMPETITIVE MUSICAL VARIETY SHOW TOOK TO THE STAGE MARCH 15-19 AND FEATURED A LIVE ORCHESTRA, SONG AND DANCE, CREATIVE SETS, COSTUMES, AND A COMPLETELY ORIGINAL SCRIPT. THIS YEAR'S THEME, "ALL NATURE SINGS," CELEBRATED THE GRAND AND MICROSCOPIC MARVELS OF THE EARTH AND THRILLED SOLD-OUT AUDIENCES DURING ITS SIX-PERFORMANCE RUN.



→ ON THE WEB Read more about this year's Songfest: magazine.pepperdine.edu/songfest





A THINLY VEILED PROBLEM

SEAVER COLLEGE PSYCHOLOGY PROFESSOR JENNIFER HARRIGER FINDS THAT A GIRL'S OBSESSION WITH HER WEIGHT BEGINS EARLIER THAN YOU MIGHT IMAGINE.

BY SARAH FISHER

Think about the last time you listened to the radio—chances are you heard a commercial jingle for weight-loss surgery. And try to recall the last time you went to a clothes store—the mannequins modeling the clothes were almost certainly idealized representations of real people, the women skimmed down, the men buffed up. Now try to recall the last time you looked in the mirror. Did you perhaps insult your own body with a disparaging comment about an expanding gut or loss of muscle tone?

It's nearly impossible to escape the barrage of images and scenarios perpetuating the ideal body type, but little research has been done to examine how the accumulation of these minor, everyday instances impacts very young children and their perception of weight-related issues. What Jennifer Harriger, assistant professor of psychology at Seaver College, discovered in her recent study of preschool girls is that those as young as age 3 are not only aware of the "thin ideal," but they also believe in and perpetuate negative stereotypes about people who do not fall into the ideal spectrum of body size.

"I was shocked that children so young seemed to have such strong beliefs about overweight individuals," says Harriger, who published the study in the psychological journal *Sex Roles*, along with three fellow researchers.

In one of the study's exercises, a researcher played a popular board game, such as Chutes and Ladders or Candyland, with one of the 55 preschool girls in the study. The

researcher let them choose one of three character pieces to move around the board: a thin character, an average figure, or an overweight one. "Their comments really surprised me," Harriger recalls. "A lot of the 3-year-olds said to me, 'I hate her; she's fat.' Or, 'her stomach is big; I don't want to be her.' That was really concerning to me, that children so young already had such strong beliefs about what it means to be overweight."

A MOTHER LOOKING IN
THE MIRROR AND SAYING
'I LOOK SO DISGUSTING
TODAY, I NEED TO LOSE
WEIGHT'. . . WELL, THE
CHILD IS PICKING UP ON
THAT. PARENTS OFTEN
THINK THEIR CHILD IS TOO
YOUNG TO PICK UP ON
THAT, BUT THEY'RE NOT.

JENNIFER HARRIGER

Harriger's concern about the impact of the thin ideal in our society is backed up by well-known examples of extreme behavior, such as models Isabelle Caro and Ana Carolina Reston, who both recently passed away due to complications from anorexia nervosa. The media or fashion industries occasionally attempt to ease concerns about the standardized "ideal" figure of sizes 0-2—such as designer Mark Fast's inclusion of "plus size"

models at last year's London Fashion Week—yet women on the runways get skinnier every year and actresses get smaller as their fame expands.

"Adults and adolescents have more of an understanding of the media and other factors that contribute to the thin ideal whereas children don't really understand," Harriger explains. "Research shows that those who have internalized the thin ideal are at higher risk for body dissatisfaction, eating disorders, or even depression. So my concern is that today's children might now be at an even higher risk than adults."



The idea to study very young girls actually came from interacting with adolescents and women battling eating disorders. Harriger had completed her bachelor's degree in biology from West Chester University and her master's degree in clinical and health psychology from Drexel University, and was working at an inpatient facility in Pennsylvania for women in the throes of anorexia, bulimia, or compulsive overeating disorders. People develop eating disorders for a variety of complex reasons, but Harriger was struck by a common revelation.

"One thing that came up over and over again with the clients I treated was that as long as they could remember, they hated their bodies," she comments. "And some of them talked about having this feeling at a really young age. So I became interested in why this might develop at such a young age and what are things we could do for kids this young?"

When she dug a little deeper, Harriger found there was very little research about preschool-age children, who are old enough to register body stereotypes but too young to adequately express themselves in a self-aware manner.



“

IT'S MUCH EASIER TO START WITH VERY YOUNG CHILDREN AND TEACH THEM WAYS OF THINKING THAN IT IS TO TRY TO REVERSE WHAT HAS BEEN LEARNED ALREADY WHEN THEY GET OLDER. I KNOW IT'S A CLICHÉ—BUT WHAT'S ON THE INSIDE IS MORE IMPORTANT THAN WHAT'S ON THE OUTSIDE, AND OUR SOCIETY HAS LOST SIGHT OF THAT.

JENNIFER HARRIGER

Deciding to take matters into her own hands, she pursued a PhD in developmental psychology from the University of New Mexico and after receiving her diploma, she set about creating this study of preschool girls.

She collected a random sample of 55 girls ages 3 to 5 from Albuquerque, some of whom had been socialized at preschool while others remained at home with parents and siblings. The

board game set-up was designed to assess the emotional investment the girls had with whichever character pieces they selected to play the game. An overwhelming majority of the girls in the study chose the thin playing piece over the average or large pieces. When asked if they would trade their piece with the researcher, over half the girls (52.6 percent) who had chosen thin characters were

unwilling to trade their game piece for an average or fat-bodied piece.

Harriger and her study coauthors also highlighted in their findings: “It is noteworthy that we could not perform the reverse analysis to test the willingness of preschool girls to switch the fat-body game piece for the thin-body game piece, as so few girls initially selected the fat-body game piece as their



In the second experiment of the study, Harriger and her colleagues presented the girls with a sheet of paper displaying three female figures of different body sizes: very thin, average, and very fat. The children were then asked to point to the figure they thought best matched one of 12 descriptors, including positive traits such as nice, smart, and neat, and negative traits such as mean, stupid, and sloppy. The findings were as discouraging as Harriger expected.

“Previous research has found that children as young as 3 endorse the same stereotypes that adults endorse, and will say things like, ‘overweight people are mean or have fewer friends’ compared to average or thin people,” Harriger explains. The results showed that, overwhelmingly, thin figures were appraised with positive attributes, and that even average figures accumulated more negative adjectives than the thin image.

Harriger says that most of the children were themselves average size and that at 3 years old were not necessarily making the sizable leap from identifying and objectifying the body shapes of others to actually critiquing their own. “I think there are a lot of concerns for girls who don’t conform to the ideal body type,” Harriger adds. “They might be at high risk for appearance-related teasing from other children, children who have internalized the thin ideal.”

A plethora of psychological studies point to the fact that children who endure criticism, teasing, and especially bullying, are also more likely to develop body dissatisfaction and eating disorders as they reach adolescence and adulthood. Harriger hopes that her study, which was picked up and distributed by Fox News and other media outlets last fall, might help raise awareness

character to play the game with.”

“This got at the idea of whether it was something that was actually important to the child,” Harriger notes, deducing that girls who had not internalized the thin ideal might be more willing to “become” a larger character for the board game. Instead, a surprising number of the girls refused to even touch the fat pieces.

among adults that their words and behaviors can impact young children. She highlights the all-too-common problem of women loudly and publicly espousing aggressively negative comments about their own figures.

“A mother looking in the mirror and saying ‘I look so disgusting today, I need to lose weight’ . . . well, the child is picking up on that,” affirms Harriger. “Parents often think their child is too young to pick up on that, but they’re not.”



Although approximately 1 million U.S. males are afflicted, females are 10 times more likely to suffer from eating disorders, says the National Eating Disorders Association. Harriger is now collecting data to replicate the study with boys in an effort to learn how preschool children of both genders are affected by the thin ideal. “The research uses figures of other boys to see if they are as aware of body stereotypes as girls, asks if they have internalized these stereotypes, and if so, does it occur in the same way as with girls?”

Another future project Harriger is considering involves developing programs or a curriculum with parents and schools to help train children to recognize that they are not merely the sum of their parts. She hopes that by reaching children with that message while they are still young, it may help to balance out society’s predominant “thin ideal.”

“It’s much easier to start with very young children and teach them ways of thinking than it is to try to reverse what has been learned already when they get older,” Harriger says. “I know it’s a cliché—but what’s on the inside is more important than what’s on the outside, and our society has lost sight of that.” ■

Miracle

“ON APRIL 21, 2008, I HAD A MASSIVE BRAIN-STEM STROKE. I was not expected to live or recover,” begins Katherine Wolf.

At that time, she and her husband Jay Wolf (JD '08) were living on campus at Pepperdine, where they were young parents to 6-month-old baby James. Jay was a third-year law student, and Katherine was a model and actress with full representation and a promising career.

Just three weeks before Jay was set to graduate, Katherine suffered a rupture in her brain of a tangled mass of abnormally formed blood vessels known as an arteriovenous malformation (AVM). The resulting 16-hour surgery started a new chapter in their lives, one focused on her survival.

Jay and Katherine Wolf rise above impossible odds.

By Emily DiFrisco



IN THE DESERT





Jay and Katherine met in college. She was a theatre student from Georgia, and he a high-achiever from Washington, D.C., and Alabama. They fell in love, married, and moved across the country to Los Angeles to chase their dreams. While he studied, she worked as a model in print campaigns for Disney, Harry Winston Jewelry, and Target.

In the days leading up to her injury, Katherine had a headache and felt a little off. That fateful morning, she ran errands around town in Malibu, mailed a stack of letters, and returned home to put James down for a nap. At noon, Jay came home to their on-campus apartment to gather a few things for a class presentation. "Quite honestly, if I had been prepared for class, I wouldn't have come home," remembers Jay.

Katherine called to him in the next room as she staggered to her knees, arms and legs numb. Jay ran in, trying to help, but she was already vomiting and couldn't hear a word he said. Katherine's AVM had ruptured, and the pressure began pushing her brain down into her spinal cord.

The ambulance came, and Katherine was taken out on a stretcher. She lost consciousness in the ambulance and has no memory of the subsequent month-and-a-half of her life. Against odds, there was a neurosurgeon on call at UCLA who was willing to



operate. He took the case despite the stats: the hospital would likely lose \$300,000 to \$400,000 and Katherine might not survive. The surgeon told Jay to trust him and confided that he felt in his gut that he had to take the case.

What the surgeon found in the 16-hour surgery was the largest AVM he had ever seen. In the process of removing it, they had to take out intercranial nerves that controlled hearing in her right ear and facial control of her eye, eyelid, cheek, mouth, tongue, and palate. The right side of her face would be paralyzed.

Since blood cannot touch any part of the brain without causing tissue death, the surgeon was forced to remove 60 percent of her cerebellum, the part of the brain that controls balance and coordination and gives one the ability to perceive the difference between up and down.

"They had to scrape her brainstem, and at that point the doctors didn't

know if she would ever be able to breathe on her own again," remembers Jay. A massive undertaking, the surgery required the work of eight anesthesiologists. Katherine's entire blood volume was replaced five times; the blood transfusions alone cost over \$50,000.

The day after her surgery, Katherine was able to wiggle her fingers and toes on command, an unheard of success for someone in her condition. But the small miracle was only the beginning of a long, arduous recovery.

Those next days in the ICU were tough on Jay. "It seemed like nearly every day Katherine would have a procedure done that was life threatening. They would say, 'we need your permission to tap the shunt in her brain.' I remember thinking, someone as young as I was, with a baby, why should I have to make these decisions?"

Jay had no choice but to do everything he could for Katherine. "UCLA is a phenomenal hospital, but they are all just humans—nurses, care partners, doctors, people who want to be helpful of course, but no one had more invested in this patient than me," he says. "I took it upon myself to be her advocate and to completely understand everything that was going on. That was what I felt my role was."

"Jay was amazing. I could literally not speak for myself," remembers Katherine of those early days in the hospital. "And I was in no mental state to understand the medical jargon." Jay adds, "My legal background gave me the confidence to deal with dense material and the confidence to interact with the doctors."


Katherine spent 40 days in the ICU, and the Biblical image of the desert was at the forefront of Jay's mind. "We were wandering, hoping to make it to the other side with the Lord's help, and we did," he says. "I felt at



I felt at peace that she was going to pull through.
I felt like this is my other half. I have to do everything I can.

—Jay Wolf (JD '08)

peace too, that she was going to pull through. I felt like this is my other half. I have to do everything I can.”

 Their lives before the injury were a distant memory. “When a family member is sick in your life, everything else just disappears,” Jay explains. “Everything is about their recovery. I really hardly knew what a stroke was at that time. The best man from my wedding was getting married that August, and this was April, so I ordered my suit because I thought, we’ll be there. I just had no idea.”


From day one of the injury, there was an outpouring of support for the Wolfs from family and friends, particularly the communities at Pepperdine and Bel Air Presbyterian Church. The night of Katherine’s surgery, more than 100 people came to pray in the waiting room. For the next three weeks they had visits around the clock from Jay’s classmates, professors, and more. As each day passed, friends and family posted updates to blogs and Facebook groups, spreading the word about the Wolfs’ story. Within days, people in more than 130 countries were praying for Katherine.

“Even if you are not some super ‘spiritual’ person, it would be hard to look at my situation and think ‘there isn’t some greater power at work here,’” says Katherine of the many miracles that led to her survival.

Little by little, Katherine regained strength as she learned to speak, eat,

and walk again. After four months in the hospital, Jay, Katherine, and James moved to a rehabilitation center in Pomona, California, where she continued therapy for more than a year. She spent up to six hours a day working with an occupational therapist, physical therapist, neuropsychologist, and speech language pathologist to relearn the motor skills that used to be effortless.

Eating proved particularly difficult because the nerve that helped with swallowing had been cut. She failed countless swallowing tests, and had to get her nutrition through a feeding tube for 11 months. “Getting food through a tube was so isolating,” says Jay, who fed Katherine every day through the tube. “We love to eat. It was a strangely traumatic scenario.” Katherine adds, “At one point I said, I’d rather eat than walk again.”

 Looking back, Jay and Katherine feel that their lives were orchestrated in a way to bring them through this tragedy. “All of my life I excelled in theatre. I ended up getting a theatre scholarship to college. It’s all because God wanted me to move to Los Angeles to save my life,” says Katherine.

In the days after the surgery, Katherine’s doctor presented the case to a panel of UCLA neurosurgeons and each one said they would not have taken it. The Wolfs learned of another young woman in Palm Beach, Florida, who had an AVM rupture and was rushed to the hospital. The hospital didn’t have the resources to operate on her, and she died.

The Wolfs point to another miracle in how they invested in the community

where they lived, giving them people to lean on throughout the hardest times. “We were encouraged by others to really make a life here in L.A. instead of waiting by the phone for the agent to call or spending night and day in the library studying,” says Jay. “We invested in people. We focused on things bigger than the next three years of law school and a modeling career.”

Today Katherine continues her recovery even as she speaks to people about her story. “God gave me a gift because I never understood what true perseverance was,” she shares. “Katherine was pursuing acting and modeling, but really her greatest gift was public speaking,” says Jay. “We have this gift of encouragement that we can give people. Through unfortunate circumstances we now have this platform.”

Three years since her injury the Wolfs have high hopes that Katherine will continue to recover. Jay recently transitioned to a new job in business development at the environmental remediation company GEO, Inc., allowing him to work from home as he cares for Katherine and James. “The dream is to continue to find the good in our situation,” reflects Jay. “The harsh reality is that Katherine may never drive again. She might not ever walk without a cane or have a normal-looking life. We have to continue to trust that what God has for us is all that we need.”

Katherine is ever optimistic, and her message is one of hope. “You can do so much more than you think you can. Your attitude is so important. My attitude is fueled by my faith. Having the perspective that this isn’t all there is gives me hope for the future.” ■

TOM SHADYAC


IS

NOT

YOUR TYPICAL

HOLLYWOOD

DIRECTOR 



Acclaimed filmmaker and communication professor Tom Shadyac gave up his wealth and found that less really is more.

By Sarah Fisher

WHO ARE YOU?

There are so many ways for people to answer this simple question and define themselves by their profession, citizenship, age group, or gender. Or when answering more specifically one might say, “I am” a mother, a son, a homeowner, a car driver, a soccer fan, an amateur photographer, or even a rare coin collector.

Tom Shadyac is an adjunct professor of communication at Seaver College, an acclaimed film director, producer, writer, cycling enthusiast, adventurer, American, comedian, friend, and much more. But despite a hugely successful film career that afforded him all the luxuries he could want as the director and producer of such smash hit films as *The Nutty Professor*, *Ace Ventura: Pet Detective*, *Liar Liar*, and *Bruce Almighty*, Shadyac decided that he didn't want to be described as a private jet consumer, a mansion owner, a sports car driver, or anything else determined by material status.

Instead Shadyac gave up his Hollywood lifestyle to embrace a life rich in community and inner joy. He donated his surplus money, quit flying by private jet or in first class, and sold his mansion in Beverly Hills to move to an attractive but modest trailer park in Malibu, where he knows his neighbors and relishes the close community. He joined the Pepperdine faculty to share his passion with talented young filmmakers. And after realizing that a simpler life made him happier than he had ever been before, the filmmaker decided to explore his newfound peace in a deeply personal documentary film, *I Am*, which premiered at film festivals in Fall 2010 and went on general release this February.

FILMMAKING AT PEPPERDINE

Through its MFA for Screen and Television Writing program and Center for Entertainment, Media, and Culture (EMC), Pepperdine prepares students to become cultural leaders in entertainment, exploring issues of storytelling and creativity for the (un)common good.

The two programs consistently bring top filmmakers like Shadyac to Pepperdine for short and long-term learning opportunities. New to the faculty this year is Emmy Award-winning director JOSEPH SARGENT, who was named the EMC's first Distinguished Filmmaker-in-Residence.

➔ **ON THE WEB** Listen to an exclusive conversation between Sargent and EMC director Craig Detweiler online: magazine.pepperdine.edu/filmmaking



Shadyac interviews Bishop Desmond Tutu for his film *I Am*.

"There's all kinds of evidence now that money and material wealth makes you happier when it buys you out of the burdens of homelessness and hunger, or when you need medicine or education, but beyond that it doesn't make you any happier," explains Shadyac. "I've taken care of those needs for myself, as anyone would want, but I just realized that beyond that there's no 'there' there."

I Am opens with the story of how a catastrophic, coma-inducing cycling accident in 2007 finally spurred him into active rebellion against his former isolated lifestyle hidden behind iron-gated mansions. "I think that when you face death, things like privacy don't matter as much," says Shadyac, who emphasizes that the idea for his change in lifestyle had been ruminating for a few years before the accident. "The accident didn't create a wisdom moment—I simply got knocked from my head to my heart and had the courage to talk about all the hypocrisy I'd woken up to in my life."

The trailer park is also where he has been finishing work on the documentary, spending months in his office, and editing the film for the festival circuit and wider release. The film goes on to explore the very questions that Shadyac is trying to answer in his own life: what's wrong with our world, and what can we do about it? The film follows his journey, with a crew of just four people, as he interviews

religious leaders, historians, scientists, and philosophers—including luminaries such as Desmond Tutu and Noam Chomsky—about human connectedness, happiness, and the human spirit.

While examining the personal transformation within Shadyac, *I Am* is not a preachy film that condemns the lifestyles of its viewers so much as it is an exploration of how to regain some of the calm simplicity that modern society has lost through material gain and alienation from one another. The media has focused on the documentary as being a departure for the director, who is best known for his outlandish comedies and for helping to launch the movie career of actor Jim Carrey. But Shadyac sees parallels between the ideas behind his body of work and the healing aspect of *I Am*, including the surprising reason why he got into comedy in the first place.

"My mother was in a wheelchair for most of my adult life—she slipped and fell one day and became a semi-quadruplegic," he recalls. With his mother in constant pain, he would sit with her at night and together they would watch *The Tonight Show Starring Johnny Carson*. "Something happened in me when I watched her watching Johnny Carson. I could see how his humor and perspective alleviated her pain, and how powerful and sacred that act was. Comedy became my medicine to help heal."



Shadyac directs Steve Carell and Morgan Freeman on the set of *Evan Almighty*.

photos top and bottom:
Shady Acres Productions



Even before his mother's accident, Shadyac was always something of a jokester while growing up in Falls Church, Virginia, with lifelong friend Harold Mintz, who recently moved to Los Angeles to become the media and public relations coordinator for Shadyac's production company Shady Acres. The two would write and tell jokes over the public address system at their high school, laying the groundwork for Shadyac's future in comedy writing.

"I found early in life that there was a great energy when you made someone laugh. Joke writing is often about what we find absurd, and I saw a lot of absurdity in the way we walk in this world, the way we behave with each other, and the way adults quite often don't behave like adults."

The two films Shadyac personally wrote—*Ace Ventura: Pet Detective* (1994) and *The Nutty Professor* (1996)—in particular are both somewhat absurdist, featuring characters who won't act their age as well as some of the most memorable and bold scenes in comedy from recent years. The best comedy, he says, involves risk and the confidence that an idea that was funny when conceived will still be funny to a fresh audience. "You have one immediate reaction in writing, which is your own. So you trust that gut-level reaction, which has to carry you through a lot of overexposure to that joke."

He recalls the first time he screened *Ace Ventura* to an audience, who in 1994 were not yet familiar with Jim Carrey's brand of comedy. Carrey plays the title character, a private detective specializing in cases that involve animals. "When I first saw Jim, I thought he was doing stuff that was so new it was scary. There was fear when I showed *Ace Ventura* to an audience because we thought maybe we were ending our careers. There was also fear when we made the choice to play that character so over the top, but we moved through it because we thought there was something really fun there."

Shadyac's instincts were right and the film grossed \$107 million worldwide. The film's success gave him the chance to take further risks with comedy, including tackling race and obesity in *The Nutty Professor*, irresponsible parenting in *Liar Liar*, and God and religion in *Bruce Almighty*.

"I don't consider anything I've done to be overtly religious," he stresses, adding that the mainstream community embraced the story of Jim Carrey's bad luck-stricken Bruce—who inherits God's omnipotent power after accusing the Almighty of not doing a very good job—as a humorous parable about the foibles and potential of humankind. "The idea that a film about God has to have religious characters who are perfect people is way off base."

The literal character of God, as played by Morgan Freeman, made another appearance in the sequel *Evan Almighty*, released in 2007, which earned over \$173 million worldwide and was the last big-budget film Shadyac made before his accident. The contrasts between bringing to life scripted, big-budget films and making a small-budget, personal documentary were vast and liberating, Shadyac says.

"The joy and lightness of it was beautiful," he affirms. "With a four-person crew, we could stop anywhere to capture a shot immediately. That was really nice, fun, and freeing."

The smaller scale of filming *I Am* also helped to cement the changes within Shadyac's lifestyle. "I've changed so my work will change and the way I do my business. I used to acquiesce to the system and say, 'I'm the most valuable person on set because I'm the director.' I no longer support that kind of behavior—I want to be part of a crew, one of a team."

Taking his students' talents seriously, he recently lent a producer's hand to the documentary *Finding Kind*, which was filmed by two recent Pepperdine

graduates, Lauren Parsekian ('09) and Molly Stroud ('09), about their journey across America to share their message of kindness and sisterhood with school-age girls. Their journey was inspired by a passion for their message, and that's the key component of Shadyac's classes at Pepperdine. "I challenge my students to live as the authors of their own lives," he says. "There is power in waking up to who you are and in knowing that you are unique."



Shadyac knew his unique calling was to be a movie director from the moment he first called "action!" on the set of his debut self-directed student film at the UCLA film school, where he earned his master's degree in film in 1989 following a stint working as the youngest ever joke writer for comedian Bob Hope. He remembers the not-so-glamorous moment: squatting under a sink in a men's restroom, filming a man at a urinal. "In that unlikely moment, I had a knowing."

From late night Johnny Carson, to a restroom epiphany, and a monumental head injury, the biggest game-changing moments of Shadyac's life have been unglamorous events that inspired him to take risks to follow his heart. When he is finished promoting *I Am*, he will go back to directing scripted films—albeit, with smaller crews.

He also currently has a talk show in the works to continue the conversation started in his documentary and to answer the question "Who are you?" with the open-ended response, "I am..." Shadyac himself is no longer the wealthy director who owns a mansion, but is a fortunate member of a tight-knit community with an interesting job and enough money to live and help others live. "No one really owns anything anyway, and we find that out when we die," he concludes. "The only things we really own are our choices, our decisions, and who we are." ■



The ART of HEALING

HOW A PICTURE CAN BE WORTH
A THOUSAND THOUGHTS

By Gareen Darakjian

"KAYA" WAS JUST 8 YEARS OLD WHEN RECURRENT DOMESTIC VIOLENCE FORCED HER FROM HOME IN BANGKOK, THAILAND, INTO A NONGOVERNMENTAL CHILDREN'S AGENCY NEARBY. CRAVING THE BOND BETWEEN PARENT AND CHILD, SHE FORMED ATYPICAL ATTACHMENTS TO ADULTS THERE AND EXHIBITED AGGRESSIVE AND CONFRONTATIONAL BEHAVIOR TO THOSE HER OWN AGE.



When Celine Crespi-Hunt, Kaya's art therapist and a doctoral student at the Pepperdine Graduate School of Education and Psychology (GSEP), asked the youngster and her peers to create self-representational flowers for their community garden, Kaya made a lotus flower, which only blooms in water. Her unique creation could not be "planted" in dirt alongside the other children's, so the group came together to build a small pond next to the garden where Kaya's lotus could be displayed.

The process of creating the lotus and watching it buoy in the pond helped Kaya connect with the other children and experience the sense of community that she lacked in her home life. More importantly, it paved the way for a meaningful breakthrough. Today art therapists worldwide, including Crespi-Hunt and other GSEP students and alumni, are using such creative activity to foster self-expression, open communication, and confidence in their clients. Their combination of traditional psychotherapy techniques with art creation helps open a variety of individuals through alternative means of expression.

"The idea of art therapy is for a client to express themselves in a way that is different than just talking about things and answering questions," explains Crespi-Hunt. "They can look at their artwork and gain insight through what they created, talk about the image that they made, and the process of making art and what that felt like. Even materials can evoke different emotions and can mean a lot to people."

In a typical session, an art therapist provides the materials and therapeutic space to encourage the art-making process and determines the appropriate materials for each individual client. Using art as therapy not only allows patients to create something that is unique to themselves, but also provides tangible evidence of the healing process. "This type of therapy provides a record or visual narrative of a person's experience and shows the progress and legacy of the therapeutic work," adds Crespi-Hunt.

Often utilized to treat existing conditions, as in Kaya's case, art therapy also nurtures avenues of expression in typically developing children. In his private practice as a marriage and family therapist, alumnus Peter Tulaney (MA '05) uses art in classic projective identification techniques that allow clients to access subconscious thoughts and feelings through guided illustrations.

The approach can be applied in a nonclinical setting as well, like at the Malibu Art Barn, Tulaney's therapeutic art workshop, where art is used to promote healthy social and emotional development. "We practice under the theory that creativity is one of the paramount features of early childhood development," he explains. "Without creative outlets, the kids are stifled in how they become free and creative thinkers." Tulaney's workshop also features the "Artworking" program for younger children, which is designed to facilitate socialization and collaborative problem solving through creative media. "We use art because young children lack the language development to express themselves in meaningful or satisfactory ways."



WHETHER THEY BECOME ARTISTS IS NOT MY CONCERN. THE TIME THAT WE SPEND IS ABOUT THE PROCESS OF CREATING ART, NOT THE FINAL PRODUCT. Peter Tulaney (MA '05)

TREATMENT DOES NOT SIMPLY END WITH THE CREATION OF A PICTURE. THE BEAUTY OF ART THERAPY IS IN A PATIENT'S ABILITY TO GO BACK AND REEXAMINE THEIR WORK TO EVOKE DIFFERENT THOUGHTS, MEMORIES, AND EMOTIONS THAT WILL HELP THEM DEVELOP LONG-TERM COPING SKILLS.

-Kimberly Smith (MA '08)

Although art therapy can prove to be a highly effective process, the approach still has its own challenges to overcome and skeptics to convince. Some of the biggest skeptics are patients and clients themselves, who feel reluctance rooted in self-consciousness. "A lot of people, and especially children, view art as wall-hangings or images they see in books," says Tulaney. "It's rare that you see a young person willing to create something and not feel that they're going to be judged or critiqued on what they're doing." The problem is the assumption that the practice is meant to encourage both cognitive *and* artistic proficiency. "Whether they become artists is not my concern. The time that we spend is about the process of creating art, not the final product."

Art therapy suffers as well from the common misconception that it is generally geared towards non- or preverbal children and adolescents. In fact, the approach can offer a powerful alternative to traditional therapy in adults who have trouble communicating or have encountered difficulty with talk therapy.

That's something that doctoral candidate Jennifer Brown learned while working with an elderly, former drug addict afflicted with terminal HIV at the Robert Mapplethorpe Residential Treatment Facility in New York. "He didn't want any part of it. He would only comply for a couple of weeks and only write poetry," says Brown. "I would encourage him that it's not about what you can draw or what you can't draw. It's about getting it out in an artistic way."

After a few weeks, the patient eventually picked up a pencil. "You could see the fear of selling into art therapy and what that would expose, whether it was a lack of talent or an unwillingness to break down his barriers." What began as basic black-and-white sketches of animal faces he had found in *National Geographic* magazines developed into impressive full-color paintings. "His mode of expression increased, which

led to improved communication. He was never overly talkative, but I noticed his evolution through art, and it created a new space for him to express himself and relieve his stress."

The adaptability of art therapy is precisely what intrigued Kimberly Smith (MA '08), a doctoral candidate who recently cofacilitated the eight-week Express Yourself Group program led by Thema Bryant-Davis, art and expressive therapy expert and associate professor of psychology at GSEP. The program provided therapy to children of severely underserved populations at a domestic violence shelter in Los Angeles and encouraged the creation of art through reading poetry, making music, building collages, and exploring other creative modes. "Even though these kids were getting talk therapy and had multiple social workers, they didn't really have an outlet for themselves," explains Smith.

While treating the children of afflicted parents, Smith also found art therapy able to meet the needs of diverse age groups. She modified the foundation of what she learned as part of the Express Yourself Group and utilized similar techniques in treating the patients of the adult rehabilitative psychology unit at the Long Beach VA hospital, where she currently works. "Many adults are disabled in capacities where they have functional impairments or limited mobility. We have adapted the equipment and techniques used with the children so that adults may also express themselves through art."

Perhaps one of the greatest benefits of art therapy is its opportunity to extend far past the time frame of treatment and continue throughout the patient's life. "Treatment does not simply end with the creation of a picture," Smith notes. "The beauty of art therapy is in a patient's ability to go back and reexamine their work to evoke different thoughts, memories, and emotions that will help them develop long-term coping skills." ■

FIND YOUR PEPPERDINE CONNECTION TO YOUR DREAM JOB

About a year ago I was toying with the idea of seeking employment with one of my dream companies in Orange County. I went to the company website and submitted an online application which I was certain would go nowhere. Understanding that networking contacts would probably be my only opportunity with this company, I utilized PAN Online to connect with Pepperdine alumni and students who were employed there. I sent them an e-mail with my resume, told them my story, and asked for advice which might give me an advantage. Of the 26 messages I sent, I received 13 responses within two business days. Of those responses, I made a Pepperdine connection that resulted in a recruiter from my dream company calling me on my cell phone because of my Pepperdine affiliation.

- CYNTHIA HOLLAND (MBA '08)



- ➔ Login to Pepperdine Alumni Network (PAN) Online at alumni.pepperdine.edu.
- ➔ Using the directory, look up alumni by industry or company, or locate a career mentor through Career Resources.
- ➔ Make connections and advance your career.

PEPPERDINE ALUMNI SIGNATURE EVENTS

APRIL 30: *How to Succeed in Business Without Really Trying*, Al Hirschfeld Theatre, New York, New York

MAY 14: Pepperdine Associates Dinner and After-party, J.W. Marriott at L.A. Live, Los Angeles, California

MAY: Dallas Waves Fiesta, Dallas, Texas

AUGUST 16: *Pageant of the Masters*, Laguna Beach, California

PAN Online

alumni.pepperdine.edu

CHAPTER VOLUNTEERS HONORED AT ANNUAL LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE

Representatives from the 31 chapters of the Pepperdine University Alumni Association gathered in Malibu on February 25-27 for their annual Chapter Leadership Conference. Outstanding volunteers and chapters were honored in the conference's annual awards ceremony.

ORANGE COUNTY WAVES RECOGNIZED WITH TOP AWARDS

The Orange County Waves chapter was selected for two of the highest chapter awards.

To receive the honor of Chapter of the Year, the volunteers offered 14 events last year with 580 attendees. The chapter board demonstrated consistent participation, passion, growth, relationship building, and knowledge, according to associate director of chapters and regional programs Sandra Barsoum ('99). "The Orange County Waves understand the mission, plans, and purposes of the University," Barsoum said. "They took that to heart and went with it."

In 2010 Orange County piloted the Waves of Service program. The chapter exceeded expectations by supporting multiple Step Forward Day events, establishing new protocols for offering Waves of Service scholarships, and awarding a Waves of Service speaker. "It was obvious," said Waves of Service director Greg Porter ('87, MBA '03). "They took full advantage of Waves of Service resources."

OTHER CHAPTER AWARD RECIPIENTS INCLUDE:

President's Award:

Seattle Waves

Rookie Chapter Award:

New England Waves

SPECIAL PROGRAM AWARDS:

Bay Area

Colorado

Dallas

Los Angeles

Seattle

2011 WAVE OF EXCELLENCE AWARD RECIPIENTS

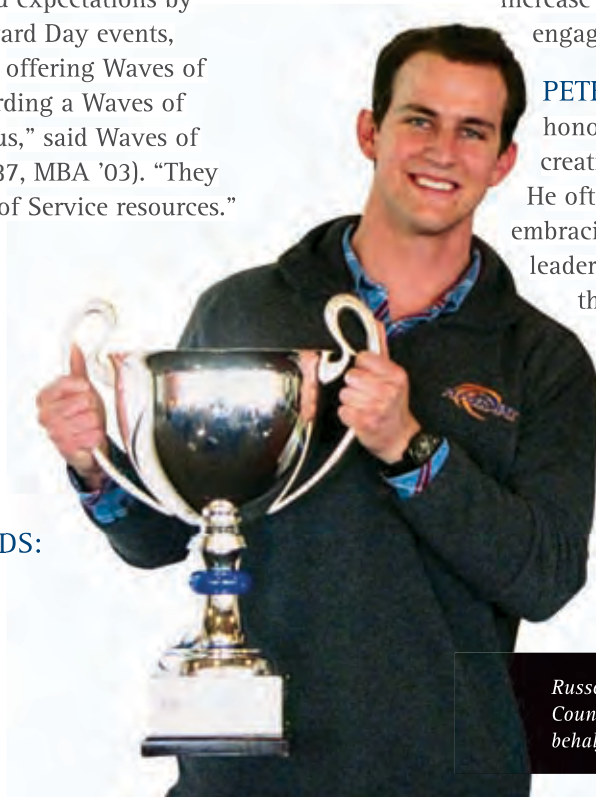
Awards are presented annually to chapter leaders who embrace the mission of the University. This year's recipients include:

KEVIN SMITH ('01) was honored for his outstanding leadership and organization. Smith exemplifies a heart for service in Pepperdine's Atlanta chapter and in his everyday life, such as when he gave his first-class seat to one of the rescued Chilean miners on an all-night flight.

Dedicated and servant-hearted, **ERIN GLASS** ('01) is honored for her organization and flexibility as a chapter leader. She has extended her term of service to further develop her chapter board and increase opportunities for alumni engagement in New York.

PETER PHAM (MBA '00) was honored for his enthusiasm, creativity, and passion for service. He often exceeds expectations by embracing purpose, service, and leadership as he promotes service in the Orange County chapter.

LYNNELLE SMITH ('86) was honored for her efficiency, consistency, and attention to detail. She exemplifies the spirit of Pepperdine with her work ethic and service, especially as she leads the Portland chapter.



Russell Watts ('09), president of the Orange County alumni chapter, accepts the trophy on behalf of the chapter.

SOUTH OF HOPE

Seaver College
alumnus
Eric Burdullis
joins the
microfinance
movement
and sees
its benefits
firsthand.

By Gareen Darakjian

Just one week after arriving in Guatemala City, Guatemala, Eric Burdullis ('10) was robbed of his most valuable possessions while parked at a gas station on his way to work. The vulnerable attendants turned the other way as thugs broke into the locked car in broad daylight and stole Burdullis' laptop computer, camera, and guidebook.

➤ Stories like this are common in a city considered among the most dangerous outside of an active war zone. But for Burdullis, who arrived in Guatemala as a Kiva.org Fellow optimistic about improving the working conditions of local entrepreneurs, the incident revealed the despondency of his new surroundings. "You start to realize that where there is poverty, there is desperation, and where there is desperation,

there is crime," he says, explaining the harsh reality of need that exists in places where Kiva's field partners work. "A lot of times we want to help without getting our hands dirty. We want to feel good without seeing the bad. But we should serve, really serve, where there is need."

With over 160 field partners around the world, Kiva.org is one of the leading nonprofit microfinance organizations that allow people to "sponsor" budding entrepreneurs in underdeveloped communities via the Internet. Inspired by curriculum like professor Regan Schaffer's service leadership class, Burdullis applied to the highly competitive Kiva Fellows program during his senior year. He sought a personally fulfilling opportunity to which he could apply his international business degree—"something that might not add to my 401k, but through service would provide what I was doing with a sense of meaning," he describes.



“

IT IS THE
SUCCESS
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ME HOPE.

—Eric Burdullis ('10)

One month prior to graduating summa cum laude last May, Burdullis was offered the fellowship, finding the pathway to do just what he'd envisioned. "Being a Kiva Fellow is a way to meet and see the impact that these loans have on the lives of the people they serve. It is a chance to be part of a bigger picture: one that touches people all over the world."

After spending the first two months fundraising and training with Kiva in San Francisco, California, he completed assignments with Kiva field partners in Guatemala City and Cuzco, Peru. Burdullis currently works with Asociación Arariwa, one of seven Kiva field partners in Peru, which focuses on village banking, a methodology that promotes locally administered funds as opposed to a centralized banking system.

His daily duties include helping connect the borrowers to the lenders, confirming the authenticity of the borrowers, and ensuring that public-facing content accurately represents Kiva and its processes. Another vital responsibility is assuring that each field partner knows and correctly performs Kiva processes, from uploading loans to writing journal entries on their personal blogs.

Burdullis has also implemented the CERISE Social Performance Questionnaire, a practice that monitors and measures how adequately a microfinance institution reaches its own social performance goals, at Kiva's field partners around the world. "CERISE creates a system of benchmarking which creates competition

among microfinance organizations to more directly benefit their clients," he explains.

In the short time since Burdullis became a Kiva Fellow, he has witnessed the benefits of directly supporting global microfinance institutions in their work. "Through Kiva's zero-percent-interest loans to these microfinance institutions, we are enabling them to better serve the communities they work in," he adds. Recently, a microfinance loan funded by the Foundation for the Assistance of Small Businesses (FAPE) enabled a struggling restaurateur earning a meager living grinding tortillas for her community to purchase a corn grinder, expand her restaurant, hire a few employees, and send her children to school. "It is the success story we all dream of when we lend on Kiva," he boasts. "It gives me hope."

For every dream fulfilled, real desperation remains for others and the hope for a better future emerges as strong as ever. "One of the questions posed to borrowers in journal updates is about their hopes for the future. While we dream of that new house or retiring happy, they dream of feeding their families and keeping a roof over their heads," writes Burdullis on his own blog, expanding on the higher purpose he finds in his experience as a Kiva Fellow. "Through financial tools like a Kiva loan, we allow them to dream bigger, begin to think past the day-to-day needs, and look toward the future. Perhaps, in a small way, as we give Kiva loans, we enable them to realize their own dreams." ■



The WAVES OF SERVICE movement celebrates, supports, and connects Pepperdine alumni committed to volunteerism and careers of service worldwide. Learn more about alumni like Eric Burdullis and how you can get involved: www.pepperdine.edu/wavesofservice

ON INTERNATIONAL RELIGIOUS FREEDOM

A conversation with
REPRESENTATIVE
FRANK WOLF

“IN RECENT YEARS, THE WORLD HAS WATCHED THE BRUTAL CLASHES BETWEEN RELIGIONS in Jos, Nigeria, and Orissa, India,” says Bob Cochran, director of the Herbert and Elinor Nootbaar Institute on Law, Religion, and Ethics at the Pepperdine School of Law. “We have heard, firsthand, the stories of the persecution of house churches in China, the Baha’is in Iran, and the recent bombings of Coptic Christian churches in Egypt. There is growing concern over the lack of tolerance between faiths, particularly as the Muslim and Christian and secular worlds collide.”

The Nootbaar Institute grappled with the challenging topic of international religious freedom in a February conference exploring the increasing prevalence of religious clashes throughout the world and the critical need for tolerance.

The 13 conference speakers included people who have worked for religious freedom in government positions, for NGOs, and as private citizens. Suzan Johnson-Cook, president and CEO of Charisma Speakers, and U.S. representative Frank Wolf offered keynote speeches.

Wolf sat down to discuss key issues with Pepperdine’s Colleen Graffy, director of global programs, associate professor of law, and former deputy assistant secretary of state for public diplomacy for Europe and Eurasia at the U.S. State Department.

GRAFFY: *Why should Americans care about international religious freedom?*

WOLF: Ronald Reagan said the words in the Constitution and in the Declaration of Independence were really a covenant for the entire world, not just for the people in Philadelphia in 1776, or 1787 in the Constitution: “We hold these truths to be self-evident that all men and women are created equal, endowed by their Creator, by God.” America has been in the forefront of human rights and religious freedom, whether it be standing up against Communism or speaking out on behalf of the persecuted in Sudan.

In the Bible there are so many passages about the persecuted and the oppressed; Jesus talks more about the poor than almost any other issue. If you take your faith seriously, not just selectively, then I think America, and all of us, are obligated to care about the oppression. It is something very important that we should be doing.

GRAFFY: *What can Congress do?*

WOLF: Congress can do a lot of things. We have a Religious Freedom Commission that I helped set up about 10 years ago. I also have a bill in to create a special envoy to advocate for religious minorities in



If you take your faith seriously, not just selectively, then I think America, and all of us, are obligated to care about the oppression. **It is something very important that we should be doing.** —Frank Wolf

the Middle East—to advocate both within our own government and to advocate with other governments. For instance, the Christian community in Iraq before the war was about 1.5 million. Right now they're down to about 400,000 to 500,000. Other than Israel, more Biblical activity took place in Iraq than any other country. Abraham was from Iraq. Rebecca was from Iraq. Jacob and the 12 tribes lived in Iraq. We have an obligation.

We now have a bipartisan coalition pushing to pass the bill to create a special envoy similar to what President Bush did when he had the special envoy with John Danforth to work on Sudan. This would be the same type of operation, same caliber of person, whose number one job would be to advocate for religious minorities, but mainly Christians, in the Middle East, Afghanistan, and Pakistan. There is a lot that Congress can do to advocate for people of faith, of all faiths.

GRAFFY: *How did you first become interested in this?*

WOLF: I had not traveled out of the country, except for Canada once, before I got elected to Congress. In 1984 my best friend in Congress, a liberal Democrat congressman named Tony Hall, urged me to go to Ethiopia, where they suffered a major famine. I naively

jumped on an airplane and went up to a camp in Alma-Ata, run by World Vision and Mother Theresa. I got waylaid there. Every morning I saw many young people who had died overnight. That trip opened up my eyes to things that I had never known were taking place.

In 1985 Congressman Hall and I went to Romania under the Ceaușescu administration; they were bulldozing churches, persecuting Christians, doing terrible things. I went to Sudan in 1989. The war between the Muslim north and Christian south went on for over 20 years. I saw the persecution, the hunger, and the famine, and I developed a love affair, if you will, for southern Sudan, particularly for the people in the villages. A week working in a feeding center in a Sudanese refugee camp is a life-changing experience. Had I not gone to Ethiopia, and had I not gone to Romania, and had I not gone to Sudan, my life and time of service in Congress would be totally different.

GRAFFY: *What is your message to those considering public service?*

WOLF: They ought to consider running for office because chances are they're just as good as the congressman or senator in office. I wanted to be in Congress since the third grade, but I stuttered very badly and people told me that I could never



run for office. But I did. I lost in '76, I lost in '78, I won in '80, and I'll just tell you, you ought to follow your heart.

If you really care about these issues—human rights, religious freedom, whatever the case may be—being involved in public service is very important. You're not going to get the big bucks that you'd get at a Wall Street law firm, but you'll get the satisfaction that I think you really can't get from a Wall Street law firm. I urge people to go ahead and do it, and you know what?—they really very well might win. ■

Representative Frank Wolf represents the 10th District of Virginia, and is serving his 16th term in Congress. He is cochair of the Tom Lantos Human Rights Commission, a bipartisan organization of Congress that works to raise awareness about international human rights issues. Wolf sits on the Appropriations Committee and serves on the Transportation and Housing and Urban Development Subcommittee.

➔ **ON THE WEB** Listen to the full interview: magazine.pepperdine.edu/religious-freedom

AT LAND'S

At the far tip of South America lies Patagonia, Chile, a region known for its pristine natural beauty and breathtaking landscape. With less than five percent of Patagonia permanently conserved, it is also one of the world's most vulnerable spaces, in need of immediate and sustainable preservation support.

A group of 20 Pepperdine students joined the cause this winter when they traveled to the site of the future Patagonia National Park as part of a global business program at the Graziadio School of Business and Management.

Students and faculty embarked on the cross-country trip, designed to develop skills in environmentally sustainable business practice, in collaboration with Patagonia, Inc., an eco-friendly apparel company, and Conservación Patagonica, a nonprofit charity protecting the roughly 450,000 acres of wild land in Patagonia.

The experience focused on both environmental entrepreneurship and stewardship, combining case studies, discussions, and lectures, with fieldwork in sustainability. Faculty leaders Tetsuya O'Hara (MBA '08) and Graziadio School associate dean David Smith mobilized the excursion, which was available to second-year full-time MBA students in the Environmental Entrepreneurship

Development course as part of the new Certificate in Socially, Environmentally, and Ethically Responsible (SEER) Business Practice program.

Mornings consisted of team projects to analyze the environmentally responsible business practices of such companies as Patagonia, Toyota, Walmart, and others, helping the students develop a deeper conceptual and philosophical understanding of environmental entrepreneurship. Then, during the majority of daylight hours, students did the physically demanding work of removing invasive elements from the park such as barbed wire fences.

Current MBA student Robert Bikel was struck by the dual nature of the experience. "Our morning lectures



Our morning lectures discussed the role of sustainability and business at the 50,000-foot level, and our afternoons were spent literally at the ground level pulling up fence posts and weeding plants, all in this amazing environment. —Robert Bikel

END

Graziadio School students experience environmentally sustainable business practice on location in Patagonia, Chile.

By Gareen Darakjian

discussed the role of sustainability and business at the 50,000-foot level, and our afternoons were spent literally at the ground level pulling up fence posts and weeding plants, all in this amazing environment. Studying *and* working in this rarified atmosphere led to unusually high-level discussions," he says. "It was an extraordinary opportunity."

Smith explains that tearing down fences and weeding nonnative plants with pickaxes along the Chilean hillside was a necessary experience in challenging the students' thinking. "Taking students out into a very remote environment really added to a heightened awareness of globally responsible business practices," he explains. "Some students had lodge accommodations, but many of us were sleeping in tents and living in a very rustic environment."

It was just the experience that Bikel was seeking during his graduate education. "It seemed like the ideal

opportunity to leverage what I had been learning about sustainability, as well as to gain international experience and perspective," he says. "This was so squarely in the center of my mission of working toward something that would benefit both people and the planet."

In addition to familiarizing the students with Patagonia's vulnerable topography, the excursion engaged students in a dialogue with leaders on the cutting edge of conservation and socially responsible business practice. This came by way of Conservación Patagonica founders Kris Tompkins (a former CEO of Patagonia, Inc.) and Doug Tompkins (cofounder of both ESPRIT and The North Face).

Over the course of the trip, Bikel felt particularly inspired by Doug and his views on enhancing biodiversity through local, sustainable efforts. "Doug really challenged our thinking in terms of

the place that eco-justice plays in a business environment," says Bikel. "Business students spend so much time figuring out the corporate system, that nobody ever takes a step back to ask, 'Does it have to be set up this way? Are there better ways to make things work for the planet and people?'"

The experience also got both the students and faculty thinking concretely about their future and the decisions that they make. "Sustainability is not just a story about being green," explains Smith. "It's a story about taking care of the earth's inhabitants while being cognizant of the impact you're having on the earth." ■



➔ ON THE WEB Read more about the program: magazine.pepperdine.edu/patagonia



left to right: Aaron Fellner (MPP '07), Robert Harris (MPP '09), Sara Mason (MPP '09), Sean Gill (MPP '07), and Rick Power (MPP '04, MBA '03)



THE CHANGING GUARD

School of Public Policy alumni
promote democratic transparency
at the California State Auditor.

By Sarah Fisher

“A POPULAR GOVERNMENT WITHOUT POPULAR INFORMATION OR THE MEANS OF ACQUIRING IT IS BUT A PROLOGUE TO A FARCE OR A TRAGEDY.”

So wrote founding father James Madison in 1822. Nearly 200 years later, the fourth U.S. president’s ideal of governmental transparency remains a cornerstone of democracy. Across the nation, state auditors stand on the frontlines, fighting to keep communication channels open between the government and its citizens.

At the California State Auditor, Bureau of State Audits (BSA), a team that includes five School of Public Policy (SPP) alumni works tirelessly to deliver public evaluations of government agencies. Sean Gill (MPP ’07), Rick Power (MPP ’04, MBA ’03), Sara Mason (MPP ’09), Aaron Fellner (MPP ’07), and Robert Harris (MPP ’09) are ensconced in the trenches of government auditing, examining how a department is supposed to work versus how it actually works in highly specific circumstances.

The group, sometimes working together, at other times working on separate projects, reports on a wide range of issues from how the state disposes of radioactive waste to whether California is finding appropriate housing for sex offenders. “Being in California at this time in state government is very interesting,” says senior auditor evaluator Gill, addressing the numerous troubles currently facing the Golden State. “But we’re trying to be a part of the solution and encourage agencies to spend their money more wisely.”

When the Joint Legislative Audit Committee approves a request to conduct a performance audit for a government agency, the BSA springs its three divisions of public

policy, accountancy, and business experts into action to examine the nooks and crannies of a potentially underperforming agency. “For each audit we do, we essentially have to become experts on the department or topic,” says auditor evaluator Sara Mason (née Thompson). “We need to know how people do their jobs, what laws affect their work, what their processes and controls are, and the results of their work. As soon as you know it like the back of your hand, it’s time to learn something else.”

A typical puzzle will take anywhere from three to six months of review for the nonpartisan organization, which makes recommendations from what Gill calls their “unique perspective not encumbered by any one viewpoint. We always try to be as objective as possible, which means our recommendations are usually well received and acted upon.”

One reason why approximately 80 percent of their recommendations are implemented within one year of being made might be the public nature of their findings: once released, every report is publicly available on the BSA website, even the least flattering findings. Gill recalls one audit from 2008 involving the housing of sex offenders, which rankled the departments under review but led to positive changes thanks to the very public nature of the report.

The team initially discovered that a number of registered addresses for sex offenders were actually the same addresses registered to childcare facilities. “This was something alarming that we became aware of as we were doing it,” says Gill. Further investigation found that, thankfully, most of these offenders were not actually living at these registered addresses. His team recommended the legislature clarify the laws relating to where registered sex offenders may reside and that the addresses of paroled

offenders be monitored and controlled. The recommendations were taken on board by the Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation and a corrective action plan was put in place, signaling a welcome outcome for the SPP team.

Although, as Power notes, “we have no authority to actually make anybody do anything; our job is to just identify an issue and recommend actions,” their team does have the opportunity to affect policy indirectly, a process Mason calls “rewarding.” “Our office has a very good reputation and a lot of respect at the capitol,” she says. “When we find problems or make recommendations, they are taken very seriously because the legislature and other decision makers know our work is thorough, accurate, and unbiased.”

Mason and her colleagues were recently able to make a difference for the state when Governor Jerry Brown asked the BSA to deliver 10 key recommendations for cutting government waste and increasing efficiency. Mason conducted background research about the budget and successful recommendations from previous audits that could be implemented by the governor now. “Unless we go in and audit a department, it is very difficult to judge where their inefficiencies might be. I can appreciate how hard it is for the governor and legislature to know where to make cuts without hurting services too much,” says Mason.

Power notes that “most of the time, people run from auditors,” so Brown reaching out to the BSA signals an active willingness in his office to promote transparency between government and the tax-paying public. Interested citizens can find out precisely what changes have been recommended to his office in the March 9 letter on the BSA website. Says Gill, “It’s so rewarding when you see you’ve effected positive change for the people of California.” ■

BORN TO PLAY

**SENIOR FORWARD
MYCHEL THOMPSON
SHOOTS TO WIN.**

The moment Mychel Thompson's final jump shot skimmed the rim and spun into the basket at Firestone Fieldhouse this spring, he placed among the most prolific basketball players in Waves history. His list of accomplishments includes 114 career starts in 128 games played—the highest total in Pepperdine history—and a career-high 14.6 points per game. He became the Waves' 36th elite 1,000-point scorer and ended his career with over 1,400 total points—No. 14 all-time at Pepperdine.

By Gareen Darakjian

photo: Martin A. Folb

LONG BEFORE MANY CHILDREN HIS AGE COULD FORM COMPLETE SENTENCES, 2-YEAR-OLD THOMPSON WAS HANDLING A BASKETBALL WITH BOTH HANDS, running and dribbling with great dexterity. Back then his teammates were younger brothers Klay and Trayce, now the Pac-10 leader in scoring-per-game for the Washington State Cougars and Chicago White Sox second-round minor league draft pick, respectively. Home court was their driveway in Portland, Oregon, where father Mychal would play referee and make his three boys work for the points.

"Mychel hated losing," reminisces his father, who boasts a noteworthy resume of his own. The elder Thompson was overall pick of the 1978 NBA Draft by the Portland Trail Blazers and went on to win two NBA championships with the Los Angeles Lakers. He is currently the Lakers radio color commentator. As a youngster, "When Mychel would start losing, he would quit and go inside the house and ruin the game for everybody."

These days, however, Thompson is the epitome of cool, effortlessly sinking baskets and acting as a stronghold for the rest of his team. "I try to lead by example," says the student-athlete. "I'll motivate the other players if they're down and try to boost them up by telling them to keep doing what they're doing."

Thompson has maintained the same composure through his team's changes in recent years. As a freshman player in 2007, Thompson weathered the departure of then head coach Vance Walberg and a handful of fellow players. "We had a pretty good recruiting class and I wanted to come in with those players, but they all left. I stayed because I was committed to the school and wanted to play on the team."

Thompson's perseverance led him to become one of the top players on the team and well-admired by Waves head coach Tom Asbury. "Some players get here and don't really improve, but Mychel practices hard everyday and has made huge contributions to the team," Asbury says, commending his ability to do "a little bit of everything from defending, rebounding, and getting on the floor for loose balls."

This season Thompson's father had a special bird's-eye view of his son in action, when he served as analyst on the Prime Ticket broadcast for a Pepperdine home game against Saint Mary's. "I felt like a physician operating on his own kid," he remembers. And although the Gaels defeated the

I was definitely influenced by my dad's career, but I love basketball. I was meant to play it.

—Mychel Thompson



Waves that night, Mychal was waiting on the sidelines ready to give sage advice. "He always tells me to play like there's no tomorrow, appreciate every minute I spend on the court, and be more aggressive," says Thompson.

Whether tomorrow brings a journey to the NBA or to a more traditional career, Thompson knows his passion for basketball will remain for years to come. "I was definitely influenced by my dad's career," he says, "but I love basketball. I was meant to play it." ■

➔ **ON THE WEB** Forward Gus Clardy is another record-setting senior making waves for the men's basketball team both on the court and in the classroom. Read his story: magazine.pepperdine.edu/clardy

THE INTERNATIONAL



PLAYER

Anna Picarelli shows off her American talent on the Italian national women's soccer team.

By Sarah Fisher

Last November, Anna Picarelli ('06) faced one of the biggest challenges of her professional soccer career when the U.S. women's national team took on the Italian women's team in the World Cup qualifiers. The Southern California-raised goalkeeper had two goals of her own in mind during that early season game: showing the U.S. team what she was made of, and trying her best to ensure they lost the match to *her* team, the Italian women's national team.

Picarelli and Italy both have her Italian-born father Angelo to thank for her career-making move to Europe. After the U.S. National Under-21 Team told her "flat out" that she was too short to play for her native-born country, Angelo reminded his 5'4" daughter that she was a dual national and could try out for an Italian side. "So I got a passport, found a team to play for in Italy, and moved to Verona," Picarelli recalls.

She joined the Associazione Sportiva Dilettantistica Calcio Femminile Bardolino (ASD CF Bardolino) in Verona, helping the club win the Italian National Cup in 2007 and 2009. Last fall she became a starter on the Italian national women's team, with whom she faced off against her American peers in November.

The qualifying matches—at home in Italy and then away in America—inspired mixed emotions in the Italian American player. She was pleased the No. 1-ranked U.S. team qualified to compete in the FIFA Women's World Cup this summer in Germany, but she was equally pleased by making

a number of vital saves for her No. 12-ranked team. "They were the best games for me; I was proud of my team and that the Americans got to see me play," she says.

One person who has never doubted Picarelli's ability is her Pepperdine coach Tim Ward. "I always joke that goalkeepers, by the very nature of their position, have to be a little 'different' because of the courage it takes to play that position. Anna definitely has that 'different' thing going for her, but in the best possible way," he comments. "Regardless of her physical stature, Anna is hugely talented when it comes to heart, competitive juice, technique, work ethic, and all those other intangible qualities that coaches love in the players they coach."

Picarelli arrived in the small town of Bardolino, near Verona, in the summer of 2006, fresh from graduating with a bachelor's degree in advertising and from helping the Pepperdine women's soccer team make its fifth straight NCAA tournament appearance. She began acclimating herself to different attitudes about sports among her teammates, all native Italians, and quickly began picking up the second language. "I had studied Italian in school, but it was a shock to not understand much or be understood," she says. "But the team opened their arms to welcome me."

She also adapted to the playing style in Italy, where the focus was placed on short bursts of strength in order to score goals. "The Italian playing style is less fitness oriented—

they would rather you touch the ball than outrun it," Picarelli notes. This style complements her skill set, since quality goalkeeping rests on the ability to think and act quickly.

After making some game-changing saves for ASD CF Bardolino all across Europe—including a Champions League match against the British team Arsenal—Italian national team coach Pietro Ghedin invited Picarelli to play for her adopted country beginning in October 2007. The opportunity marked a new phase in her professional and personal life, as her first, important game as starting keeper included an against-odds win against England in the Euro Cup (UEFA European Football Championship) qualifiers, followed by a surprise in the spectator stands.

"Everything went right. I was a vital player on the field, and my boyfriend had come to watch," she remembers. "Right after the game I went to the stands to say hello and as soon as he said 'congratulations,' he proposed, and I accepted."

Since then, Picarelli has returned to Southern California to get married and to play for Ajax America in Palos Verdes. As an ambassador of American talent in international soccer, she continues to fly the flag for both of her countries and quietly looks forward to facing off against the U.S. national team again in the future. "I'm hoping that my body can stay strong for the next four years so that Italy can qualify for the next World Cup—and win," she concludes. ■

The Flora L. Thornton Opera Program stages a modern adaptation of an old classic.

By Sarah Fisher

COMMUNITY



Little Women, BIG VOICES

“THINGS CHANGE, JO...”

These poignantly simple words are sung to *Little Women* heroine Jo March throughout Mark Adamo's operatic adaptation of Louisa May Alcott's timeless story about growing up with three sisters and one lovesick best friend during the Civil War. When Henry Price, professor of music at Seaver College, chose Adamo's composition as the 2011 Flora L. Thornton Opera Program's production, the parallels between Jo March's changing world and the program's temporary change of direction could not have been more clear: *Little Women* was a completely different experience from the Pepperdine operas of previous years.

For one, selecting an opera that

was written so recently—*Little Women* debuted to critical acclaim in 1998 in Houston, Texas—gave Price the opportunity to invite the composer to visit Pepperdine and work with the performing students, an opportunity not afforded with past productions of Puccini's *La Boheme*, Mozart's *The Magic Flute*, or Smetana's *The Bartered Bride*. Adamo accepted, and in the four days leading up to opening night he trained the students, worked with Price on the production's direction, and presented two public lectures about his adaptation.

“I think the story remains modern because it's not about romantic relationships but about people outgrowing each other at different rates,” Adamo explains. “The story is about Jo asking, ‘Why is everyone I

know turning into this strange creature called an Adult, and how can I change them back?’”

Fittingly, the theme of change also reflects the significant changes Adamo made to the story's structure for his opera, particularly that the majority of the two acts take place in Jo's memory. The production opens with a grown-up Jo, as played by junior vocal performance major Brennan Blankenship, sitting in the family attic surrounded by the

remnants of childhood and struggling to accept the new structure of her family: younger sister Amy and best friend Laurie recently married, middle sister Beth passed away, older sister Meg a wife and mother. She remembers key moments in their lives—including the girls inviting Laurie to join their play acting in the attic, Laurie's confession of his love for Jo at Meg's wedding, and Beth's tragic death—but the script excludes other well-known

Price hypothesizes about the flashback storytelling, which makes the story intimately Jo's.

While Adamo's opera changes the format of the original novel and places Jo's story about accepting that all "things change" at the center of the tale, Price found that the theme resonated with the undergraduate performers on a deeper level as they

win for best opera recording in 1978—after discovering opera as an undergraduate at the University of North Texas. "Students have often never even seen an opera before they arrive here. So when they discover a new medium there are a lot of difficult things to learn, especially because the styles of musical theatre, which they are used to, and opera are so different."

Now in his 18th year as director of the Flora L. Thornton Opera Program, Price knew that casting the right women as the four March sisters and the right tenor as Laurie would be central to the success of this production. Having worked with the same singers time and again during



learned to sing a more contemporary style of opera. "The harmonies and rhythms are quite different from Mozart-era compositions," Price says.

In fact, he adds, most of his young students are new to opera altogether when they arrive as freshmen and either stumble into it from musical theatre or become exposed to it as part of their vocal training. "I myself had

no exposure to classical music when I was growing up. I was a rock 'n' roll singer," remembers Price, who enjoyed a hugely successful 20-year career as a tenor—including a Grammy Award

their careers at Pepperdine, Price had an idea ahead of time about who would be right for the roles. "I choose the operas every year based on the people in the program at the time," he explains.

After two exhaustive rounds of auditions, he altered his cast list entirely to find an unexpected but comfortable fit with juniors Devony Smith, Julie Thornton, and Megan Moran joining Blankenship as sisters Meg, Beth, and Amy March, and senior Aaron Gallington as beloved male protagonist Theodore Lawrence (Laurie). The students all received standing ovations at the end of the two performances.

Adamo praised the students for their talent and hard work, saying that they followed in the footsteps of the professional performers who

moments such as Jo chopping off her long hair and Amy's burning of Jo's manuscript.

"The way I see it, everything that happens on stage is not necessarily literally as it happened, but rather as Jo fantasizes it happened,"





have previously brought the characters to life “very honorably and soulfully.” “Honestly, I feel that our cast was a dream cast,” Price adds. “We have all undergrads here that are gaining great experiences, which means that our most experienced students can show, when they audition for major graduate programs, that they have the advantage over the people who were just maybe in the chorus by the time they were juniors or seniors at big schools with graduate operas programs.”

In fact, that advantage offered by a focused training experience at the undergraduate level has helped Flora L. Thornton Opera Program graduates soar to great heights post-Pepperdine, with recent alumni gaining scholarships to attend the most prestigious graduate programs in the nation while established alumni grace the rosters of America’s leading opera companies, including the Los Angeles Opera, Santa Fe Opera, San Francisco

Opera, Seattle Opera, Chicago Lyric Opera, and The Metropolitan Opera.

Change is often a good thing. It opens us up to unexpected experiences, as Jo found when she moved to New York City and fell in love with German professor Friedrich Bhaer (played here by senior Jason Racine). Change can also create exciting opportunities, as Price found when he decided to stage a contemporary opera and wrangled the residency of composer Adamo. But the things not likely to change soon at Pepperdine’s Flora L. Thornton Opera Program are Price’s devotion to training future stars of the opera world and his passion for challenging the students and himself to produce complex, beautiful works of vocal art.

“*Little Women* just took me over, and the more I hear it the more I love it, so it was a completely different experience for me to learn it with the students,” Price reflects. “It was a thoroughly invigorating experience.” ■

BEHIND the CURTAIN

Behind the scenes of every Pepperdine Fine Arts production is a team of designers, directors, and technical experts. Here’s a glimpse into the work of costume designer **CAROL ANN HACK** and orchestra conductor **TONY CASON**.

By Sarah Fisher



“I look at costumes as 3D sculptures mostly. They are an extension of art,” says Carol Ann Hack, costume designer for the Pepperdine Fine Arts Division. Every year for the past 15, Hack has painstakingly built the visual expressions of character for theatre and opera productions at the University, each with unique aesthetic demands. “I can’t even pick a favorite time period to design for. I like them all except for modern dress, which is as easy as buying a suit from Nordstrom. I don’t like shopping!”

What she does like is the hunt. Her creative adventures typically lead her through the jungles of Los Angeles’ thrift stores for costumes and accessories, through neighborhood fabric stores, and through the books of historical and conceptual fashion that line the shelves of her studio.

“Every new show is a challenge and I really enjoy doing the research and the creating,” confirms Hack, who earned an MFA in costume design at the California Institute of the Arts in order to pursue her goal of designing for higher education. “We just recently did *An Inspector Calls*, which is set in 1914 in a period of silhouettes. It was fascinating because we can



CAROL ANN HACK




TONY CASON

still get magazines from the era on eBay to do authentic research. It was also a small cast, so we could get everything perfect."

For Hack, a small cast means that she and her part-time assistant Jamie Hampton are able to design and create every costume from scratch in her studio, whereas the larger productions require some costume rental. "Sewing is a dying craft," she muses, adding that it's a vital step in the creative process.

Hack grew up inside community theatre in Michigan, where her mother was a performing soprano. She wanted to follow in her mother's footsteps, but tired of always being "the short dancer on the end." Instead, she found her perfect fit behind the scenes.

"I get as much of a thrill seeing my costumes on stage opening night as I did being on stage opening night," she says. "It's the creative challenges that fulfill me."

 In just six years as the orchestra conductor at Pepperdine, Tony Cason has made

significant changes to the shape of the Fine Arts Division's music program, including the founding of a wind ensemble and pep band. "We didn't have either when I got here, and they're both growing," Cason states. "Having the opportunity to create those programs here and seeing the progress year by year is a large part of my passion for conducting in a university setting."

Cason arrived at Pepperdine in Fall 2005 after retiring from a 34-year career as a conductor for the United States military, including 15 years as deputy commander of the United States Army Band, Pershing's Own, in Washington, D.C. Despite having previously performed in high intensity settings for world leaders and crowds of thousands, he continues to thrive off the thrill of live performance. "In a teaching environment or a professional environment, there's always things that can go wrong. The thing I enjoy is trying to keep it all together."

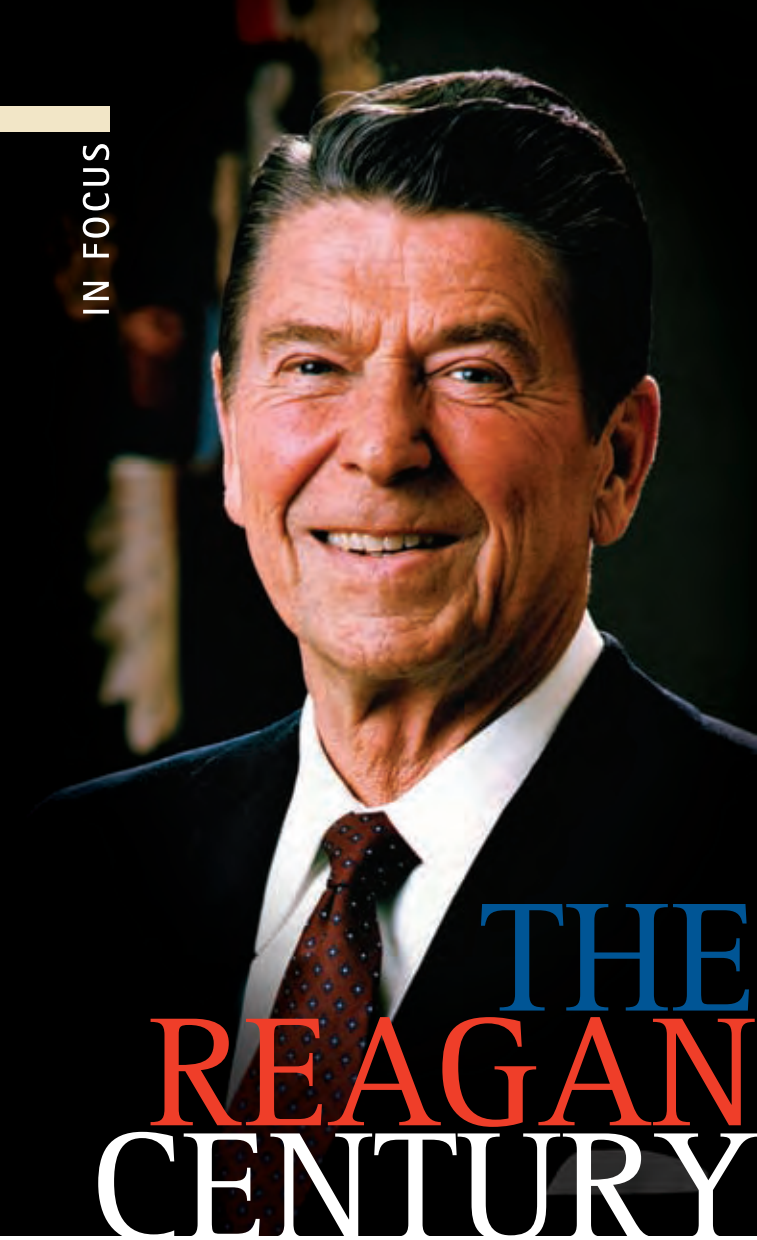
Each musical, opera, and symphony at Pepperdine has its own unique challenges for Cason. "The conductor in all three genres holds the forces together," he confirms. "This

is certainly more pronounced in musical theatre and opera, when all the forces are at play. You must be ready to keep the voices and instrumental players together."

Familiarity helps the process to run more smoothly; Cason works closely with the same students during their four years at Seaver, aiding their progress and shaping their talents. "All of our students are wonderful young men and women. And it seems that the students we recruit and bring to the University are getting better each year."

Cason—who earned his bachelor's and master's degrees in music from the University of Memphis and the Catholic University of America, respectively—has fine-tuned his orchestra of performing students for an incredibly wide variety of productions at Pepperdine. From the large-scale musicals *Hello Dolly!*, *Sweeney Todd*, and *Thoroughly Modern Millie*, to the much smaller orchestra used for the Flora L. Thornton Opera Program, he says choosing his favorite genre is like trying to choose a favorite child. "Rock, pop, jazz, classical, big band—I've done it all here. And I love it all!"

➔ **ON THE WEB** Learn more about the Fine Arts Division: seaver.pepperdine.edu/finearts



By Douglas W. Kmiec,
U.S. Ambassador
and former
constitutional
counsel to
President Reagan

Kmiec is the Caruso Family Chair in Constitutional Law at the Pepperdine University School of Law (on leave).

RONALD REAGAN EMBODIED AMERICA. Within the soul of the barrel-chested president was: the innocence and honesty of a Midwestern boyhood; the intrepid self-confidence of the young radio announcer capable of completing baseball play-by-play narration even as the telegraph failed; the compelling charisma of a Hollywood actor; the patriotic heart of an enlisted soldier who, despite personal pleading, saw action only in small-budget training films; the loyal voice of union stewardship for the “average Joe;” the chivalrous husband penning love notes to Nancy, his lifelong sweetheart; the shrewd strategist and voice of public inspiration climbing to the top of state office; and finally, a wise, true descendant of the father of the country, riding high in the saddle of presidential governance.

I was privileged to serve as President Reagan’s constitutional lawyer—head of the Office of Legal Counsel. More than once in that role I had to object on legal grounds to something an influential supporter, or even the president himself, wanted for political reasons. Never did President Reagan seek to circumvent a good-faith interpretation of the law. Oh, to be sure, on occasion Reagan would roll his eyes in response to some of our highly technical opinions, explicitly or implicitly saying, well, there you go again. But the president’s integrity to do his constitutional duty was unwavering.

So too, Reagan with the same tenacity and integrity of purpose would literally “tear down Mr. Gorbachev’s wall,” insisting on the Strategic Defense Initiative as not just a U.S. shield, but a global one—since Reagan understood shared deployment as the common ground upon which a freer world might someday stand against the mindless proliferation of nuclear weaponry.

Illness would empty much of the great deposit of American spirit that lived within the heart of Ronald Reagan, and it grieved all of his friends to see him without memory of events in which he figured so widely.

As I write I am once more overtaken by the sadness of farewell. We were last together just a few weeks after he disclosed his Alzheimer’s burden. It was a cruel illness to deprive the president of all he did for America, but then, he always acted for America selflessly; a point given emphasis by the sign on his desk that admonished how much a man could accomplish if he didn’t worry who got the credit.

Ronald Reagan deserves ample credit for making America stand tall in the face of the daunting challenges of runaway inflation and the formidable cold war threat. He was “transformative,” as President Obama has reflected. My new boss is right about that.

Disease and death may have deprived us of our beloved 40th president earlier than we would have liked, but a century after Nellie Reagan gave birth to the son to whom she would also impart the importance and humility of prayer, time has not expunged the fullness and respect for the former president. He is consistently and wisely remembered as among the best by his countrymen. ■

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"What one day seems impossible in retrospect seems inevitable. If we do the right things for history's judgment, not today's headlines, then we will come through all crises in good shape."

—Condoleezza Rice, Pepperdine University, February 9, 2011

CONDOLEEZZA RICE (U.S. Secretary of State 2005–2009) addressed Pepperdine audiences at two special events in February on the Malibu campus. Read about her remarks on foreign policy, the economic recovery, and the value of a good education: magazine.pepperdine.edu/condoleezza-rice

