

SANTA CLARA  
UNIVERSITY

SANTA CLARA MAGAZINE SUMMER 2022

# Santa Clara Magazine

Meet the first woman  
and layperson to lead  
SCU. *Page 16*

It's especially deadly  
to be poor in Silicon  
Valley. *Page 22*

How have so many  
Bronco women made it  
in Hollywood? *Page 30*

A tattoo marking  
pain and strength  
within. *Page 34*



INSIDE

INSIDE



2/24/22

AS AMERICANS WOKE to reports of Russian explosions in Ukraine, political science Professor **Jane Curry** saw images of a country she knew facing destruction. It's a place where she conducted research and traveled with Santa Clara students. In the waning years of the Soviet Union, Curry launched an exchange program with Donetsk State University in an area that, as of this writing, withstands a Russian offensive. Students traveled between the two communities, becoming friends who understood one another rather than nameless Cold War enemies. **Charles Phipps, S.J.** made the trip, too, despite tight controls on religious expression. Today, the city museum in Donetsk that included an exhibit dedicated to this SCU exchange is a ruin, a victim of Russian bombs. "The pictures of the attacks on cities in the west and center of Ukraine are poignant to me, as I knew these people," she says. "In 2019, I sat in their offices and living rooms asking them questions about why they dared protest in the Orange Revolution." That's when regular Ukrainians spent two months in the freezing cold, protesting election fraud that had delivered victory to a Russian-backed candidate in 2003. Ultimately, the protests forced a recount, ushering the rightful victor to power. Curry learned that Ukrainians have guts—they are not easily cowed. They are like their national symbol, the sunflower: stalwart, springing to bloom season after season.

WORDS BY LESLIE GRIFFY. IMAGE COURTESY GETTY IMAGES.

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# Santa Clara Magazine



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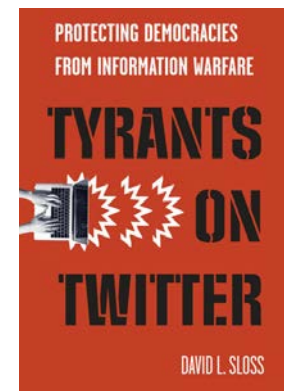
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magazine.scu.edu

## DIGITAL EXCLUSIVES

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



**TWEETING TYRANTS** Dig into how we can protect democracies from misinformation.



**GRADUATION** Catch photos and insights from the big day. And congratulations to the class of 2022!



**SUPPLY CHAIN** Learn how the crunch hit our 100 percent recycled paper and delayed your Santa Clara Magazine.

# Letters

Read more, discuss: magazine.scu.edu

## HOPE IN THE ASHES

Those were certainly dark days at Sacred Heart Jesuit Center. I dreaded looking at my phone in the morning because there was always another trip to the hospital or another passing. We had friends and family calling to check on Jesuits to see if they were sick or hospitalized. It was not an easy time for anyone, especially the men. Thank you for writing such a lovely piece.

**Siobhán Lawlor**  
*Vice President for Advancement & Provincial Assistant, Jesuits West*

I join the chorus of gratitude to you for putting into words such an experience of finding hope and consolation in the midst of great sorrow. In a time where we're inundated with stories of rage and anger, I'm sure many others will find in this piece a reminder of our shared humanity and call to accompany one another.

**Fr. Jack Treacy, S.J. '77, MAT '90**

Writer Tracy Seipel beautifully captured the heartache and hope that settled over Sacred Heart throughout the pandemic, a microcosm of the world reeling from so much loss.

## WE ARE THE CHAMPIONS

I read and loved every word of the story about this bizarre championship season for the women's soccer team. I was working at Santa Clara in 2001 when the first women's NCAA championship win happened. They came home to campus on a day when there were no classes in session, so most students were gone. I wanted to give them the homecoming they deserved, so we sent out emails and a hardy contingent of faculty and staff, along with their young heroine-worshipping children came out to the top of Mission Drive. The Athletic Department lugged over a banner and a very loud sound system, and "We Are the Champions" was burned into my brain for at least 45 minutes before the bus pulled up! Go Broncos!

**Susan C. Shea**  
*Author; former director of communications and marketing, Santa Clara University*

## INFORMED BY STRUGGLE

Professor Meir Statman was one of my favorite professors in the Leavey School MBA program for a number of reasons. First and foremost, I'd score Meir as top-notch in the "Wesson Oil" academic honesty department. (For the curious, Nobel Laureate physicist Richard Feynman used an old Wesson advertisement that wasn't absolutely truthful as an example to be avoided). What I mean is that Professor Feynman believed that academic honesty required practitioners to mention the whole truth of a topic, not just supporting arguments and evidence. It is something Meir did as he taught us about investments and investing.

**William Witter MBA '92**

*We admit we had to Google the Wesson Oil debacle you mention. Apparently, the ad claimed the cooking oil would not soak into food. In reality, no oil soaks into food if it's cold. A shady case of not telling the whole truth, indeed!*

## QUESTION/BRONCO NEWS

While it is true that all things seek more randomness, or chaos, as Valedictorian Sabine Pigg '20 notes in her comments about entropy in the Fall 2021 issue, it is also true that all things seek to exist at their lowest, and most stable, energy states. Yet another mystery and struggle of Creation as we believe to know it and try to live it.

**Marc Tunzi '80**

## JULIE SULLIVAN PRESIDENTIAL ANNOUNCEMENT

Congratulations from a Santa Clara 1968 master's degree candidate, Pupil Personnel Services-certified counselor living in Northern New Mexico. I served in education as a teacher for elementary, middle, and high school, was a director of instruction, and taught a college course. Now reaching my 88th birthday, I can do no more than congratulate you!

**Ramon Estrada M.A. '69**

## CORRECTIONS

*In "The Gift of Experience" (inside back cover, Fall 2021), the SCU board on which philanthropist Jack Lewis served was incorrectly identified. Lewis dedicated more than 30 years of service on the Board of Trustees.*

# Mission Matters

NEWS FROM SANTA CLARA



Interested in sharing Santa Clara University with generations of students to come? Visit [scu.edu/giving](https://scu.edu/giving) to learn how.

## Generations to Come

HERE IS A graduation story. It exists not only in June 2022 but also in June 1954, in June 1919, and in some June far into the future.

The 2022 story: Four cousins graduated and embarked on the world together this June—twins **Nick Gagan '22** and **Will Gagan '22**, and cousins **Maria Gagan '22** and **Carolyn Gagan '22**.

Though unintended, attending SCU together had perks—they shared friends and tips on which courses to take, and helped one another through the pandemic and their grandmother's death.

The foursome also met regularly with their grandfather, **Brian Gagan '54**, who would travel down from San Francisco for lunch at the just-off-campus cornerstone he calls by its former name, the *Mau*i Hut. Because, oh, he went to SCU, too.

"Campus just feels like a hometown, you know?" says Maria. "It's a place we are from, that we know, even if we aren't from here."

The 1954 story: Brian was unsure he'd become a Bronco. Despite having grown up with SCU stories from his dad,

another **Brian Gagan**, who graduated in 1919, the younger Brian was a so-so high school student with no idea what he wanted to do. His mother, however, had a plan.

She loaded him on the train from San Francisco and took him to meet the head of SCU admission. It was Brian's father's dying wish that Brian attend Santa Clara, she said. The Jesuits agreed to take him on.

"That's the thing she did for me—it was pivotal," Brian says of his mother. "It's made all of the difference in my life."

The Jesuit values instilled in him—particularly an appreciation of hard work and a sense of justice—were planted in his own children's lives, three of whom—**Sue Sami '81**, **Brian '85**, and **Kevin '87**—also attended SCU.

Today, all the Gagans are passionate about sharing what the University has given them with others. They are funding the Gagan Family Scholarship to support a new generation of Broncos.

"We are not just a multigeneration Santa Clara family," says Kevin, who met his wife **Suzanne '87** when both were students at SCU. "We want to create this tradition for another family."

IMAGE COURTESY SCU. WORDS BY LESLIE GRIFFIN.

# ”

**“Backup Earth.”** Scientists and philosophers say we may need one—and space exploration could be a vital hedge against global catastrophe. How we go about exploring, and how we use (and abuse) space, raises troubling ethical issues—something **Brian Patrick Green**, director of technology ethics at SCU's Markkula Center for Applied Ethics, explores in his new book, *Space Ethics*.

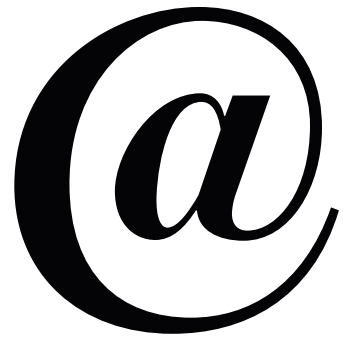


*Santa Clara Magazine:* Instead of trying to settle Mars right away, you recommend settling the moon first. What would be the advantages?

**Brian Patrick Green:** A moon settlement can do everything a Mars settlement can do, including serving as a “backup Earth,” for much less cost and risk. It has lots of resources—not quite everything, but almost (NASA has detected water molecules on the moon)—and what it lacks can be imported from Earth or from asteroids. We know the moon doesn't have any life, so we know there is not going to be a forward/backward contamination issue. No one has returned to the moon since 1972. Let's go there first; it's a lot closer and it's a lot easier. It's still super difficult, but not as difficult as Mars.

*Earthrise: Settling the moon would have the benefit of a spectacular view—if we don't block it with space trash. For an extended Q&A with Brian Patrick Green, visit [magazine.scu.edu](https://magazine.scu.edu).*

IMAGE COURTESY NASA. WORDS BY TRACY SEIFEL.



**In a World of Pure Imagination.** Students want to put their imagination into our world. That's possible in the redesigned Imaginarium. The lab has combined with the WAVE High-Performance Computing Center and moved into the Heafey building as part of the new Sobrato Campus for Innovation and Discovery, where it houses student projects that explore the world from new angles.

"We're trying to build a peer-to-peer collaborative network where students learn and teach each other virtual reality, augmented reality, game development, graphic design, animation, storytelling, all of these different skill sets," says **David Jeong**, assistant professor of communication and faculty co-director of the Imaginarium. "It's been my dream goal to start a VR lab where we could teach students, hold guest speaker seminar series, basically popularize the tech to a wider audience, and reduce the intimidation factor around it."

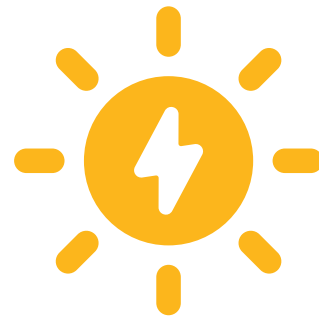
He's getting closer, it seems, as there's plenty of student interest in using the lab and a growing number of faculty who want to incorporate VR into their classes. Several projects have already found great success—three have been accepted by the International Communication Association's 2022 conference in Paris.

These projects include a VR exploration of the hypocrisy of corporations that contribute to pollution and global warming but market themselves as eco-friendly; a VR simulation in which users build empathy by experiencing firsthand how the world might look and feel to someone with social anxiety; and an augmented reality experience in which users see 3D models of homes belonging to the region's Indigenous Ohlone people on the current-day Santa Clara campus.

Imaginarium lab technician **Emily Dang '20, M.S. '21** suspects students are only going to become more interested in learning to work in virtual and augmented realities as more VR products and experiences begin flooding the marketplace. And not just those in STEM fields. "When people learn about big topics like sustainability or racial discrimination through VR as opposed to other traditional methods, they tend to come away with more empathy," Dang says. It's because they *experienced* something rather than just read about it. "The humanities, I think, should be really interested in what that means for the future of education, what that means for a more empathetic and just society if we teach our children this way."



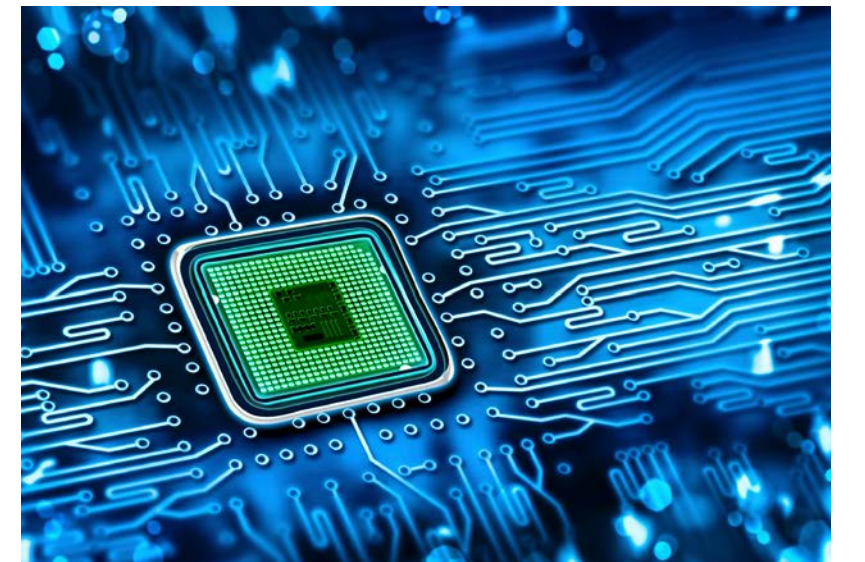
ILLUSTRATION BY MIKE BYERS, WORDS BY LAUREN LOFTUS.



**HERE COMES SUN** Silicon Valley entrepreneurs and Bronco parents Jeff and Tina Bird donated \$10 million to fund STEM initiatives and help SCU reach its sustainability and energy goals. Half of the gift will complete the Innovation Zone in the new Sobrato Campus for Discovery and Innovation, where hands-on learning includes access to power tools, 3D printers, and laser cutters. The other half creates the Bird Solar Initiative Plan, which funds solar panels across campus to generate an anticipated 1.7 megawatts of renewable energy each year. "We think it's a way to make a broad impact," says Jeff. "And the greener that Santa Clara is able to operate, the greener our immediate environment."

*Training tomorrow's workforce: Santa Clara University students work on state-of-the-art equipment thanks to gifts from Silicon Valley companies.*

# INDUSTRY READY



THE OPENING OF the Sobrato Campus for Discovery and Innovation included an upgrade to some labs and project spaces. Keysight Technologies, a Santa Rosa-based company that manufactures electronics testing equipment and software, donated oscilloscopes, multimeters, and more to the electrical and computer engineering department. The opportunity to work with state-of-the-art equipment gives students vital experience, says Doug Baney, Keysight's corporate director of education. "I've always been a big believer in students being industry ready, which means being prepared to use the tools that their job requires," says Baney. "When a medi-

cal student is getting their degree, you hope that they're learning with real scalpels, not plastic ones, and that they use real equipment as they learn their trade. In a similar way, I think it's important for electrical engineering students to be able to do that." A team of chemistry and bioengineering students have additional tech partners. Together with BioSpyder Technologies, they are examining the effects of silver nanoparticles—found in socks and food containers—on human liver cells. With MegaChips, one of the world's largest semiconductor manufacturing corporations, students work on the exploration of robotic sensing and control technology.



*An effort to understand how an essential organelle keeps fluid moving in the body scored assistant professor of biology Brian Bayless a \$407,661 grant from the National Institutes of Health.*

**MOTILE-MYSTERY** When **Brian Bayless** looks at motile cilia, he sees the arms of a swimmer. The tiny hair-like appendages extend from cell membranes inside the human body and move like a freestyle stroke. "When you're swimming, you pull the water behind you and then have a recovery stroke to minimize drag and bring your arm back in position to pull the water again," the assistant professor of biology says. "That's exactly what motile cilia are doing." Disruption of motile-cilia-driven extracellular fluid flow can result in disorders like hydrocephaly, child-onset epilepsy, and female infertility. Despite the importance of motile cilia, scientists are puzzled by the microtubules that are a major building block of their structure. Unlike most microtubules that grow and shrink rapidly, motile cilia microtubules are stable in size and shape but elastic enough to bend without breaking. Bayless has received a \$407,661 grant from the National Institutes of Health to support ongoing research to better understand motile cilia.

IMAGES COURTESY SCU AND ADOBE STOCK; WORDS BY TRACY SEIPEL, MATT MORGAN, TATIANA SANCHEZ TO, AND LAUREN LOFTUS.

## Robot Masters

SANTA CLARA HOPES to educate future generations of human robotics leaders steeped in the values that could make the world more just and humane through automation. Enter a new master's of science degree in robotics and automation from the School of Engineering. Professor **Chris Kitts**, director of the Robotics Systems Lab, says there were many motivations in developing this degree—including significant student demand in a national educational market that has not caught up to meet it. Automation technology, he says, "is rapidly evolving, it is pervasive across numerous industries, requires truly interdisciplinary knowledge, and motivates issues outside of engineering that SCU is uniquely positioned to address." The first student recruited and accepted to the program, **Michael Aboh '23**, says he's hoping to help the people back in his native Nigeria. A major problem there, Aboh says, is lack of food, caused in part by an underfunded agricultural sector and too few farmers. "One of my dreams has always been to come into the space of agricultural automation, not just in my home country but on the global stage," he says.



# And I Endorse This

EVERY PLAYER ON Santa Clara women's soccer team received a remote-controlled mattress pad and the opportunity to make \$600 for promoting the Bay Area Women's Sports Initiative during SCU's Day of Giving. A baseball player with Type 1 diabetes received a year's worth of glucose monitoring equipment for endorsing its manufacturer. And a men's water polo player scored 75 sandwich vouchers from Ike's Love & Sandwiches in exchange for writing two social media posts. #DutchCrunch. Welcome to the brave new world of Name, Image and Likeness (NIL) deals for college athletes. Before July 2021, student-athletes were prohib-

ited from accepting payment from outside sources. But new rules allow athletes to be paid for event appearances, product promotion, and more. It's the job of Associate Athletic Director for Compliance **Ryan Merz** to ensure that SCU athletes don't endorse anything illegal or against the University's values. The NCAA says any NIL activities should be reported to schools, but the rules vary. Unlike other states, California doesn't allow schools to negotiate deals for their athletes, leaving it up to the students themselves. The men's water polo player walked a block off campus to negotiate his Ike's deal, for example. Says Merz: "It's really the Wild West."

*In addition to hawkling sandwiches, Bronco athletes have endorsed products ranging from a glucose monitor to a bed-cooling technology.*



**BASEBALL BROS** Taking the American motifs of baseball and brotherhood to a new level, the Santa Clara baseball team has two sets of brothers on the roster this year. They are pitchers **Ethan '22** and **Jeffrey Heinrich '23**; and the Brigmans, shortstop **Dawson '22** and outfielder **Coleman '22**. The Brigmans come from a California baseball family—their father played at University of the Pacific, older brother Keenan Brigman played at UC San Diego, and oldest brother Bryson Brigman had a great season last year with the Miami Marlins' Triple-A affiliate, the Jacksonville Jumbo Shrimp. To Coleman, playing for SCU baseball is just an extension of keeping it in the family. "The day I took a visit to the campus and the field, and met the coaching staff, I knew I wanted to be a Bronco," he says. "It felt like home." As for any rumors of brotherly rivalry among teammates, Coleman puts those to rest: "We try to bring that brotherly love to each member on the team so that when game day comes, we're ultimately playing for each other."

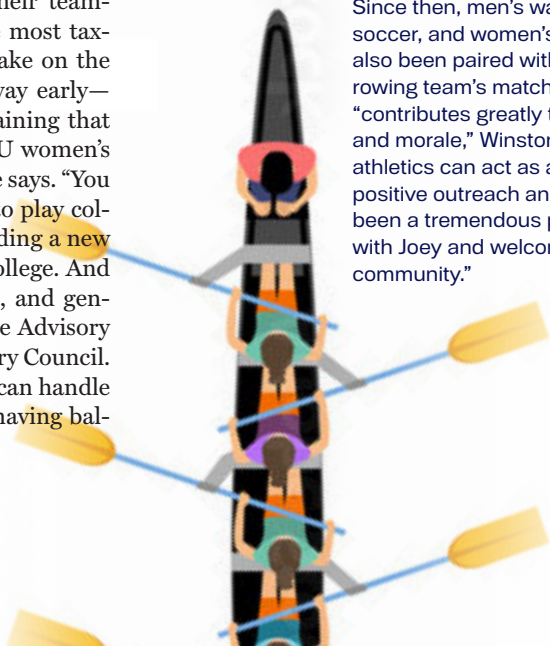
**IMPACTFUL TEAM** When it comes to college-level athletics, SCU men's rowing team captain **JT Winston '22** says it's easy to become singularly focused on performance metrics. But through his work with Team IMPACT, a program that pairs children with chronic illnesses with college athletes, Winston says he's learned "that athletics is about much more than training and competition." Two years ago, the mentoring program matched Santa Clara with two children, and both rowing and men's basketball participated. Since then, men's water polo and soccer, and women's basketball have also been paired with local kids. The rowing team's match, 8-year-old Joey, "contributes greatly to team unity and morale," Winston says. "College athletics can act as a platform for positive outreach and inspiration...it's been a tremendous privilege to work with Joey and welcome him into our community."



# READY AL, ROW



ROWING IS ONE of the toughest sports at the college level: Rowers have to build up incredible lung capacity, they work nearly every muscle during a race, and they must be completely in sync with their teammates to win. Heck, rowing is one of the most taxing sports, period. Rowers volunteer to take on the challenge. It's that choice to wake up—way early—every day and dedicate yourself to the training that attracted Truman Scholar finalist **Alexandria Perez '23** to the SCU women's rowing team. "There's so much discipline that's required of you," she says. "You have to be really intentional with your time." Perez, who planned to play collegiate soccer before a career-ending injury in high school, says finding a new sport was integral to her tackling everything she wanted to do in college. And she's done a lot: A triple-major in public health, political science, and gender studies, Perez is also co-president of the NCAA Student Athlete Advisory Committee and co-chair of the Inclusive Excellence Student Advisory Council. Being a student-athlete "gave me a lot of confidence," she says. "If I can handle practicing 20-plus hours a week, and going to all my classes, and having balance and friendships, then I really can do anything."



IMAGES COURTESY ADOBE STOCK; WORDS BY LAUREN LOFFIUS AND HAROLD GUTTMANN.



**Milestone.** The locker room was quiet. Players hid beside the open doorway, water bottles in hand. Seconds passed slowly—they were fireworks ready to pop. From down the hallway, footsteps grew louder. SCU men's basketball forward **Josip Vrankic '21, MBA '23** had been tasked with distracting head coach **Herb Sendek**. The team didn't want him to perceive the coming chaos.



"I made it seem like I was going to give a big heartwarming speech and really milked it for a while so it would build some suspense, and when all of his attention was on me, the rest of the guys poured water all over him," **Josip Vrankic '21, MBA '23** says. "It was really great to just see Coach smile and let loose, even if it was just for two minutes." The cause for this celebration? Coach **Herb Sendek's** 500th career win, as the Broncos beat the University of the Pacific, 84-70, in Stockton. The milestone came during a year of

incredible highs butting up against many tribulations. "It has been a mental and physical grind for us this season with so many different players either sick or injured," Vrankic says. "I'm just glad that our coaching staff, especially Coach Sendek, really make the effort to make sure all of our players are getting the help that we need." That's off the court, too. "He makes it an effort to remember everyone's family members' names and birthdays, and will check in on them from time to time, which kind of blew me away. I mean, months

and years after we commit, he still does that? That's the type of coach players wanna play for," starting point guard **P.J. Pipes '22** says. Sendek's career spanned almost 30 years, including multiple NCAA tournament bids and NBA-level talent. Still, on the night of his big win, Sendek focused on something else: "It's a great night, and a great win, but we've got another tough game right around the corner," he told players. They were ready, finishing third in the West Coast Conference, the team's best showing in nine years.

*Since starting at Santa Clara in March 2015, men's basketball coach **Herb Sendek** (pictured above in 2019 with forward **Josh Martin '19**) has led the Broncos to more than 500 wins.*

P

**A Girl's Mind.** It's an overwhelming, sometimes scary, but often magical place. In her new novel, *What the Fireflies Knew*, assistant professor of creative writing **Kai Harris** occupies that space through KB, her just-turned-11 narrator who goes through a *lot* one summer in 1990s Michigan. The book is the first work of fiction from Phoebe Robinson's Tiny Reparations Books.

**Santa Clara Magazine:** Revisiting the headspace of a girl on the verge of adolescence sounds like too much to bear. The hormones alone! How did you manage?

**Kai Harris:** It'd be easy sometimes to slip out of KB's voice, so sometimes she'd be talking like an adult and I'd have to rewrite the scene. One thing that really helped me was daily writing exercises, where I would think about a scenario, and then I'd have KB talk about it in her voice. Just a small scene that wouldn't go in the book, like getting a bad grade. It helped me identify her.

**SCM:** So much of the book deals with loss and how KB's family copes by ignoring pain. How much of you set out to prove them wrong?

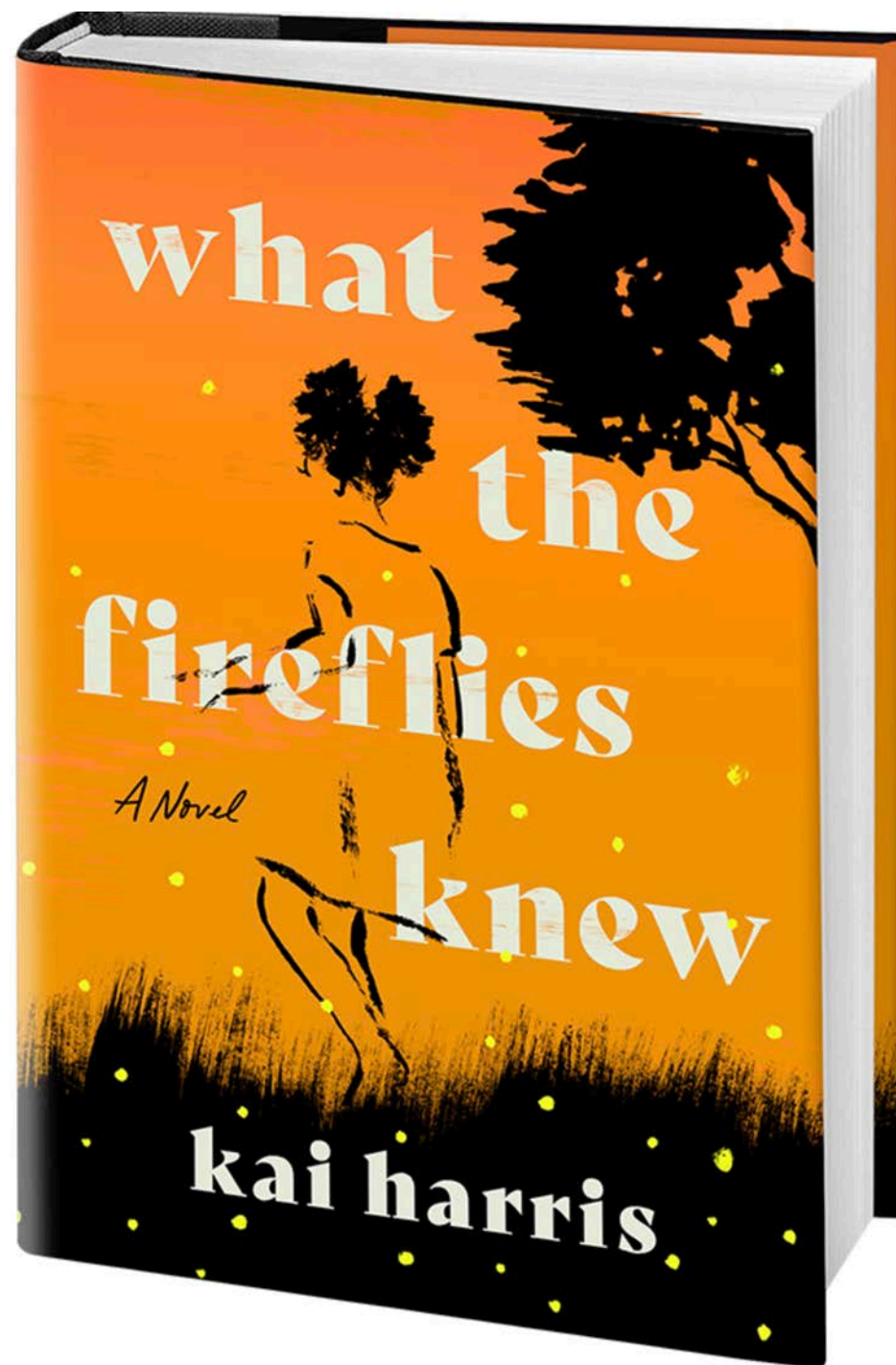


**KH:** I've talked a lot about mental health, specifically mental health awareness in the Black community and the stigma and barriers to care... [In the book] KB is always asking questions, she's trying to figure things out, always trying to process. And little does she know that she's helping people do the same, and they're opening up to her.

**SCM:** You've said this book was born from a desire to show Black girlhood at its best, at its worst, at its most dull and most exciting. Why is it important to showcase that ordinariness?

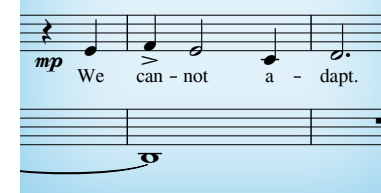
**KH:** I wanted to write a book for adults told from the perspective of a young Black girl, in her voice. I feel like that's something that's rarely seen in fiction... I wanted to show what it's like to be in this body, in this experience. How being Black impacts how you see the world: This is what it looks like, this is what it smells like, this is what it sounds like.

*This interview has been cut and edited for clarity. To read the full Q&A with Harris, visit [magazine.scu.edu](http://magazine.scu.edu).*



IMAGES COURTESY KAI HARRIS; WORDS BY LAUREN LOFTUS.

## The Abyss



**REAL SOUND** Inspired by the natural rhythms of the Bay Area, seniors **Frances Bertotti-Metoyer '22** and **Sophia Flores '22** composed six vocal and piano arrangements as fellows for the Center for Arts and Humanities. Using on-location sound research at various open spaces, the pair aims to show how colonization and climate change have impacted the region through sound. "We wanted it to be something that was impactful, and that had a message to it," Flores says. "It wasn't just, 'Climate change is bad' it's, 'Climate change is bad and why is this happening? And how is it specific to the Bay Area? And how can we make a difference?'"



**LET'S TALK** "There are a million reasons we don't want what we know to be true about Bill Cosby to be true," says SCU English Assistant Professor **Danielle Morgan**, who wrote a book on African American satire and comedy. "But the reality is the reality." Morgan was interviewed for the documentary miniseries *We Need to Talk About Cosby*, which premiered on Showtime in late January 2022 to rave reviews. TV host and stand-up comic W. Kamau Bell directed and produced the series, which explores how we talk and feel about Bill Cosby, the man behind the groundbreaking, stereotype-shattering 1980s show that put a Black family front and center on television sets across America, now that the same man has been charged with dozens of sexual assaults. The series does not attempt to definitively answer whether it's possible to separate the art from the artist, but opens space to talk about it.

IMAGES COURTESY ISTOCK.AAND PROVIDED BY SARAH YOUNG '24, LAUREN LOFTUS, AND SAM PRASAD '11, MBA '15.



To re-create the sounds of water in Mayer Theater, SCU choral director **Scot Hanna-Weir** relied on plinking piano notes to represent rain drops.

# THE DANCE OF WATER

A MULTIMEDIA DANCE performance re-created the feeling of flowing water in SCU's Mayer Theatre in fall 2021, exploring both the element itself and the effects of human activity on this resource. *The Water Project* was seeded three years ago with a walk along the winding Merced River, says **David Popalisky**, associate professor of theater and dance. Those shallow depths sparked in him an urgency to spread the gospel of protecting it, especially as drought returns to the Santa Clara Valley. "By the fall, you couldn't read the news without hearing a story of drought or floods," Popalisky says. "And so it was even more critical to be aware and to take action." *The Water Project* was an interdisciplinary effort, featuring original choral music, visual artwork, and expressive dance, as well as input from the departments of Art and Art History and Environmental Studies and Sciences. After rekindling our connection to water, the final step for the audience, says SCU environmental studies Professor **Iris Stewart-Frey**, was to reflect on what actions can be taken to protect it. "Our responsibility is actually to become moral beings," Stewart-Frey says. "And in that respect, to really ask ourselves are we doing our best?"

## We Will Rock You

IMAGINE THE WORLD thousands of years ago. No smartphones. No TikTok. Humans received and passed along information by writing on really old rocks. Santa Clara University has one of those old rocks—a cuneiform tablet, smaller than an average adult's palm, that's an estimated 4,000 years old, making it the oldest item in the University Archives and Special Collections. The tablet dates between 2100 and 2000 B.C. It was made by pressing symbols into wet clay, a kind of writing called cuneiform. Though archivists say the tablet was originally a receipt for a livestock trade or purchase, modern students and faculty use it to research the durability of the written word and how we disseminate information across the world, across generations, and across cultures. English Lecturer **Melissa Donegan** leads students in her class, Writing Home—Stuff and the Stories It Helps Us Tell, to interact with a variety of archival materials and think about what makes something meaningful and vital to humanity as a whole.



"Here we have something that is 4,000 years old," says English Lecturer **Melissa Donegan**. "We emphasize these treasures. We come back to them, engage with them—they are made to last."



Immersion is key to student development, says Maria Autrey. "To take a pause in their life, with such intentionality and also to see ourselves as part of something bigger."



**IMMERSED** Stretching from the southern tip of New York state to the tippy-tops of Georgia and Alabama are over 2,000 miles of mountain range in a region known as Appalachia. Communities here have a complex cultural history that runs as deep as the coal veins in their mines, and ongoing environmental and economic tensions cloud their future. This spring break, a group of Santa Clara students learned about these tensions through the Ignatian Center's relaunched in-person immersion program in coordination with the Appalachian Institute at Wheeling University in West Virginia. Over the week, students worked with community organizations that address energy sustainability and ecological justice. "I think immersions are an amazing opportunity that not everybody has," says immersions director Maria Autrey.



"The mission of university students is to leave the world in a better state than the one in which you live," Pope Francis says. "People will say, 'You are young, you are idealistic.' No. Don't accept this."

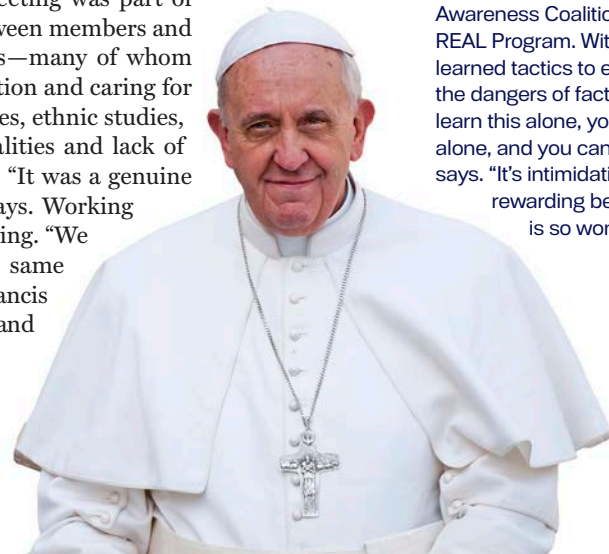
**E-I-E-I-NO** It's hard to put a figure on the toll of factory farming. Really hard: There are no federal laws that set humane care standards for farm animals and little to no regulations on the high levels of farm emissions that cause global warming. To shed some light on what occurs behind the closed doors, SCU senior, vegan, and climate activist Eamon Ghasemiyeh '22 interned at the Factory Farming Awareness Coalition (FFAC) through the REAL Program. With FFAC, Ghasemiyeh learned tactics to educate the public on the dangers of factory farming. "You can't learn this alone, you can't deal with it alone, and you can't address it alone," he says. "It's intimidating work, but it's really rewarding because the community is so wonderful."

# Moving the Needle

THE CORONAVIRUS PANDEMIC and revitalized racial justice movement laid bare devastating inequities across the United States and spurred two Santa Clara families to commit to growing diversity on campus. They hope their gifts, totaling \$2.3 million, inspire others to chip in. Philanthropist **Jim Hulburd '82** and his wife, Laura, established a \$680,000, 10-year fund through the Undergraduate Admission Office to create a needs-based scholarship for Black students. They plan to select two students to help each year, so that by the fourth year, the couple is assisting eight students throughout their time at SCU. Through the JW Bagley Foundation, the Bagley family—which includes several SCU alumni—has established a \$1.64 million, need-based endowed scholarship benefitting first-generation BIPOC students, a move that doubled their contributions to the University. Their efforts come as many institutions of higher education focus on making campuses more diverse and inclusive, and improving the experiences of BIPOC students by ensuring they are welcomed in a supportive, understanding community. "We can't solve a huge problem," Hulburd says. "But if we can help improve the path of one child at a time, it really is quite rewarding. I'd love to see 20 years from now that the needle got moved."

# POPE CHAT

IN FEBRUARY, THREE Broncos were among more than 100 university students from throughout the Americas to log into a special Zoom meeting. **Lorena Delgado-Márquez '22**, **Antonio Amore Rojas '23** and **Marco Tulio Martínez Salazar, S.J.**, a JST doctoral candidate in sacred theology, met—and spoke directly to—his Holiness Pope Francis. The meeting was part of the Catholic Church's effort to expand communication between members and leaders. The Church asked to hear directly from students—many of whom are migrants or come from migrant families—about migration and caring for our planet. Márquez, who studies sociology, religious studies, ethnic studies, and Spanish, asked the pope about socioeconomic inequalities and lack of educational opportunities for migrants and their children. "It was a genuine conversation between the pope and students," Márquez says. Working with other students who also do justice work was invigorating. "We are so interconnected—we have the same struggles and same hopes for the future," she says. And that's something Pope Francis says he depends on. Connections laid through the Church and shared mission can help make things better.



**Staring into the Fire.** On summer break, college students usually go on vacation, see their families and friends, and enjoy the sun. Rather than tanning at the pool or riding waves at the beach the summer after his sophomore year, **Henry Jones '23** joined his hometown fire department in the Pacific Northwest, and spent his time off extinguishing flames and protecting his community.



If you think working 9 to 5 is hard, try working 16 hours a day for 14 days straight and sleeping on the side of the road. **Henry Jones '23** did, and says he's better for it. In 2021, Jones applied to about 20 fire departments across the Northwest. Washington, Wyoming, Montana—it didn't matter where he ended up, Jones wanted to be out there. With a stroke of luck, he ended up with his hometown crew in Methow Valley, Washington. Though California was experiencing a rough, early start to wildfire season due

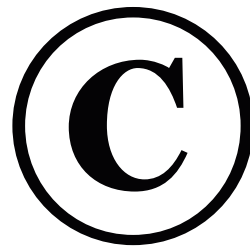
to ongoing drought, Washington fared better than what experts had predicted—the largest fire was the William Flats fire at about 44,000 acres, which was quickly contained. "I wanted to push myself and test my limits and go outside the boundary of what my career is going to be," Jones says. A finance major, he foresees a professional future for himself that doesn't necessarily include fighting forest fires. "It was rewarding to step away from the 'normal track.'" Jones spent his summer on the front

lines, up close and personal with fire. Not only did he help set controlled burns and dig fire lines to prevent bigger flames, Jones and his crew were often first on the scene to combat burgeoning forest fires. He also helped fight off the Cedar Creek fire in Winthrop, Wash., which burned an area about the size of Seattle. A week after his last assignment, Jones jet-setted to a new challenge: Paris, where he studied abroad for the fall. "I was just in the dirt all summer, and I'm going to the fashion capital of the world," Jones jokes.

*Henry Jones '23 studied abroad in Paris—a far cry from where he had been in the Pacific Northwest fighting forest fires.*

IMAGES COURTESY FLICKR, DRAWKIT AND UNSPLASH; WORDS BY TAYLOR SANCHEZ '19, ELIZABETH GILLOU '19, SARAH YOUNG '24, AND SARAH STODDARD '23. IMAGE PROVIDED BY HENRY JONES '23. WORDS BY LUCY NINO '22.





**It started as a honey-do list.** But associate professor of photography **Takeshi Moro's** search for a Japanese plum tree during the pandemic blossomed into something much sweeter. *Moraga Garden Center* is Moro's limited-edition labor of love celebrating the cherished East Bay Japanese American-owned nursery where he located the fragrant tree for his wife, just before the 50-year-old nursery closed in fall 2021. Conceived

as a tribute to owner Kenny Murakami and to document the variety of plants nurtured over the decades, the book has a twist: Most of the lush photos feature clients' gardens rather than the center itself. For the Japanese American Moro, Moraga Garden Center was a touchstone to a bygone era of Japanese American-owned nurseries, most now long closed. "My work has always been about connecting with a community," says Moro. "This book is for Kenny and his family. But I also think it's healing a community wound."



**MORAGA GARDEN CENTER**  
Takeshi Moro

*Moraga Garden Center (2021, Colpa Press)*

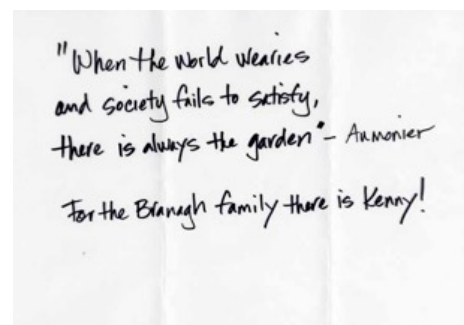
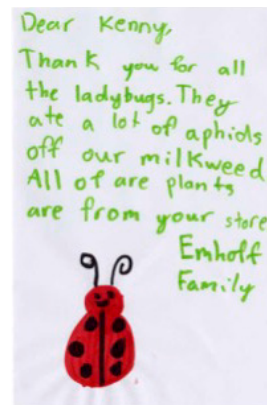


*Many Japanese immigrants to the Bay Area at the turn of the 20th century became pioneers in the plant nursery industry. Business thrived for decades but as housing prices began to soar many nursery owners sold to developers. (Pictured: Bob Dan and Colleen Hirano)*

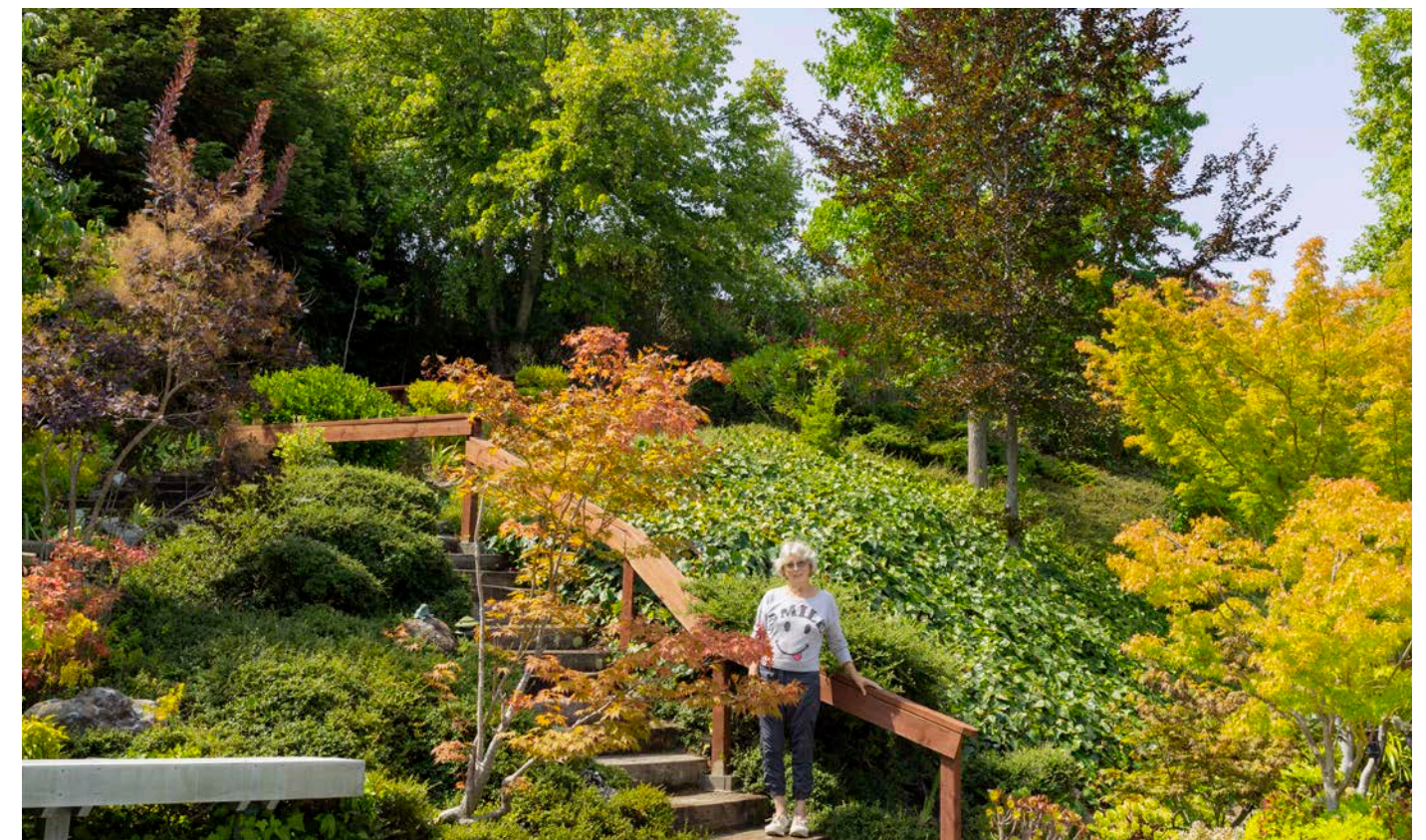


*For four decades, Kenny Murakami kept the Moraga Garden Center in business. (Pictured: David Bonneville and Jen Mao)*

*In addition to photographs, the book features notes of thanks and praise to Kenny Murakami from clients.*



*Kenny Murakami's father, Bob, along with 120,000 people of Japanese ancestry, were forcibly relocated to internment camps during World War II. Bob opened Moraga Garden Center in 1971. (Pictured: Elizabeth Kirkpatrick and her pet pig, Banksy.)*



*"Each visit included the owner of the garden sharing their story about a flower, a tree, sometimes the whole garden," writes Moro in the afterword of his book, explaining how he photographed Murakami's longtime clients including Gisela Volkmer (pictured). "It's not often that one revisits the footsteps of someone's lifetime of work."*



# Shared Dreams

As the first layperson and woman selected to lead SCU, incoming President **Julie Sullivan** looks to advance Santa Clara's mission with the community.

BY LESLIE GRIFFY  
IMAGES BY JIM GENSHEIMER

A LOT GOES into becoming a president of a university. Even after the interviews and the job offer, there are lunches and dinners. There are community members to meet, introductions to be had.

For Julie Sullivan, the first full day on campus before the announcement of her selection as SCU's 30th president, and the first layperson and woman to lead the University, was a whirlwind. After morning Mass—Sullivan doesn't like to miss services no matter where in the world she is—she had to go about the business of introducing herself to the University community.

Despite the warm weather and sun shining through the branches of a blooming tulip tree, Sullivan is ready to get to work filming a video introduction to go out later in the week. In the chapel tucked in the back of the Mission Santa Clara de Asis, a room where the mud making up the church's original adobe walls is exposed from underneath its plaster, Sullivan pauses to reflect on her words, looking over handwritten notes.

Sullivan gets to the end of the page, where she calls out each part of the Bronco community—faculty, staff, and students—and stops, pulling her pen out. “Hmm. I'm going to change this,” she says. “Always put students first.”

And with that quick notation, Sullivan makes her goal clear. In her mind, this is what the University exists to do—develop men and women for others, expose students to the broader world to find their place in it, celebrate the joy of human life by helping each person reach their full potential. “Education is hope,” she has said before. “Always put students first” is a variation of that theme reflected in Sullivan's work.

As president of the University of St. Thomas in Minnesota, she committed to expanding access and opportunity to talented students from low- and moderate-income backgrounds. Approximately 22 percent of the Catholic university's students are the first in their family to go to college, a number that grew significantly under her lead-

ership. Under her guidance, St. Thomas launched a two-year program for students who face economic and social barriers to earning four-year degrees. The program, known as Dougherty Family College, provides support and more time in the classroom to help its students transition smoothly to the four-year program.

Before that, in her first position at a Catholic university, Sullivan served as executive vice president and provost at the University of San Diego. There, she fell in love with the Catholic intellectual tradition that helps students see how the world fits together.

“Education is about acquiring knowledge, but it is more importantly about acquiring wisdom,” she says. “It is about the development of not just your mind but really your heart and becoming the person you were created to be. In Catholic higher education, we develop the whole person: the heart, the spirit, and the mind. We want them not just to acquire a bucket of knowledge but something broader and deeper than that.”

Students at the heart. It's a practice she knows deepens with the addition of Ignatian spirituality at Jesuit universities.

“In the Jesuit tradition, we stress Ignatian spirituality,” she says. “You have a responsibility to be a man or woman for others, but here you also have a source for that. It is fed by the spirituality and discernment of God speaking to us and helping us find that purpose.”

At San Diego, Sullivan used SCU as a benchmark for her work.

“I always admired Santa Clara for its academic excellence, its overall excellence as an institution, and the quality of the students,” she says. “It was always a university that I was watching.”

#### EDUCATION-MINDED

Tracing her discernment path—this dedication to the mind-expanding power of education—goes beyond Sullivan's time as an accounting professor at UC San Diego, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, and the University of Oklahoma.

As a kid in Florida, Sullivan made her brother play school with her. She was, of course, the teacher. She excelled outside of pretend school, too, graduating after the 11th grade.

When she was 12, her family moved from an upper-middle-class part of Jacksonville to a mixed-income community in Live Oak. Her father had purchased a car dealership in the area. It was there that she first taught someone other than her kid brother. She tutored friends and, as a young teenager, volunteered as a teacher at a Head Start program.

Still, when she went to the University of Florida as a first-generation college student, she didn't go with the idea of becoming an educator. Rather, her idea was to get an education.

“I had no idea what I wanted to study,” she says. “I started pre-med because

that is what I thought people who got good grades did.”

Her drive to excel in school—and all things really—is inspired by her family's hard work. Her fraternal grandmother grew a private student transportation business with just two school buses in 1957 into the largest such company in Florida by the time she retired.

The fortitude is summed up by a poem passed down from mother to daughter, starting with Sullivan's maternal grandmother. Tucked in the pages of Sullivan's Bible is the Douglas Malloch poem “Be the Best of Whatever You Are”:

*“If you can't be the sun be a star;  
It isn't by size that you win or you fail—  
Be the best of whatever you are!”*

Despite doing her best, Sullivan met her match in organic chemistry and switched majors to accounting, which better suited her skills and interests.

While she earned her master's and taught introductory accounting as a college teaching assistant, the educational puzzle came into place.

“I was really good at breaking things into pieces and explaining them,” she says. She could see the light bulb go off when her students understood something.

A light bulb went off for her too. Education was the place she was meant to be. “It took me a while to realize that my vocation was going to be a teacher, but I've always been a teacher,” she explains.

“God has always guided my life,” she says. “I tell people that God has a better imagination than I do. I have never planned my life to have a goal of this or that in five years. I've never done that. I've always just wanted to be the best at what I was.”

#### LIFE OF FAITH

“There was a time when I was a child when my family didn't go to church but to drop me off to attend services,” she says.

It was the kind of kid she was. She grew up Protestant and converted to Catholicism while in North Carolina after falling in love with intellectual purpose, social teaching, and the universality of the Church.

The faith and purpose at the center of Sullivan's life are part of what makes her a match for Santa Clara.

“In Dr. Sullivan, we have found a proven leader and faithful servant ideally suited to lead SCU in our pursuit of a more humane, just, and sustainable world,” says **Larry Sonsini**, chairperson of the SCU Board of Trustees, which selected Sullivan as the University's 30th president.

“Having spent considerable time with Dr. Sullivan, I can personally attest to her thoughtful and engaging leadership style, her deep faith, and her genuine excitement for carrying forward our long-established traditions and mission that are so needed in our ever-changing world.”

#### A CALLING

Sullivan is reflective as she starts her role at Santa Clara. Coming here brings her closer to some of her grandchildren who live in the Bay Area. Her family includes five grown children—a blend of stepchildren, adopted children, and biological children who comprise

a joyful brood spread around the world. Her husband, Robert Sullivan, is the former dean of the Rady School of Management at UC San Diego.

When she first heard that SCU was considering selecting a lay president, she was interested but also felt deeply committed to the projects she had launched at St. Thomas. These include a new nursing school, a Racial Justice Initiative, and the university's move to Division I sports. But, over Christmas, Sullivan was with her Bay Area-based children and felt God again guiding her path.

“This is an opportunity to do what I love, and that's Catholic higher education. It is an opportunity to do something I've always yearned to do in Jesuit, Catholic higher education, and to be with my family,” she says. “When God decides it is time for you to do something else, He tells you.”

The job became an option for someone like Sullivan in the summer 2021. That's when Santa Clara's Board of Trustees opened the president's position to laypeople for the first time in the University's history—that's 170 years of Jesuit, and of course male, leaders. Being a first in this way is a role she's taken on before. She was also the first layperson and woman to lead St. Thomas when her appointment was announced in 2013. Still, she says, “I don't like to dwell on firsts.”



**“You can't do anything alone,” she says. “I always tell people that my dreams are just fantasies if I can't find anyone who shares them. If we can find some shared dreams, we can do anything together.”**

Her leadership style is, of course, informed by experiences as a woman, mother, and wife, but also by faith, belief in education, and optimism. It's a collaborative and partnership style, she says.

“You can't do anything alone,” she says. “I always tell people that my dreams are just fantasies if I can't find anyone who shares them. If we can find some shared dreams, we can do anything together.”

In her first weeks and months on the job, Sullivan knows she'll uncover the dreams the community shares, including developing a student body that is diverse and meets the needs of Silicon Valley and the world.

“There are great hallmarks of excellence here,” she says. “I feel like it is in Santa Clara University's DNA—whatever we are going to do, we are going to do it well.”

And so we return to the back chapel of SCU's beloved Mission Church—the Mission at the heart of campus. Behind Sullivan is a wooden cross; she's finishing the video introducing herself to faculty, staff, alumni, and, most importantly, students.

Santa Clara's incoming president leans toward the camera, smiles, and says, “I am excited to get to work with you.”



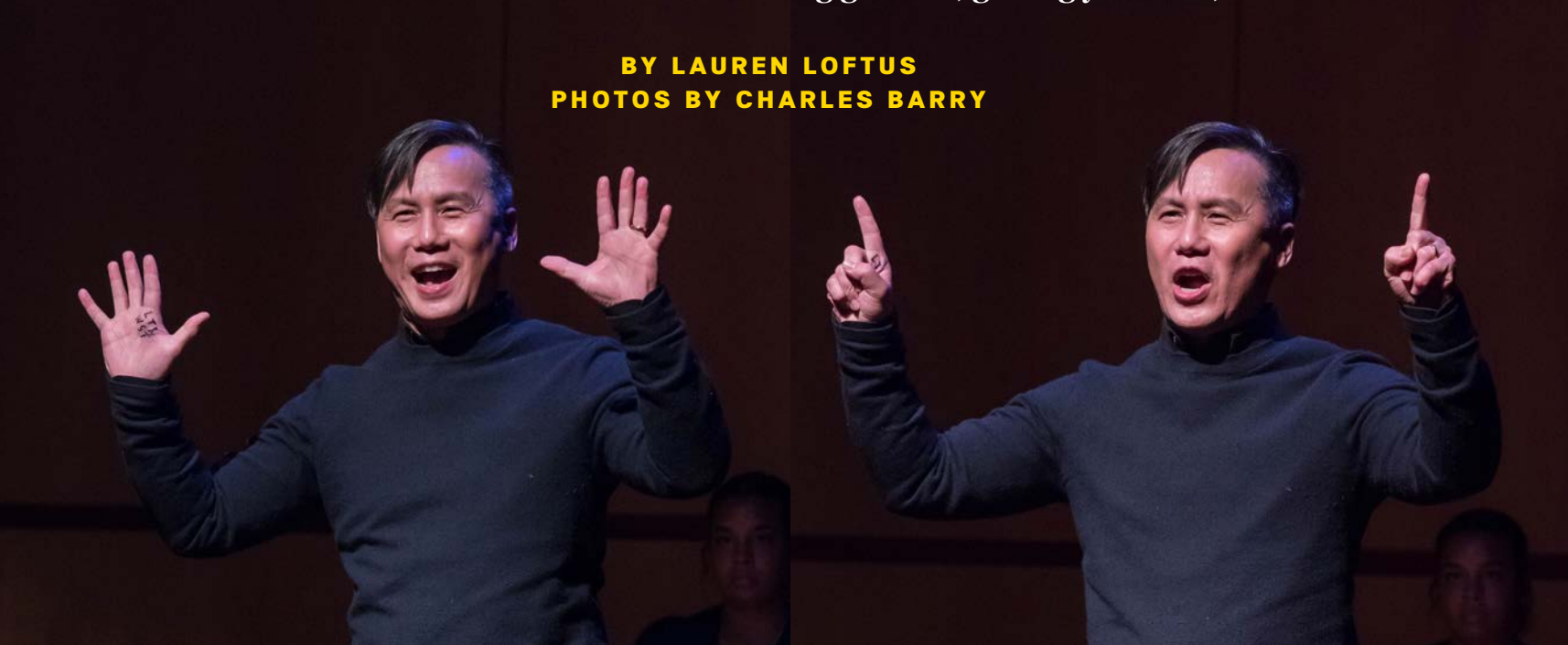
*A moment to reflect: Incoming Santa Clara University President Julie Sullivan prays at the announcement of her appointment. Faith has played an important role in her life, she says.*



# BD KNOWS BEST

The 2021–22 Sinatra Artist-in-Residence on being grateful, getting your due, and dinosaurs.

BY LAUREN LOFTUS  
PHOTOS BY CHARLES BARRY



*"I feel like every day is a kind of learning experience for me, or an opening," says BD Wong. "I think as I go along in life, as we all go along in life, we figure out what we actually like and what we actually know and sometimes it's surprising that it takes us so long to figure out who we are."*



IS THERE ANY role BD Wong can't inhabit? His debut on Broadway earned him a Tony. He was nominated for an Emmy for his portrayal of a trans hacker on *Mr. Robot*. He's done drama, horror, comedy, and action. Oh, and by the way, he's an activist for Asian American and LGBTQ rights. And, as Santa Clara University's 2021–2022 Frank Sinatra Chair in the Performing Arts, he's taken on yet another role: educator.

As part of his residency, Wong directed *A Seat at the Table*, a play written by SCU junior Vicky Pham '23 that tackled some heavy themes—anti-Asian American hate and performative "wokeness." "Because many of the topics in the play are often uncomfortable to talk about, I was so impressed whenever BD was able to recognize that discomfort and encourage the actors to channel that feeling into their performance," says Pham. "I think his ability to do this truly speaks to his empathy and expertise."

*Santa Clara Magazine* sat down with Wong to discuss the idea of being grateful for having a seat at that table while acknowledging that everyone deserves a chair.

***Santa Clara Magazine:*** How has your experience been working with young people at SCU? Your first time here in the fall, you called it "simultaneously stimulating and exhausting."

**BD Wong:** It's been a 100 percent fantastic experience. I really have interfaced a lot more, and more intimately, with students. I get to be a public speaker and transition to attending classes or speaking to classes, and then it became about teaching, and then it became a combination of all the things. And this residency allows me to explore all of those things—that's the identity of this residency, actually—which is quite wonderful for somebody like me that enjoys doing it all.

***SCM:*** What has it been like as a performer learning new ways to create art over these past few years?

**Wong:** I have nothing good to say about the pandemic except that this is what happens in life: Challenging circumstances bring about great creativity and show you things that you didn't expect to be shown. For example, I've had the opportunity to work with a young Asian American, brand-new playwright at Santa Clara who wrote a beautiful play [*A Seat at the Table* by Vicky Pham '23] in response to the violence against Asian Americans in this country. It's this really fantastical scenario where a character goes to heaven and because it was presented as a reading [virtually over Zoom], the playwright can do anything they want. She has a stage direction for a dinner table that goes on forever—something you clearly could never do on the stage, but on Zoom you're able to evoke for the audience absolutely anything. That's an example, to me, of how people make lemonade out of lemons, and how it's kind of remarkable that the human ability to pivot serves creators quite well.

***SCM:*** *A Seat at the Table* characterizes performative activism and allyship—literally, in the form of two characters who pretend to be friendlier with a victim than they actually were, and post about it on social media.

**Wong:** I absolutely subscribe to and agree with [the playwright's] cynicism. People adopt hashtags and very dramatic presentations of virtue signaling in order to bond

with other people, or to influence them. Or just to feel like they're part of something bigger. And that's not the reason why you should do it—to feel like you're part of something—but your heart can be in the right place. I think the playwright's done great by introducing that as a concept. That's what good writers do, is take things that enrage them and position them so the audience can think about them and talk about them, and ask questions.

***SCM:*** You've been asked often about diversity, or lack thereof, in Hollywood, specifically regarding the pigeonholing of Asian Americans—or LGBTQ or any other person from marginalized communities—into certain character tropes. You were on a podcast recently where you discussed the idea that you should be "grateful" or otherwise indebted just to be included. And in that way, "grateful" becomes an ugly word.

**Wong:** Culturally, there is a sense of wanting to be grateful for whatever it is that you've got, that is good in your life. And I do agree with that concept, you know, generally speaking. But what I've realized, is self-generating your own material and making a voice for yourself, and then forcing yourself to find a way to have that voice be heard, is essential. Bowen [Yang, who hosts the podcast in question, *Las Culturistas*, and works with BD on the TV show *Nora from Queens*] is the perfect example of this. His point of view is very specific and he doesn't pander to anybody else's idea of what he should be, which is really hard to do when you're trying to be accepted. I have spent my whole career trying to fit in. I've never done what he's doing, I never dreamed of it. ... To make it today requires a fair amount of strong individual identity.

***SCM:*** And it's also about the balance of being thankful for opportunities and success while also acknowledging the hard work and talent that got you here.

**Wong:** Just to bring it around to the [Sinatra] residency, maybe why it's such a great thing for me is because I have real tools to share and they're really applicable here. And I don't have to compete with anybody else from a racial or LGBTQ perspective. I'm not in competition with anyone, it's just me and as a result, it's a pure equation of doing what needs to be done. Unfortunately, in the media, in TV and film, it's fraught with layers and layers and decades and decades of accommodations and compromises.

***SCM:*** Before we let you go, it's become a bit of a long-running joke that your character in the *Jurassic Park*/*Jurassic World* franchise—the guy who invents the science that creates the monsters—somehow never dies. But now that final chapter is upon us, can we expect an equally epic ending for Dr. Henry Wu?

**Wong:** I can't tell you! Really, I can't—I signed a contract. So I'm actually not even being coy about it. But I will tell you when I was first cast in *Jurassic Park* more than 23 years ago, I was very bitter and resentful that the Asian guy doesn't get his due—I've said this before in lots of interviews that his spectacular death that occurs in the novel, I was robbed of that experience as an actor. ... Fast forward to now, though, in *Jurassic World Dominion*, I think you'll be happy with how it ends. I'm so grateful—there's that word again—and I'm really happy with it.

# Swept Away

Living without a home is deadly in Silicon Valley. One SCU professor explores why so many die in a place of such wealth and finds the constant removal of communities of homeless people may be a danger to their lives.

BY LESLIE GRIFFY

ILLUSTRATIONS BY HOKYOUNG KIM



SILICON VALLEY IS a particularly deadly place to be poor.

We produce many things here. A flood of information in zeroes and ones pulsing through cables beneath our feet. Bright ideas that change the course of history. A plethora of millionaires living in million-dollar two-bed, one-bath homes. And, by the edges of our rivers and waterways, some of the worst inequality in the world.

In 2019, more than 9,700 people in Santa Clara County had no home by a definition that most can agree on. They live in communities of RVs and cars, in tents or under a tarp slung between trees, in doorways or on park benches. In a county with about 1.9 million people, that means that more than one in 200 residents sleep without a proper roof overhead every night.

People living without housing in the Valley are more likely to die than people living on the streets anywhere else in the U.S. Yes, if you're unhoused, you're more likely to die here than in frigidly cold New York or Chicago. You're more likely to die here than in searing hot Texas or Arizona.

Nationally, people without homes have life spans 12 years shorter than those with homes, according to the National Health Care for the Homeless Council. In her research, Santa Clara University public health Assistant Professor **Jamie Chang** notes the disparity in the Valley is much worse: Homeless people in Santa Clara County live, on average, 30 years fewer than their housed peers.

The number of deaths here has increased significantly in recent years—more than quadrupling between 2011-2021 to 250 deaths, according to Santa Clara County coroner's office data.

To die without a home is to die in part because of homelessness, says Chang. The lack of health care and stresses on the body and mind that come with existing without a home add up.

## “This is an emergency,” says Phil Mastrocola '71. “We need to treat it like an emergency. It is a life-or-death thing. And until we treat it that way, nothing will change.”

In Chang's effort to understand the deaths of our homeless neighbors, she mapped a decade of them. All the joy and sadness and experience of a human life condensed into a little orange dot on a screen. Why is it so deadly in Silicon Valley, where there is so much wealth?

Understanding these lives—and the public health failures that resulted in such early ends—is central to Chang's work.

Zoom into the map. Here is a Silicon Valley strip mall—with a Target, Panda Express, and a dozen or so Tesla charging stations where cars costing more than \$80,000 can refuel. Across the street, along the banks of the Guadalupe River where the first Mission Santa Clara de Asís was founded, three orange dots appear. Here are a series of encampments—including one where Chang and her students work to understand the lives and deaths of the people who live without homes in Silicon Valley.

According to Chang's analysis, each dot is likely a man who died in his 50s rather than his 80s. Heart attacks and diabetes are common causes of death. Accidents and overdoses are also frequent.

Most of the deaths are preventable, Chang says, with better access to care. Insulin treats most diabetics, for example. But it's hard to get regularly, let alone affordably, for people living on the edges of society.

Not all of the dots on Chang's map represent 50-something men. There are two infants represented there—a boy and a girl, each under a year old. And a pair of toddlers under 3 years old. Another dot was a 91-year-old man who died without a home in 2017.

Chang's research includes hours working with students and others to interview and listen to those who live without homes. It gets us closer to understanding why so many die on Silicon Valley's byways and riverbanks. Because of that work, for the first time, there is evidence drawing a line between how we respond to homelessness and such outcomes.

Each death represents a societal failing, Chang says. She has lost loved ones to homelessness, but it doesn't require a personal tragedy to care. “Looking around our very own communities, I am sickened that we have constructed a society that lets people suffer, languish, and die in extreme poverty,” she says. “It's wrong—it's that simple. All of us are the architects of this injustice, unless we actively work to counter it.”

### HOW WE GOT HERE

“This is an emergency,” says **Phil Mastrocola '71**, who operates a shelter out of Grace Baptist Church in downtown San Jose. “We need to treat it like an emergency. It is a life-or-death thing. And until we treat it that way, nothing will change.”

About a dozen SCU religious studies students have gathered outside the dark brown church. As the students tour the sanctuary and file down a hallway behind Mastrocola, associate professor of religious studies **Phillip Boo Riley** asks big questions: How do we treat people who are outsiders with dignity? How do we create community? Riley has spent decades helping people without homes. This spring, his students teamed up with students in Chang's class to understand the humanity behind the health crisis on Silicon Valley's streets. He is a co-author on her most recent study, “Harms of encampment abatements on the health of unhoused people” in *Qualitative Research in Health*. During the tour, a volunteer recalls washing the feet of homeless people suffering from trench foot—a condition where the skin breaks down because the feet don't get a chance to dry out after becoming wet—Riley reminds students of class readings that the poor embody Christ in a special way. “God is present in these diseased feet,” he says.

The group settles into chairs on a basketball court in the back of the church. Cots are stacked on a stage at one end. The walls are lined with banners declaring “God Is Love.”

This gym, Mastrocola tells Riley's class, started as a space for college students to play basketball—a way for the church to welcome the neighboring community in. By the 1970s, the congregation put it to a different use. It operated as a day center for people who had moved into halfway homes from state institutions under then-California Gov. Ronald Reagan's underfunded plan to shift mental health care from state facilities to community ones.

Over the years, Mastrocola says, the population using the center began to change—and fewer of them had homes.



The church would let them pitch tents on its lawn.

At one point, a new preacher arrived. “He said, ‘Why are those people sleeping on the lawn in tents?’” Mastrocola tells the students. Because they have nowhere to go, was the answer. “But why aren't they sleeping inside?” he asked.

And with that, the old gym became an overnight shelter. Today about 30 people sleep there each evening, mostly men. Women tend to avoid shelters, Mastrocola says, preferring the safety of known communities. Before COVID, the number of guests here was 60. Volunteers from the Catholic Worker House in downtown, Casa de Clara, help.

What happened at Grace is a microcosm of what happened all over California, says Riley.

The population grew. People had babies. Others moved here, as people do, drawn by family ties, job opportunities, or good weather. But the number of houses being built in the state didn't keep up.

Between the 1940s and the 1960s, there were about three new Californians per new home built, according to the U.S. Census Bureau. Today for every five new residents, only one new home is built. Over time, those annual gaps accumulated into a yawning deficit. According to a 2016 report by auditing firm McKinsey, there are 358 houses, apartments, condos, or other homes per 1,000 people in the state.

The mismatch between need and availability sent housing prices—and the cost of living—ever higher, making it easier for people to find themselves without.

In Silicon Valley, where tech salaries continue to drive up rents and fund bidding wars on the homes that do exist, the disparities are even more significant than elsewhere in California. There are many paths to homeless here—most people on the streets are from the area, and a single blow

like medical debt, divorce, or job loss can be catastrophic.

“It seems even more pressing in one of the richest parts of the world to have 10,000 people experiencing homelessness,” says **Cassandra Staff MBA '11**, strategic initiatives director at Destination: Home, one of Santa Clara County's most prominent nonprofits serving people without homes.

Even as more people became housing insecure, meaning homeless or unsure of their ability to pay for housing, the number of emergency shelters didn't grow to catch them. In 2019 in Santa Clara County, there was temporary shelter for fewer than 2,000 people, but 9,706 people were living without housing, according to a county report.

That gap is one **Malisha Kumar '99, MBA '17** knows deeply. She helped create the Here4You Call Center at the Bill Wilson Center, a nonprofit that supports homeless children and young adults, where she works to match people in need of housing with resources. Often when people call, particularly if it is late in the day, there are no shelter beds to direct them toward.

“I try to keep them on the phone,” she says, to help them run through potential other solutions to their crisis. “Do they have a friend they can stay with tonight? A family member?” A few nights of those solutions can provide enough time for some people on the cusp of homelessness to regain their footing. Others can wait on the county's list for housing for as long as seven years. People wait for shelter that may never come, activists say.

“Our shelter system is over capacity. We don't have safe parking systems. We don't have managed encampments,” says Andy Gutierrez, a public defender in Santa Clara County. “All we have are unsanctioned, unsafe encampments and waiting for the golden ticket.”



### INCREASING VISIBILITY

The rivers and streams of Santa Clara County are probably what first encouraged people to settle here. From the Ohlone to the Spanish, settling along waterways like Coyote Creek and the Guadalupe River meant access to fish, fresh water, and the San Francisco Bay.

The waters continue to be a draw today, despite long periods of drought. Just as before, the rivers and creeks attract egrets, ducks, and other waterfowl. And just as in the past, people are drawn to the creeks and rivers as a safe place to make a home. Some pitch tents. Others build complete structures out of found materials, including wood or tarps, along the riverbanks.

In 2014, the largest such community in Santa Clara County was evicted from the banks of Coyote Creek by the actions of another group interested in the region's waterways: The California Department of Fish and Wildlife. The department had complained to regional water officials that human waste and garbage were polluting the water. Bay-keeper, an environmental group, filed a lawsuit, suggesting waste from the encampment was a hazard to salmon and trout that spawn in Coyote Creek.

That winter, the community living by the creek was "swept"—i.e., removed by officials with little to offer residents in the way of alternate housing. People gathered what belongings they could carry. The rest was hauled to the dump. The sweep made news around the world—perhaps one of the nation's highest-profile abatement projects, as the dismantling of homeless encampments is known.

And it seemed overnight that the people who had lived in

a long-established, alibet makeshift, community on the riverbanks became more visible. People moved onto the steep embankments of highways, into parks, and elsewhere. This came, Chang and Riley write, as the kinds of technology made in Silicon Valley—cellphones and apps—began to make it easier for people to report and complain about the encampments that seemed, suddenly, to be everywhere.

Rather than solutions for these displaced people, the response to those complaints has been more sweeps. And that may be what's driving poor health outcomes and deaths in Santa Clara County's homeless population, according to interviews Chang and her students conducted as part of a course on qualitative research.

### WHAT'S GONE WRONG

"They come first thing in the morning," says Lee Clark of his experiences being swept in encampment abatements in Santa Clara County. He had lived on the streets of Santa Clara County for five years before finding his footing again. "They tell you to move on—and you could lose everything."

He remembers a bike that he adored and lost in a sweep. He had been in jail for trespassing at the time. Such imprisonment is common for people without homes, according to research by Santa Clara Law students working with Professor **Michelle Oberman**. When Lee was released, the community he had depended on near the Guadalupe River was gone—and so were his bike and socks. Reflecting back on those experiences he can see the high price of being without a home.

"Trauma," Clark says. "I've taken community college

courses, and one of the things I learned about is the health effects of trauma. And that just hit me. There is so much trauma out there.

"After every sweep, you have to rebuild. And you have no way to get anything. I have high blood pressure, and I just kept losing my medication. I think you see a lot of people out there who are talking to themselves or walking in and out of traffic, and I think that it is just stress. It's their brains' way of trying to protect them from the trauma. I feel so lucky to have made it out."

Clark is one of the lucky few. Now, he has a small apartment and works for the homeless outreach group PATH. But his story of homelessness echoes what Chang's student researchers heard in their interviews.

A woman, a veteran who had struggled with addiction and lost her only child when he was an infant, told interviewers in the study that she lost her only photo of her boy in a sweep.

Another told researchers of sweeps as frequent as every two weeks. City officials and police would post a notice that the area was to be cleared in 72 hours—or sometimes they wouldn't post at all—and as in Clark's story, they would arrive at dawn. "A few times they came and wiped out everything of everybody's," the woman says. "Clothes, food... It didn't matter what it was. If you had it there, they took everything. Tents. Then you were left with no clothes, no food, nowhere to stay, no blankets or anything."

Sweeps mean people lose the means to survive. To avoid such abatements, people move to increasingly dangerous locations, with tents popping up in the middle of clover-leaf highway on-ramps.

One woman told interviewers that she prefers to sleep just feet away from heavy freight trains to avoid losing her belongings—and community. Complicated jurisdictional rules sometimes make it harder to remove encampments next to train tracks.

Chang believes there may be a connection between what they learned from unhoused people about abatements and the increasing numbers of dead in Santa Clara County.

While sweeps or abatements aren't regularly reported, she and Riley note that the San Jose city auditor estimates sweeps increased more than 11-fold between 2013 and 2018, a timeframe during which homeless deaths increased by 75 percent.

In 2019, Chang and Riley write, San Jose spent about \$8.5 million responding to encampments. More than half of that money, 57 percent, went to sweeps, 10 percent to outreach, and 17 percent to deterrence such as fencing.

As sweeps increase, unhoused people just build new encampments that are now farther out of sight of outreach workers bringing food and medicine and closer to dangers like trains or potential flooding. Continual sweeps also make the communities less trusting of authority, Chang says, as interactions with police and other public workers now center on loss rather than gaining anything.

### A NEIGHBORHOOD

Years ago, there used to be a neighborhood—a real one with cement driveways and cul-de-sacs—along the Guadalupe River just north of downtown San Jose. It was the kind of suburban block-scape that replaced many of the South Bay's old fruit orchards.

About 30 years ago, the neighborhood was razed. The nearby municipal airport, today's Mineta International, needed more space. The Federal Aviation Administration needed to be sure planes could safely land in an emergency. Collectively, these parcels, now bereft of formal housing but

still including a grid of streets, is a smart place for a crash landing.

Even without houses, another community moved in. The official count suggests that at least 200 people call this space home, but a quick tour through the area suggests many more live here. RVs, tents, cars, and trucks fill the otherwise abandoned neighborhood. This new community, of course, isn't called a neighborhood. It's considered an encampment.

It's a temporary one, too. The FAA does not like people living in its emergency landing zone. Since October 2021, the encampment has been slowly swept. Officials put up concrete barriers in the old intersections to keep the unhoused neighbors from returning to areas that have already been swept. The encampment is supposed to be removed entirely by the beginning of summer.

The area is slated to be reclaimed as a park—a long-planned project that includes 16 acres for disc golf. Already, portions reflect this planned use—not for housing but recreation. A rarely used ball field hosts a church outreach group on weekends. A community garden flourishes. Sunflowers stand tall. Healthy-looking chard, tomato, and squash plants are safely behind a fence with a locked gate.

Chang's and Riley's classes came to the river encampment. To prepare for their research, Chang's students joined the nonprofit Agape and Silicon Valley Interreligious Council as they marked Mahatma Gandhi's birthday by distributing food to those without homes.

Girshbhai Shah, a volunteer who helped organize the event with the Arham Yuva Seva Group, a global NGO, shared his inspiration: "Nonviolence is not a not doing. It is a call to positive action," he says. "To see someone in need of help and not helping is an act of violence."

As the volunteers split into groups and gathered meals to share with those they met, SCU senior **Georgia Bright '22** looked forward to getting started. "It's easy enough to be caught up in the numbers," she says. "This is a chance to meet people and to learn about them. There's such a lack of information."

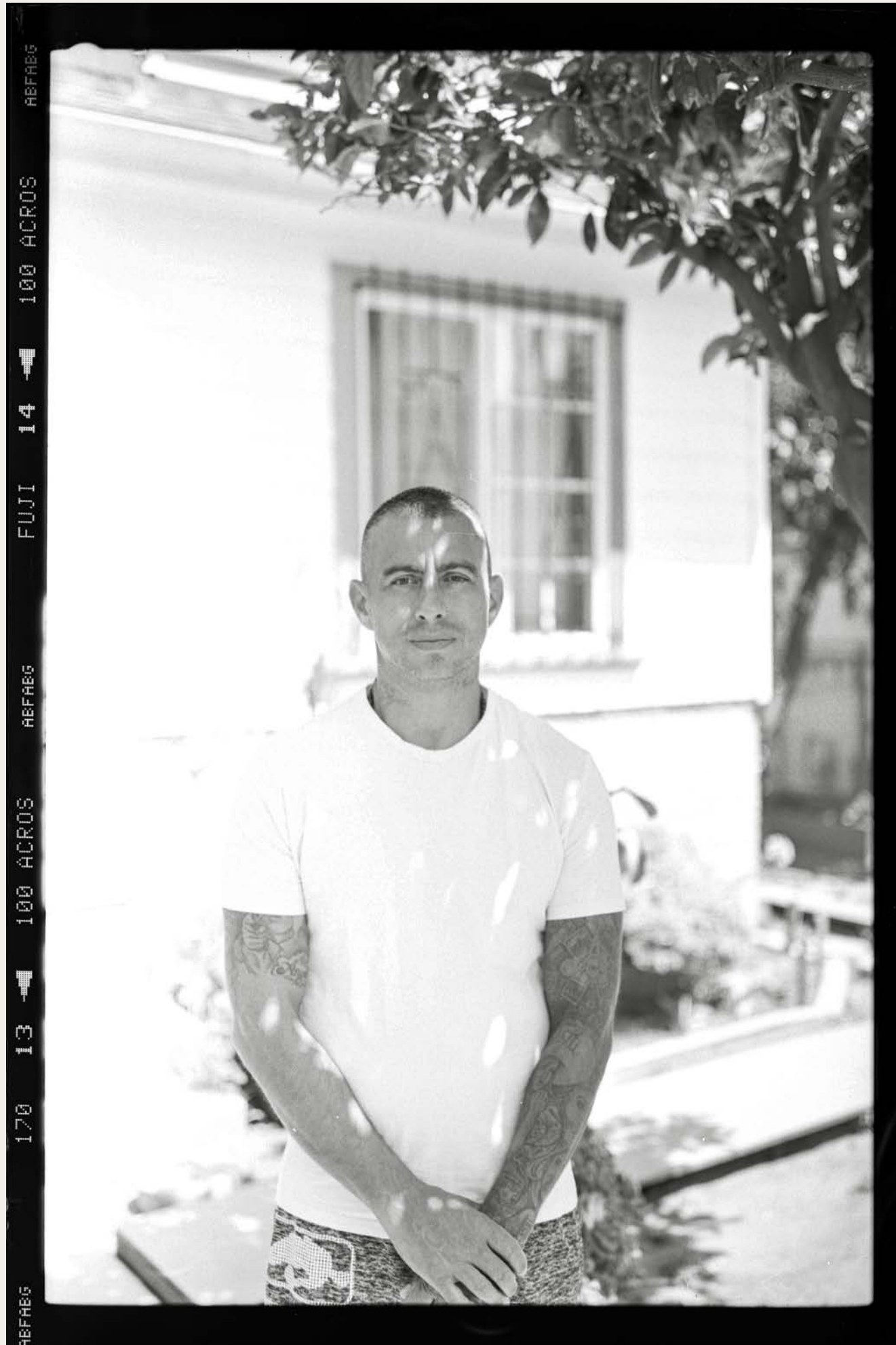
That's a problem Chang hopes her research will help solve. Weeks later, the students from her class venture out to start their interviews, equipped with a better understanding of those they will meet through Chang's work in the classroom and the volunteering experience. Some are hiking down to the river. Others work at picnic benches. Students in groups of three interview people about their experiences living without a home.

Planes roar overhead. Birds squawk in the brush. Somewhere an electric rental scooter beeps. A man nearly as young as the students leans forward to listen to the group's questionnaire. He's answering in exchange for a gift card.

How is he? "So far, so good," he says. "I wake up every day." He put down a jug of water by his feet when he sat down to be interviewed and accepted a cup of coffee. He tells the students that finding drinking water is difficult. He goes to water fountains to fill up and carries as much as he can back here to his home near the river. He graduated from college, he tells them, but now he's not sure how to get back to that world.

A woman holding flip-flops in one hand and a diapered toddler in her other arm comes up the sidewalk. She surveys the scene. Not worth the hassle, it seems, because she puts the child down, and together they head back toward the river—back home. At least, until spring sweeps them away again.

Arturo Jimenez outside of his Los Angeles-area home. In what he calls his "year of liberty," he been able to enjoy seeing his family and reconnecting with the world. You can support the work of the Northern California Innocence Project, visit [ncip.org/donate](http://ncip.org/donate).



## ON THE OUTSIDE

A first-person account of being wrongly convicted as told by Arturo Jimenez, who was freed by the efforts of the Northern California Innocence Project based at Santa Clara Law.

BY ARTURO JIMENEZ  
PHOTOGRAPHY BY NIC COURY

ARTURO JIMENEZ WAS just 18 years old when he was convicted of a murder he didn't commit. It would take 25 years and the efforts of the Northern California Innocence Project, based at Santa Clara University School of Law, to win his release from state prison. That freedom was celebrated onstage as the Northern California Innocence Project marked its 20th anniversary with a conversation between Jimenez and four other men who had been wrongly convicted and released through NCIP's work. They shared their stories of incarceration, family reunification, and being released into a world of COVID restrictions and technology that had advanced exponentially since they'd gone in. Here is Jimenez's story as shared on that stage, edited for publication.

*I'm blessed. You know, despite what I went through, I don't forget about those that are still inside that we left behind. Those are human lives, too.*

*I work for a nonprofit, Prisoners of Peace. We conduct workshops in prisons to teach the guys in there about the restorative justice system and our current retributive system, and fundamental listening skills, how to manage strong emotions in themselves and others. That's a lot of work. But I also do side jobs in construction, whatever I have to do, you know? I get my hands dirty for some extra money.*

*My family is pretty good. I'm blessed with a family that was supportive throughout my whole journey of being wrongfully imprisoned.*

*And it's funny because I like that prison taught me to appreciate what I have. I know it may sound cliché, but there's an old saying that you don't know what you have until you lose it. And in my case, that was the case. I had a lot of cellmates who came from beyond-broken families, and it just made me realize, damn, you know? I have a good family.*

*I had to grow up in the system. You have to situate yourself to survive in there. So I grew. At the same time, it also gave me other issues—PTSD and trauma.*

*You just got to be on survivor mode, you know. I kind of saw myself as one of those giant squids that change color to mimic its environment. I played the part: I got tattoos. I was bald-headed. And, at the same time, I was portraying like I was cool inside, but ... I guess it was fake it until you make it, you know?*

*I was in isolation, just me, myself, and I, for 20 years off and on. But there were other people around—so you do get a sense of community. They have human hearts. As soon as I got there, they would offer me stuff, like their TV. They thought they had to look after me, and whatever little they had, they offered me.*

*You know, when I first got out, I got a job right away doing deliveries and merchandising and I had to do everything through a company app. And so I was getting lost on the freeway. Technology was definitely one of my challenges.*

*The other one is I'm making a lot of mistakes that a young man makes dating-wise, you know? That's been challenging.*

*The thing is, I'm about to turn 46. I cannot afford to keep making mistakes. I don't have the luxury of time. You don't have that leisure anymore to make the mistakes a young man can make.*

### Epilogue: In the year of my liberty

*Some of the things I've experienced since my release have been beyond my wildest dreams. I play basketball, swim, scuba, hike, and travel. It's impossible to make up for the loss of time but I'm aware of how blessed I am to be free, have good health, and actually do the things I could only imagine while I was wiggling through the system.*



# BOOKED AND BUSY

## SANTA CLARA WOMEN MAKING IT IN HOLLYWOOD

BY LUCY NINO '22

ILLUSTRATIONS BY KYLE HILTON

**Hollywood is a man's world, they say.** Who is "they"? Anyone looking at the numbers. For example, only seven of the directors behind the 51 highest-grossing films of 2021 were women. Those numbers aren't great. But Santa Clarans have worked to change them. Bronco women made their way from the Bay to Los Angeles with dreams of becoming directors, writers, producers, actors—anything to get their hands on a good story. Many were told to do something more sensible. But they don't regret ignoring naysayers. Nearly 24/7, they're on the job—working on a new pilot, meeting executives about a distributing deal, or in the writers' room. We've identified nearly 30 Bronco women from the past four decades who currently work in entertainment. Here are five of their stories. Although they navigated Hollywood in unique ways, what is constant is their boldness in knowing what they want and the belief that they can make it happen.



**Blye Pagon Faust '97** had just finished up a basketball and theater career at Santa Clara when she set her sights on Hollywood to act. In one late-1990s television commercial, she guarded a life-sized Barbie—yes, the impossibly long-legged doll—in a basketball game.

What won Faust an Oscar wasn't her performance on camera, but behind it. Two decades after her faceoff with Barbie, Blye won the Academy Award for Best Picture for *Spotlight*, the film she produced about *The Boston Globe's* investigation into sexual abuse in the Catholic Church.

Faust would actually undergo a few career shifts before she stepped onto that famous Dolby Theatre stage. When she first moved to L.A. after graduating from SCU, she appeared in several commercials and student films made by friends at the University of Southern California. While acting was fun, it wasn't fulfilling—at least not in the way it seemed to fulfill her actor friends. "I learned quickly that I didn't want to be an actor for the rest of my life," Faust says.

What do so many young people do when their creative aspirations seem a little too aspirational? Law school, of course. Faust earned her J.D. from University of California, Los Angeles, with hopes of practicing entertainment law.

Alas, Faust faced a similar dilemma as she had with

acting. Law school she loved; actually practicing law, not so much. What never waned, though, was a desire to be in the entertainment industry. On her off hours from her regular 9 to 5, she returned to her friends' short films. "When I saw what my friends from USC were doing—working for agents and producers and directors and writers—I knew that was much more what I wanted to be doing," Faust says. When she wasn't in front of the camera, she was involving herself more in film production. She even served as location manager for one friend's shoot.

She finally took the producing plunge. Faust partnered with Nicole Rocklin, who, like Faust, had a background in entertainment law, to develop the film that would become *Spotlight*. Just like that, Faust had dismissed working as a lawyer (with prejudice, if you will).

Faust knew *Spotlight*, about a team of *Boston Globe* investigative reporters exposing systemic child sex abuse by Catholic priests, was a story that could make a difference. But it was a hard sell. "The biggest challenge is being told 'no' on the daily, and choosing not to be beaten down by them," she says. "You have to forge ahead."

Six years after she and Rocklin began working on the film, *Spotlight* premiered at the 2015 Venice Film Festival to thunderous applause. It earned six Academy Award nominations and won for Best Picture and Best Original Screenplay in 2016.

Not one to slow down, Faust founded Story Force Entertainment in 2019, just three years after the Oscar win. Story Force, launched with Emmy-winning producer Cori Shepherd Stern, is responsible for such TV shows as Amazon Prime's *LuLaRich*.

Not everything has to happen now, Faust's learned. Sometimes you have to shoot hoops with Barbie. Sometimes you take a quick detour through law school. You'll find your way eventually. "It's not about instant gratification," Faust says. "There will be many frustrations along the way. But that's OK, because I'm in this for the long haul."

*"The biggest challenge is being told 'no' on the daily, and choosing not to be beaten down by them. You have to forge ahead."*

—BLYE FAUST '97



For four years, **Mariah Chappell '16** spent her days and nights working the desks of Hollywood executives in Los Angeles and New York. It had worn down her enthusiasm for entertainment. “You didn’t get into this industry to just be a great assistant who schedules calls and answers the phone,” she’d tell herself. But then, why did she?

Everyone had told her being an assistant was the key to Hollywood. But for Chappell, the key wasn’t fitting. It was time for a break, to rediscover her passion. Then the pandemic hit, leaving her with unused airline miles and loads of time. Like a lot of people, she moved in with her parents.

She planned to be back at work by that August, but with the entire industry on hiatus for most of 2020, Chappell couldn’t start over as an assistant. Back home in D.C., working in government seemed exciting, if not more stable than Hollywood. Plus, she figured it was the most important election year of her life, so she gave it a shot. But working in the Office of Elections and witnessing the thrill of election night only made her miss the highs of entertainment.

It reminded her of her first job in the industry. As an intern at the production company Rocklin/Faust, where one of her bosses was **Blye Pagon Faust '97**, she pitched stories and watched them evolve. “I love those really early phases, where there’s limitless potential,” Chappell says. “That job made me realize, ‘Oh, I could actually do this—it isn’t a crazy pipe dream.’”

With her spark reignited, Chappell knew she wanted to reenter Hollywood. So, when Faust reached out, this time through her latest production company, Story Force Entertainment, it was almost like she had manifested it.

Story Force, which produces scripted and unscripted content based on true stories, was facing an influx of new projects. It wanted Chappell, whose hard work and creative initiative had left a lasting impression, to do some research. Was she available to dive into some of its upcoming documentary projects? Perhaps for an investigative series about reality TV and a controversial fundamentalist organization? Chappell jumped at the opportunity and began work part-time from the East Coast.

Now, over a year since she returned to the industry, she’s been promoted to creative executive at Story Force, where she helps organize the development of scripted and unscripted projects. “It’s the happiest I’ve ever been in my career,” she says. “Sometimes I have to pinch myself.” And it’s all because she had the gumption to stick with what she knew she was passionate about. As Chappell sees it: “Anyone can do anything if they stick with it. Keep hammering away at it, and you’ll be able to go where you want to go.”

“That’s when I started to learn that trusting your gut is the best way forward.”

—MALARIE HOWARD '14

When **Malarie Howard '14** was born, her mother worked as a showrunner’s assistant at Paramount Pictures in Los Angeles. Howard fondly remembers how her mom would bring her passion for telling stories home, writing little picture books for her and her sister. It inspired Howard to do some writing of her own. She dreamed of being a storyteller one day.

Despite her love for stories, the industry was unkind to Howard’s mom. She left the entertainment industry scared that Hollywood would do to her daughter what it did to her. So Howard saw a creative career in L.A. as a nonstarter with her parents. But when she took a screenwriting class at Santa Clara, she couldn’t help but fall in love. “I had tried every way to write—novel writing, journalism—but it was so hard for me,” she says. “When I’m writing screenplays, my brain TV is on, and I can see everything. It clicks.”

Still, Howard—her mom’s warnings echoing in her head—was skeptical she could actually cut it as a writer in Hollywood. So she decided to compromise: She’d start in the tech industry as a copywriter. But she hated it. A serious mental breakdown a year in forced her to reevaluate. In recovery, she kept coming back to her love for writing for the screen. L.A. called her name.

But she had to be practical, so to pay the bills, she worked as an assistant at the Gersh Agency for nine months, making the usual coffee runs and scheduling meetings, networking when she could. In her off hours, Howard kept writing, working on her first TV pilot.

When Howard met who would become her manager, she was touched that he had actually read her work—a rarity in the industry. But going with an independent manager was a risky choice, as was going with a newly promoted agent. “I felt so supported that I didn’t care,” Howard says. “That’s when I started to learn that trusting your gut is the best way forward.”

The leap of faith paid off. Soon, Howard was pitching to big names and studios, like Jason Bateman’s production company Aggregate Films and Paramount, where her mom worked all those years ago. She sold her first project, a dark comedy called *Spiraling*, while she was a staff writer for the CW crime drama *In the Dark*. These days, she’s developing an animated show and a fantasy young adult drama.

“I just kind of stumbled my way into Hollywood,” she says, humbly ignoring the six years of grit, determination, and countless hours spent writing that put her on that path. To her, the only thing that matters is that she followed her gut. When you do that, she says, “you’ll always make the right decisions.”

It wouldn’t have mattered if Hollywood had chewed her up and spit her out. Heck, she says, “It wouldn’t matter if Hollywood existed or not. I’ve always loved telling stories and I was always going to wind up doing that.”



The first thing **Veronica Rodriguez '13** ever directed was a short film for a senior capstone project at Santa Clara. It was love at first “lights, camera, action.”

“It was the best thing ever,” she says. “That’s when I knew I wanted to go to film school.” It didn’t matter that she barely had any projects to list on her application, she took her shot anyway. Rodriguez was accepted to the Peter Stark Producing Program at the University of Southern California, where she learned how to be a producer.

A year out of grad school, Rodriguez was an assistant at Funny Or Die. On her off hours, she was moonlighting as a writer/director. Rodriguez made sure her bosses knew what she was capable of, too—she always threw her name out when she heard that a project needed a director.

After proving herself on and off the job—her independent work had earned her a spot in the 2018 Sundance/YouTube New Voices Lab—Rodriguez was promoted to producer. But she kept hitting a wall. Although she was surrounded by developing projects all the time at work, she only got to direct when she hired herself to do the job. Six months afterward, her department was shut down. But it was a blessing in disguise. It allowed her to pursue writing and directing full time. The instability of freelancing was scary, Rodriguez says, but she felt free. “No one else was dictating my ceiling. I didn’t even see the ceiling.” The work caught the eye of the Disney Channel, which enlisted Rodriguez to write for the young adult comedy *Gabby Duran & the Unsittables*. It was a perfect fit.

Rodriguez, who is Mexican American, has always loved telling stories that combat stereotypes. *The Unsittables’* main character is the headstrong Latina, Gabby. No, she’s not mean, “she just knows what she wants and isn’t accommodating.”

Rodriguez—you guessed it—set her sights on directing the show. In February 2020, her pestering paid off, and Disney asked her to direct an episode of the second season. COVID, though, would put those plans on pause. But not even the pandemic—or her first pregnancy—would get between Rodriguez and her goals. When production picked back up in late 2020, Rodriguez moved to Canada to direct two episodes of *The Unsittables*. “If I could direct these episodes and make the showrunners happy, while eight months pregnant and during a pandemic, I can do it whenever and for whatever,” Rodriguez says.

She would use that confidence just months later on the set of her feature film directorial debut *Let’s Get Merried*, which premiered on VH1 in December 2021 and was executive produced by Eva Longoria. Now, Rodriguez is a co-producer on Netflix’s *On My Block* spinoff, *Freeridge*, which tells a tale of four Southern California teens fighting a deadly curse. Of course, Rodriguez, fearless as ever, is campaigning to direct an episode or two.

“Nobody’s forcing you to stick to that first thing that you set your mind to. Don’t be scared to pick an avenue and go down it full force. Nobody’s going to blame you for changing your mind.”

—EMILY ALONSO '18

“You’re watching a ton of people come together and make it happen,” **Emily Alonso '18** says about being on set of the *Batwoman* episode she wrote. “I wasn’t expecting so many people to ask me questions—I was like, what do I know?” she says. “But I do know. I thought so hard about these characters and put a lot of myself into it.”

After she graduated, Alonso hit the ground running. She moved to L.A. with her sights set on a career in editing, starting out as a post-production coordinator for a YouTube production company. The work was steady, the pace predictable. She knew she was playing it safe, and she didn’t like it.

So, she was proactive, seeking out an editor to shadow and learn from. Alonso knew that in this industry, you get the job by getting your resume on the desk of someone who knows someone who needs someone like you. That’s how it works in Hollywood, and that’s how it worked for Alonso. Her next gig was as a post-production assistant on the CW sports drama *All American*.

She quickly learned that editing was not for her. Sure, it was hard to change her mind after she had told others (and herself) that she had wanted to be an editor. But she knew she had done her best, so there was no point in staying somewhere where she didn’t fit.

She was honest with herself and her bosses. And to her immense relief, they weren’t angry—they were supportive. They even helped Alonso get an interview to be a writers’ production assistant on *Batwoman*, a gig she landed.

On *Batwoman*, Alonso was in the writers’ room, watching and learning how the writers hammered out story details and character beats and crafted several-season arcs while balancing jokes and high-impact drama. It felt like the pieces were finally falling into place.

After a year, Alonso was promoted to script coordinator, where she was responsible for knowing the rules of the *Batwoman* universe like the back of her hand. Part of the show since its pilot, she was already on an intimate, first-name basis with the characters. So, it was only natural when her bosses tapped her and another assistant to write an episode together.

“The most rewarding part when I wrote my episode was getting to go to set and having a sense of ownership over my words,” Alonso says. For once, she wasn’t shipping off the script through an email and washing her hands of it. She was getting down and dirty, hyping up the actors and giving notes to the director. “It makes me want to write more.” She’s currently pursuing that passion as script coordinator on the Apple TV+ *Godzilla* series.



# TRACING THE WOLF

A tattoo as an act of reclamation reminds not only of one's ability to survive but also of vulnerability. The wolf on English Lecturer Maggie Levantovskaya's skin is also a sign of the wolf within.

BY MAGGIE LEVANTOVSKAYA

ILLUSTRATION BY DMITRY SAMAROV





THE FIRST TATTOOED person I ever knew was Misha, my mom's first boyfriend in the U.S. She didn't call him that yet, but I knew that that's what he'd become as soon as he stepped into our studio apartment, helping her carry a tall, leafy houseplant. My mom's new female friend was also with them; together, they came from the language course all adults had to take to receive financial assistance. Immigration briefly leveled the playing field between me and my mom. I studied English in my fifth-grade ESL class and she studied it in the evening. It only took a few months for me to pull ahead of her.

"How do you like our million-dollar view?" my mom said, waving to our visitors.

Through the windows you could see a far-off, miniature Golden Gate Bridge, as if shrunken to fit the frame. It was our sliver of luxury in this dingy apartment, where we ate buckwheat kasha brought over from Ukraine because we didn't know if we'd be able to afford American groceries.

While all three chatted and joked about their teacher, I pretended to play with my toys, observing from the sidelines. The woman wore a velour tracksuit, which, this early after our immigration, I considered the epitome of style.

The man's clothing didn't make an impression either way. He was congenial, which was a plus. But he was shorter than my mom, which was a minus, though not a deal-breaker. He was a Russian-Jewish greenhorn like us, which wasn't helpful in our project to become Americans but was hardly surprising. I would've tuned them out, playing with the doll I chose at Toys "R" Us for my 10th birthday just days after arriving in the U.S. if my eyes hadn't landed on Misha's forearm. A real-life tattoo—somewhat faded, somewhat covered by hair, but undeniable. In Soviet Ukraine, I only saw them in movies and always on sailors or criminals and I had no reason to think Misha was a sailor. Squinting, I could tell his tattoo was religious, a Virgin Mary. Was she holding a child? I shuddered. Why would this Soviet Jew have a mark on his body? Why would it be Christian? None of it made sense. I wanted to look closer, but I also never wanted to see him again.

Look and not look—this was my pattern when it came to Misha's tattoos for the years he lived with us. It wasn't just that I found his markings offensive; I winced at the pain they suggested, unbearable to my young mind. Though he and my mom argued a lot, he was kind to me, and we be-

came close. Still, I never asked him the story of his tattoos. I simply knew this was not done. So, I snuck glimpses, the way one does with something curious and disturbing. Religious symbols were like islands on his upper body; I tried to connect them but couldn't. There were many crosses and, on one of his pecs, a large Russian Orthodox church with its iconic onion domes. I liked Misha, so I accepted his tattoos, but if I could have had it my way, I would've erased them all.

Three years ago, I was in the midst of the longest and most dangerous lupus flare of my life. I'd been living with the chronic illness for about 10 years. Periodic flares were part of the deal, but this was different. My immune system was attacking my body from a dozen different directions. I had rashes. My feet went permanently numb but my joints were on fire. Walking a flight of stairs was painful. Typing was painful. Wearing clothes, sitting in a chair, lying in bed—all of it was torment.

To distract myself from the near-constant sensory distress, I started looking at tattoo images online. It was something to fixate on, the right activity for a person in the thick of brain fog. But the more I looked, the more I found myself justifying. My decade anniversary of living with lupus was coming up and I wanted to commemorate it. I felt an urge to make visible to others, albeit only symbolically, my largely invisible experience. With lupus, the signs are often subtle. Though the disease has the potential to cause inflammation in any organ, including the skin, much of the damage happens behind that barrier: in the kidneys, brain, heart. I could see the traces of my disease, some temporary (rashes, swelling), some permanent (twisted knuckles, discolored skin), but I knew what to look for. I hid whatever I could.

There were many benefits to having a so-called invisible illness, but it also meant others assumed I could lift heavy objects, eat, sleep, and work without discomfort, and generally go about my day without worrying about staying alive. The years of hiding had begun to wear on me.

We're social creatures and being in pain is often isolating. For people with autoimmune diseases, especially women, especially women of color, invalidation is at every turn in our health care system. "We don't know why you're in pain," "This pain is not typical of lupus," and "I know you're suffering but your labs look stable" are all statements I've heard from doctors, over and over again. In my private life, I became accustomed to even friends and family members saying, "I had no idea you were going through all this," though it never ceased to make me feel unseen, alone, and mad. The tattoo, then, would be a reminder, a visible marker of pain.

From the start I knew I wanted an image of a wolf on my forearm, forgetting then that this was the location of Misha's Virgin Mary tattoo. Lupus is Latin for wolf, and according to the literature, the illness was named after a 12th-century account that the skin sores associated with the disease look "as if a hungry wolf eats his own flesh." This grotesque image has haunted me from the moment I encountered it, heightening my shame at having a body intent on destroying itself, my disgust at the visible signs. To brand myself with something I feared and sought to subdue seemed like a reclamation. I didn't want to romanticize the disease, but to acknowledge that it was with me, and that together we had found a way to coexist, however turbulently. The tattoo would represent this permanence. The wolf would be drawn in a single black line, to symbolize the continuity and abstractness of my chronic but shapeshifting disease.

"That looks really cool," the artist said, admiring the mockup on my arm. He stood behind me as I looked at myself in the mirror. I couldn't have felt less cool or out of place. We were on vacation in L.A. and I impulse-scheduled the appointment at a nearby studio. This was in hipster Highland Park, a white-walled space—more art gallery than the hippie or rockabilly parlors of Haight Street where my friends used to get inked. Everyone in this aggressively air-conditioned, sterile haven had multiple tattoos; I was the uninitiated one, to be handled with more care than I'm used to getting from doctors and nurses. I caught my partner's eye in the mirror and smiled to telegraph my awkwardness, then looked again at the design. The wolf reflected back to me was now on my bicep. The artist's drawing looked better there and I could see the benefit of a less visible spot—no unwanted questions from my students or immigrant relatives. I could choose when to let the wolf see the light of day and when to keep it inside.

Lying on the leather table, I looked and looked away as the artist conjured the wolf, each stabbing a point in the thread. In the few days leading up to the appointment, I had badgered my partner and friends: "How bad will the pain be? Am I going to chicken out?" A friend familiar with my health problems said, "You're sticking a needle

## The wolf would be drawn in a single black line, to symbolize the continuity and abstractness of my chronic but shapeshifting disease.

into your flesh; it's going to hurt. But you know pain." Did I know pain? I certainly experienced it daily. I documented it in my symptoms diary, in my countless emails with doctors, and in my essays. I read books and articles and testimonials about pain—how it works, whose pain is taken seriously, why the pain scale is so limiting. I approached the subject with more dedication than I applied to my dissertation research and in the process learned that, in many ways, we barely know what pain is and what it takes to understand the pain of others.

I'd been pricked and pierced countless times by needles that tested my nerve damage, sucked out my blood, or gifted me necessary fluids. I bore it all by turning my head and fixing my gaze on the photo of a phlebotomist's family or a blank hospital wall. The sting never ceased to catch me off guard and I hated seeing the infliction of pain, the siphoning of my insides. Even my internal organs had been punctured for tissue samples and treatments. The previous winter, doctors inserted a needle through my back and into my kidney to get a sample of inflamed tissue. I was grateful to be drugged and on my stomach, eyes pressed into stiff hospital sheets. When the results came in, I had a new diagnosis, a new form of lupus (nephritis) to go with my old lupus (systemic). It turned out that my kidneys were toiling through inflammation; they were "in pain" but neither I nor my doctors knew it.

Lying still, clock in full view, I couldn't help but think about the fact that I was engaging in a ritual performed by so many others with chronic illness. Since becoming interested in my tattoo I'd read numerous accounts of disease survivors modifying their bodies to commemorate loss and



resilience or to camouflage scars. For many people, modification served a cathartic purpose, a means of empowerment. If everything goes without complications, getting a tattoo is indeed a way to experience pain on one's own terms. One knows what the basic purpose of the pain is and, maybe more importantly, that the pain has an end time. With lupus pain, I'm often in the fog about the source and the parameters. Joint pain, for example, can begin in the morning and clear up by the afternoon. It can also last a week, holding steady or seesawing between dull and acute only to migrate to a different part of the body. The phrase "chronic pain" is, in some ways, a misnomer because there's no consistency or fixedness to it, no way to truly know it. Unlike my lupus pain, this tattoo pain I could count down, minute by minute. So, was it even pain? Can we call pain something we seek out? Can torment be wanted?

The notions I internalized in my childhood intruded into my thoughts, even though they no longer held power. Tattooing was taboo not only among Soviets but also the Orthodox Jews who were my teachers until high school. I went to a Hebrew day school in Ukraine, in the midst of its transition out of the Soviet Union and then during our first years in the U.S. My family was secular in the typical Soviet way but liked the idea of my getting a religious education, as compensation for all the years Jews weren't allowed to practice. "You shall not make gashes in your flesh for the dead, or incise any marks on yourselves. I am the Lord," I learned in Torah study. That means don't deface your body because you're created in God's image, my teachers told me. I wasn't even a teen yet but I understood this meant no tattoos. People who get tattoos have no respect for the Lord.

As I matured, I questioned this notion but secretly wondered why people were compelled to do something so painful and permanent to their flesh. It took years of being poked and prodded for my flesh to not feel sacred anymore. I swallowed pills that dropped like bombs in my stomach, permanently damaging my digestive system—anything to

lessen the pain and keep my disease in check. My own body produced antibodies that attacked my healthy organs. Putting a little ink into my skin? Why not?

Tattoos were what Nazis did to the Jews, my teachers told me. They treated them like cattle. Why would you choose to do the same to your flesh? After I severed religious ties, I met countless Jews who displayed their "gashes" and "marks" without shame. Still, it was only recently that I learned that Jews played a role in the history of tattoos in America. Just a few months before getting my wolf, I saw an exhibit on Jewish tattoo artists at San Francisco's Jewish Museum, where I learned about such colorful characters as "Lew the Jew" Alberts and "Brooklyn Joe" Lieber. These were working-class descendants of immigrants; they made a living off the art of tattoo, helping the profession innovate in artistic and technical ways in the first half of the 20th century. One figure that impressed me was Mildred "Millie" Hull, who was a circus performer, sex worker, tattoo artist, and generally famous "tattooed lady," per the curator's words. Walking around the exhibit and seeing photos of Millie flaunting her inked, lingerie-clad body and "Brooklyn Joe" working on a client with a full-back design, disrupted my understanding of Jews' relationship to tattoos. It emboldened me. Looking at a cheeky flash design of a pin-up pooping into a bucket, I realized that, after nearly two years of living in a flare and mulling over my tattoo, it was time to shit or get off the pot.

The appointment lasted no more than an hour and I was grateful. I wanted to leave immediately to avoid showing the wrong reaction. The artist did exactly what I asked of him. But what I asked for made me permanently different and I was so alienated by my new appearance I couldn't feign happiness. I looked at the tattoo countless times that summer, when brushing my teeth or washing hands in a restaurant bathroom. But catching myself, I'd turn away, habitually afraid of my changing body.

The tattoo didn't make me magically accept my diagno-

sis. I've been doing that work for a decade and it never feels done. Nor did it get others to take my pain more seriously. Like my disease, my tattoo, ironically, was not fixed. The meaning of the design was hardly obvious to people. I had to reconstruct the tale of the wolf, and how I did it changed depending on the context, the audience, and my mood. "Did you get your dog tattooed on your arm?" one of my friends asked, referring to my goofy-looking terrier mutt, just hours after my appointment. This was not a reaction I predicted but he wouldn't be the last to have it. Isn't that always the case when it comes to meanings and authorial intentions? Things don't work according to plan.

When the summer ended, I put on sleeved shirts and went back to teaching. After my two-year-long flare, I was tired and relieved to not have to talk to strangers about my disease. I was also more skeptical than ever about whether making my pain visible made others more empathic. There's too much proof in our culture that seeing someone's pain isn't enough to make us care about them. Our concepts of what kind of pain is legitimate, and whose pain deserves outrage, shape our interpretations of the visible. Then COVID came and there was no one to catch a glimpse of my tattoo and ask me about it.

"Eventually, you'll stop seeing it and it'll just become part of you," my many-tatted friend said to me soon after I got mine. But this hasn't happened yet. In quarantine, a tattoo that was supposed to be a signal to myself and to others became visible only to me, just like my disease.

The tattoo feels part of me now but I continue to look and not look. The mix of attraction and repulsion must have something to do with tattoos appearing to be both outside and inside our bodies. They look drawn on the surface but live below the epidermis, reminding us that the envelope of the body is porous, penetrable. Now that my flare has finally calmed, the wolf reminds me not only of my ability to survive but also of my vulnerability. It reminds me that I'm high-risk; I can easily get sick; I can die.

During one of my quarantine check-ins with my mom, I finally brought up the subject of Misha's inked body.

"His whole autobiography was written on those tattoos," she said, her tone wary when speaking about the ex. By this point, I'd learned more about Soviet tattoos, particularly their history in the prison system, so I prodded her with questions.

"Yes, he sat," my mom admitted, using the Russian expression for serving time. There was drug addiction, theft, multiple prison terms. She wasn't sure.

"We never talked about it," she said.

"Why not?" I asked, immediately realizing this was an American question. It's normal for the Soviet-born to not discuss, even with close ones, that which is uncomfortable, shameful, or sad, be it a prison term or an incurable disease.

"I didn't need to ask him anything," she said. "The tattoos told the whole story—where he served, how many times, what for, and what his status was in the hierarchy." To hear her speak so casually about a practice so forbidden by her culture was shocking. But it was just as shocking to learn she was right.

After our conversation, I watched the documentary *The Mark of Cain*, which features interviews with Russian prisoners who talk about their tattoos, decoding what's written on their bodies. According to inmates and experts, the Virgin Mary means theft. Each church cupola indicates a term served. There were many other symbols—a vocabulary for

representing one's journey through "the zone" (the Russian term for the prison camp). There were slogans and truisms. One woman, convicted under communism and released into a capitalist world, had the words "Life will teach me to laugh through tears," on her back. "Welcome to hell," said the body of another prisoner, in English for some reason. There was also a tattoo that said "Remember death," a Russian translation of the classic imperative: *memento mori*.

When I got my mom on the phone to discuss the documentary, I wanted to ask how many cupolas Misha had but I didn't push my luck; it was clear that revisiting the relationship hurt her. We spoke generally about tattoos and I tried to work backward, reexamining my past hangups about tattoos and my attempt to get over them. It was strange to realize I was trying to do something similar to Misha—to commemorate the hell my body had been through and would inevitably go through again.

My mom had the same attitude about my tattoo as she did about Misha's. She accepted it but didn't want to talk about it. She certainly didn't want me getting another one. When I brought up the possibility of doing it again, she said: You will grow old and your skin will sag and it

**The tattoo feels part of me now but I continue to look and not look. The mix of attraction and repulsion must have something to do with tattoos appearing to be both outside and inside our bodies.**

will look ridiculous with all these tattoos. Will you be able to look at yourself in the mirror? This was not a question. There was horror in her voice. In the moment, I laughed to avoid conflict but I haven't stopped thinking about her words. I don't know if I'll ever be able to look at myself in the mirror without wanting to look away. But I want to get old. I want my skin to sag because that will mean that I lived a long time with this disease.

When I look at my wolf, I see an unbroken line, forged from countless pricks. I trace it with my gaze, always starting from a different spot and never making it to the end. I've long forgotten the point of the artist's first injection. The pain has faded from my memory or merged with memories of other pains now dulled and diluted. My wolf, a proxy for the thing that lives within me and hungers for my flesh, the thing that can't be eliminated but only subdued, looks back at me and—smirks? After many months of gazing at my tattoo, I decided that the artist unintentionally curved the wolf's mouth into a smile. The eyes are no help in interpreting the expression. Lacking in irises, they present as holes, mere blanks of my flesh, not windows into anything. And anyway, the wolf cannot smile. It cannot look back. It cannot feel or remember. But when I look at my wolf I remember. I remember death, even as I stave it off for as long as possible.

*Maggie Levantovskaya is a lecturer in the Santa Clara Department of English. This essay and its accompanying illustrations originally ran on The Rumpus on September 16, 2021. They have been edited for publication and reprinted here with permission.*



## AND HOW DOES THAT MAKE YOU FEEL?

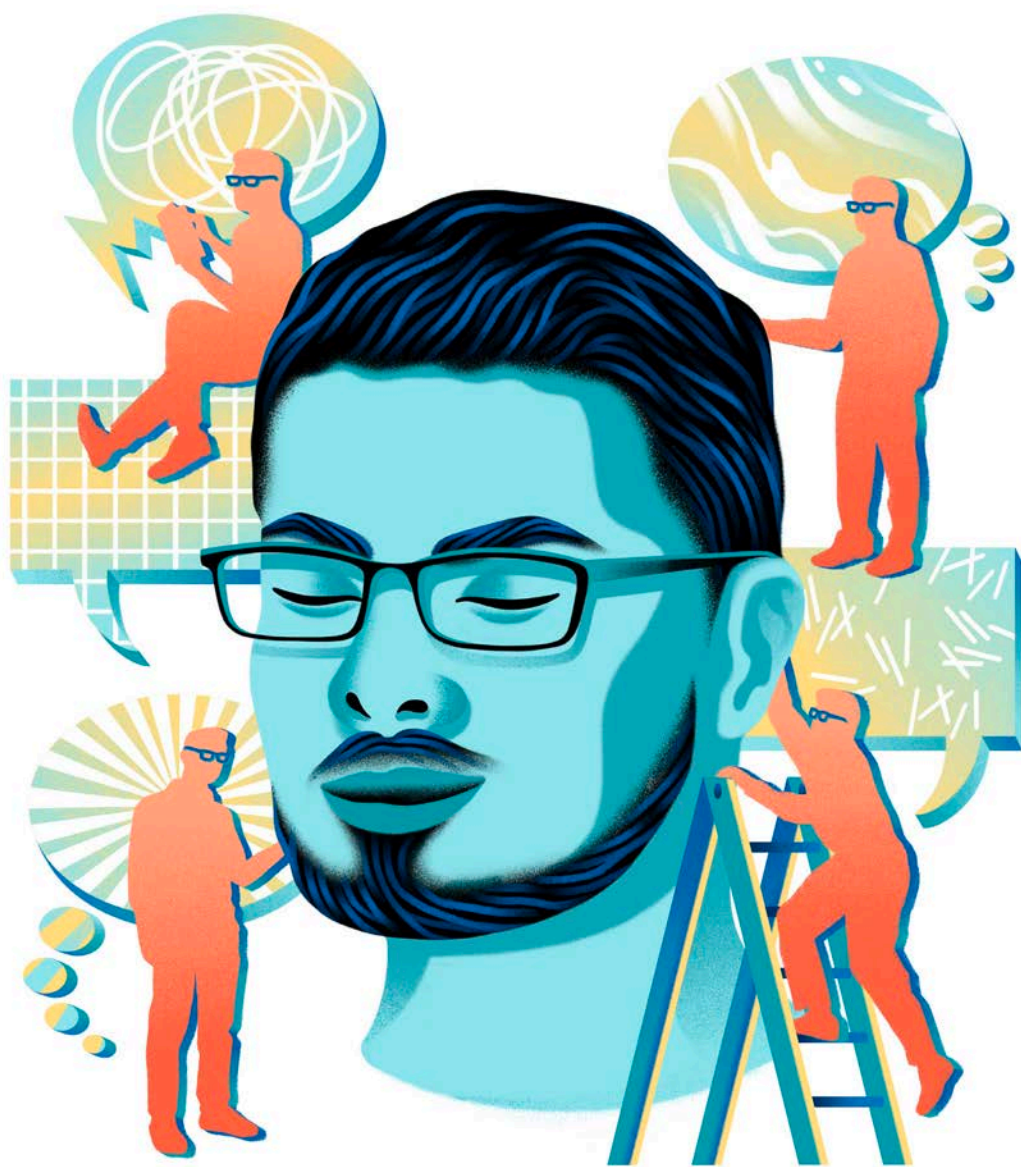
There has long been a lack of diversity among therapists, creating an unhealthy cycle where many people can't find the help they need. What are we doing to disrupt that?

BY LAUREN LOFTUS & TATIANA SANCHEZ '10  
ILLUSTRATIONS BY ALLISON VU

**MIKE VALDEZ M.A. '25** didn't need therapy. Why would he? He'd already achieved what America expects of its immigrants. Brought to New York City from the Dominican Republic as a young boy, Valdez was the first in his family to graduate college—from NYU, no less. After graduation, he landed jobs in tech, which eventually prompted a move to Silicon Valley, where he worked at behemoths like Google, YouTube, and Facebook. Sure, he felt lonely and isolated among the predominantly white tech industry. Sure, he was far from the Dominican community he'd come from in New York. But, no, he wouldn't say he was "depressed." That wasn't in the vocabulary he absorbed growing up.

The only way he could describe it was "disconnected." So when he learned Google was offering 10 free counseling sessions through its Employee Assistance Program, Valdez figured it couldn't hurt to try a little talk therapy. "It was the first time I had considered going to see a therapist. It's something most people around me never talked about," he says. "Even more specifically, my family, who are religious—they put a lot of emphasis around healing on God, resiliency, and being positive. Talking about those feelings, especially with someone outside of the family, was unheard of."

But talk to a stranger he did. And he's upfront now, nearly a decade later, about therapy's positive impacts on his life. It helped him work through unhealthy relationship patterns and feelings of imposter syndrome. He also, for the first time, named the mental health struggles that come from being bicultural in the U.S. Things he faced especially in tech, but that many people of color can relate to: microaggressions, being the only person of color in the room, barriers to resources, etc.



Through therapy, Valdez also realized he felt unfulfilled on a professional level, that his career in tech didn't feel connected to his strengths and values. "The money was there, the titles were there, and all these 'things' that signify 'success' in American culture," he says. "I had reached a level of success and stability that my family only dreamed of, yet here I was feeling empty inside." He wanted to help people—especially people like him who face untold hurdles that come with being a person of color in Silicon Valley. So he decided to go back to school and do the thing that had helped him all those years ago. In late 2021, he enrolled part time in the Master of Arts in Counseling Psychology program at Santa Clara University. "Choosing to become a therapist felt like the first authentic decision I ever made for myself," he says.

When he graduates and begins work as a therapist in and around Silicon Valley, Valdez will be a bit of a rarity: male, Latino, Spanish speaker. San Jose has one of the highest Hispanic populations among U.S. cities—about a third of its households self-identify as Hispanic. In Santa Clara County, about 19 percent of households speak Spanish. And yet there's a serious lack of therapists skilled at working with this particular community.

That means many people living in one of the wealthiest

and most diverse corners of the country cannot find a therapist who literally speaks their language—much less understands their cultural background.

That lack of representation isn't just a local problem. According to the Bureau of Labor Statistics, the mental health counseling field remains overwhelmingly white—in the 2020 BLS report on labor force ethnicity and race, 87.5 percent of "mental health counselors" were white. That's on par with the American Psychological Association's 2019 assessment that 83 percent of psychologists are white.

This is not a surprise; there is no exposé to be had on an institution or industry that's always looked a certain way. And yet, as stigma around mental health disorders fades and Americans become more open about their own need for mental health care, the concurrent conversation becomes, how do we diversify the mental health field so that care reaches everyone?

"Wanting to support the Latino community is a big driving point for me in all of this. I know how much of a gap there is, I know how much of a stigma there is," around getting mental health help in Latinx culture, Valdez says. After becoming a dad a year ago, Valdez says he's even more motivated to reframe such narratives. "Instead of just trying to succeed as an American, how can I succeed as a Latino American? And how can I

pass down what that means to my Latino American son?"

Valdez is expanding his knowledge base by pursuing the Latinx counseling emphasis, one of four offered by SCU's counseling psychology program; LGBTQ counseling, health psychology, and correctional psychology are the other three specializations. An emphasis functions like a minor, with courses counting toward the 90 units a student must complete before obtaining licensure and becoming a professional counselor. Though no organization tracks how many U.S.-based counseling master's programs offer similar specializations, based on anecdotal evidence from faculty and students, it seems Santa Clara's emphases are a bit of a rarity. In getting an emphasis, a student gets a more in-depth understanding of a particular population's mental health needs, as well as the barriers they face in accessing help, better preparing the student to work within that community after graduation.

As for his family back in New York, Valdez says they're supportive albeit confused. "They're like 'Why are you leaving your job at all these great tech companies to become a therapist?'" But for perhaps the first time in his life, he knows he can navigate this, that he's actually not letting them down on the unspoken contract they'd forged by moving to the U.S. so that he could have a brighter

future. "I feel very assured in myself and know this is the right thing, while maintaining a healthy balance and boundaries with them about it." Balance and boundaries? He sounds like a therapist already.

#### THERAPY SO WHITE

In Vietnamese, there's no word for depression. "In my family, we don't talk a lot about our feelings, like at all. Zero. There are no words," says **Phyli Nguyen M.A. '24**. "We usually compare our feelings to the weather: 'Today I feel like the rain.'"

How, then, could her parents—refugees who fled the Vietnam War—possibly unpack the trauma of fleeing their home, let alone the tiny heartbreaks that puncture everyday life, with a therapist? And probably a white one trained only in Western modalities from a Eurocentric perspective to boot.

Nguyen hopes to help people like her parents find the words. San Jose has the largest number of Vietnamese residents of any one U.S. city—about 180,000 people or 10 percent of its total population. "I'm hoping to work with the local Vietnamese population," she says. "I want to get in touch with my roots and feel a sense of community as a Vietnamese American woman." It will be a lot of work, Nguyen acknowledges, and she's only one person; out of the 454 students in Santa Clara's counseling psychology program, Nguyen says she knows of only four students who identify as Vietnamese.

There are any number of reasons traditionally marginalized groups have not sought out mental health support and why those same people have not become counselors themselves. Kelley Haynes-Mendez, the director of the American Psychological Association's ethnicity, race, and cultural affairs portfolio, points to an October 2021 resolution from the APA apologizing for its role in contributing to and perpetuating systemic inequities by failing to address and challenge racism and discrimination within the field.

The resolution acknowledges the "field of psychology has not historically supported research on communities of color by not adequately reporting and including them, minimally reporting them as a demographic data point, and/or interpreting results based on Eurocentric research standards, thereby perpetuating invisibility and resulting in a lack of quality research that can inform practices and policies that impact communities of color." How can one be counseled and treated when industry leaders and widely accepted best practices or research exclude them?

Meanwhile, students hoping to become mental health professionals face barriers to entering and completing the necessary education requirements. Think: coursework and textbooks that omit diverse perspectives, staggering tuition costs, entrance exam tests, and more. And many master's-level programs may have yet to incorporate newer research on the impacts of multigenerational trauma, implicit bias, and health disparities among marginalized groups. Offering "a curriculum that shows the diversity of the human experience across ethnicities and cultures is key," Haynes-Mendez says. "Many describe this as a decolonization of the psychology curriculum, which involves restructuring curriculum in ways that promote viewpoints from other groups and cultures."

Of course, such restructuring is contingent on faculty and university administrators accepting that change is necessary, a pill Frederic Bemak says many have a hard

time swallowing. Bemak, a professor emeritus in the Counseling and Development Program at George Mason University who founded the Diversity Research and Access Center there, says for years and years "the counseling profession was predominantly white and there wasn't a consideration of other cultures, ethnicities, sexual orientations. ... People, quite frankly, didn't care." When the topic of diversity came up—including incorporating multiculturalism into therapy—"the response was always, 'Why is that important?'"

For so long, counselors were taught to treat people the same. That addressing anxiety or depression or whatever else ails you mentally looks the same no matter what you look like. Even within the last few years, with diversity, equity, and inclusion initiatives buzzing around college campuses, Bemak says there are still faculty who cannot or will not see a problem. "They say, 'counseling is counseling is counseling,'" he says. "People are people are people."

Ah yes, the "I don't see color; we are all the same" fallacy played out in the therapy profession. It misses that the human experience is influenced by where we come from, who we are, and how society responds to what we look like and how we learn to react.

## When the topic of diversity came up—including incorporating multiculturalism into therapy—"the response was always, 'Why is that important?'"

In a quick history lesson, Bemak mentions Stanley Sue, a clinical psychologist and pioneer in multicultural counseling research who conducted a study on mental health treatment disparities among different ethnic groups in the 1970s. Analyzing 14,000 clients at 17 community mental health agencies in a single county in Washington state, Sue found that about half of "ethnic minority clients" dropped out of treatment after the initial session. Those who stayed scheduled fewer total sessions than white clients. Sue made policy recommendations to develop ethnicity-specific mental health service centers, recruit more diverse therapists, and better train all therapists to be multiculturally competent. Many of these recommendations became the basis for the training of graduate students today.

#### WHAT DOES A CULTURALLY COMPETENT THERAPIST LOOK LIKE?

Think of it like learning a new language. No matter how great you get at speaking Italian, it'll never be your native tongue. There will always be something new to learn, some new slang or tone or inflection or nuance of emphasis. "Multicultural fluency," as SCU associate professor of counseling psychology **Sherry Wang** explains, is like that. "It's really more of a process as opposed to [the idea that] if you take a class in multicultural counseling then you will know how to work with everybody," she says. "Multi-

cultural counseling is not just learning how to work with African Americans, how to work with Asian Americans, the LGBTQ+ community, or people with disabilities.” Being multiculturally fluent means you are constantly learning because there will always be aspects to the language and culture to discover, including your own.

Competency, then, might be a bit of a misnomer in that it indicates a binary: Either a therapist is competent or they’re not. Instead, the language is starting to shift toward “cultural humility.” Counselors need to acknowledge what they don’t know and be willing to do the research instead of relying on the client to do the labor and teach the counselor. Cultural humility is more than content knowledge—it’s an interpersonal way of being with the client.

Cultural competency standards were approved by the Association for Multicultural Counseling and Development in 1991 and adopted by what’s now the American Counseling Association. Such standards include appropriate attitudes and beliefs of counselors themselves—“culturally skilled counselors recognize their sources of discomfort with differences that exist between themselves and clients in terms of race, ethnicity, and culture”—and culturally responsive intervention strategies—“culturally skilled counselors are not averse to seeking consultation with traditional healers or religious and spiritual leaders and practitioners in the treatment of culturally different clients when appropriate.” Since 2002, the American Psychological Association has periodically updated its multicultural guidelines as our understanding evolves of the roles diversity and multiculturalism play in how individuals and groups define themselves. The most recent report was released in 2017.

Still, Wang says the field of counseling (which includes marriage and family therapists, licensed clinical counselors, addiction treatment counselors, school counselors,

etc.) is more primed to integrate these concepts of diversity and inclusion versus, say, clinical psychology. “As counseling psychologists, we focus beyond pathology and deficiency to include wellness,” she says.

Think of counselors as working with the client to deploy various therapeutic techniques to cope with mental strain while psychologists evaluate and treat various disorders through psychoanalysis; both work toward sound mental health, they just get there in different ways. A counselor, for example, might focus on improving quality of life, providing healing spaces to address racial trauma, and offers prevention services so that clinical work is more than diagnosing severe mental illness.

In her class, Wang is “very explicit” in naming “all the isms” and having students face their own biases head on. “Especially in this country with race being such a salient identity, we must tackle issues of white supremacy. Also patriarchy and heterosexism, etc.,” she says. At the end of the quarter, neither she nor her students are under any illusions that they’ll have all the solutions, “but we will be able to engage in critical thinking about how privilege and power and oppression play out in all of our professional and personal lives.”

For students who opt not to take one of Santa Clara’s emphases, all that’s required is a single multicultural counseling course—as is standard for all accredited counseling master’s programs. It’s nowhere near enough, say students and faculty.

For example, says **Janet Sims M.A. ’06**, a therapist who specializes in LGBTQ+ issues who was appointed coordinator of SCU’s LGBTQ+ emphasis in 2021, “Just about every therapist I know has had clients come to them who are questioning either their sexual or gender identity.” But many aren’t qualified to probe those questions. “We all need the training necessary to be the best therapist we can with our clients, and if we are not the right fit due to our training and experience, we refer out to therapists who do have expertise in this field.”

So how do counseling education programs everywhere grapple with how to better teach the concepts of diversity, equity, and inclusion to make future therapy a more welcoming place? They might consider starting with the teachers.

Students want to see themselves reflected in the classrooms they sit in and the textbooks they read, says **Tanesha Cartwright ’18 M.A. ’23**. Otherwise, they’ll continue to hesitate to pay for graduate school. The lack of faculty and curriculum diversity makes it difficult for students to gain the skills they need to work in underrepresented communities, creating an unhealthy cycle.

“You’ve got to hire more people who look like the people you want to have in the program,” she says. In an ideal world, Cartwright says, multiculturalism would be folded into every class. Diversity issues would be discussed openly. And it wouldn’t be up to her, often the only Black woman in the classroom, to bring them up.

At Santa Clara, she says, she was the only Black person in all four of the classes that she took last fall. There is no African American emphasis, so Cartwright enrolled in the correctional psychology emphasis because she figured it would be the best avenue to learn about Black trauma since Black people are far more likely to be imprisoned than other people in the United States.

“It was the closest thing I could get to learning about Black people and why they do the things that they do,”

says Cartwright. “We talk about the jail system, about single parents, about drugs, we talk about all the things that lead people to jail. Because 70 percent of the population in jails are filled with Black men, I felt like that was the only way that I was going to be able to get some type of insight on how to help.”

And she knows how hard it is to get that help. A single mom and former hairstylist, Cartwright enrolled in the program after struggling to find a Black female therapist during the beginning of the pandemic. In all of California, only five Black female therapists were covered by her insurance, and of those, several were impossible to reach. It was vital for Cartwright to connect with someone who could understand what it was like to move through the world in a body like hers, and Cartwright had a hell of a time finding someone who “got it.”

#### WHAT’S IN AN EMPHASIS

When Professor **Lucila Ramos-Sanchez** joined Santa Clara’s School of Education and Counseling Psychology in 2000, she had a new, critical challenge before her. She was to establish a counseling emphasis focused on better understanding and treating people from Latinx cultures and backgrounds. It was the school’s first emphasis to include coursework on building cultural competence toward a specific population.

To build the emphasis, Ramos-Sanchez looked to universities that had similar programs in place at the time, starting with Our Lady of the Lake University in San Antonio, Texas, which to her knowledge started the first Latinx counseling specialization in the U.S., though it’s no longer offered there. She sat in on classes and interviewed faculty for tips on building the necessary courses and implementing the curriculum. It was important to Ramos-Sanchez that one of the courses be taught completely in Spanish to strengthen students’ bilingual skills and thus address a barrier that often prevents many in the Latinx community from seeking therapy.

“I saw that within two or three years of offering the Latinx emphasis, we had greater diversity within the student body,” says Ramos-Sanchez. ECP graduated its first Latinx candidate in spring 2005, compared with 13 last spring.

In addition to addressing how bias and discrimination may affect Latinx people, the four-course emphasis focuses on building students’ Spanish skills, treating the clinical needs of Latinx people as individuals—versus assuming Latinos are a homogenous group—and analyzing the impact that political and social factors, such as immigration, can have on a person’s mental health.

“One of the first things I have them do is look at what the population or community [they’ll be serving] looks like, because sometimes it may align with the research they’ve read and sometimes it may be different,” she says. The Latinx population is “going to look different in East San Jose, Oakland, L.A. or anywhere you go in the U.S.”

Today, the University’s four counseling psychology emphases remain a way for students to dive deeper into treating and understanding people from underrepresented communities. Of the 454 students active in the counseling psychology program, 368 students—about 81 percent—have declared an emphasis.

#### HELPING OTHERS, HELPING OURSELVES

Sims, who coordinates the LGBTQ+ emphasis, says she chose to work specifically with LGBTQ+ clients because

she wanted to give back to her community as a therapist. Cartwright began studying when she realized how few Black therapists there were. Nguyen dreams of giving people like her parents and their kids a vocabulary to address years of trauma.

It’s almost a cliché, really: People with underrepresented identities want to offer the help they wish they’d received growing up.

**Annis Crow M.A. ’23** feels this deeply. She’s mixed-race Mexican, Portuguese, and Irish, queer and pansexual. Growing up in a working-class family in California’s conservative Central Valley, there were many barriers to care. She wants to work with fellow queer people, particularly those who come from low socioeconomic backgrounds, or from families and communities who aren’t accepting of their differences. “I saw a lot of my loved ones suffer from stigma, too, and just lack of resources,” Crow says. “I wanted to go into something related to mental health because it was something that I desperately needed.”

In the upcoming school year, Crow will start practicum, during which she’ll bank hundreds of hours working with actual clients while under the supervision of local nonprofits and mental health agencies. She’s under no illusions that it will be easy to chisel away the walls of mistrust from years of mistreatment. “Trusting a doctor, or a mental health professional [does not come naturally for many

## It’s a sentiment most every student enrolled in a counseling psychology or equivalent program has felt at some point: *How can I be the therapist I never had?*

people],” Crow says. “There’s so much that happened in history that we still don’t discuss enough, [people] have been taught generation after generation not to trust you.”

To Crow, this is a “two birds, one stone” situation. She gets to help people facing these huge hurdles of generational mistrust, familial stigma, and socioeconomic barriers to access, while simultaneously helping herself. Those are the very same hurdles she faced as a kid, and she’s still reckoning with their impact as an adult. “Basically, how can I be of service to myself?” she asks.

It’s a sentiment most every student enrolled in a counseling psychology or equivalent program has felt at some point: *How can I be the therapist I never had?* It’s a tall order, and definitely not a fair one. There are still so many obstacles in their way. Graduate school is expensive, and progress toward diversity, equity, and inclusion is slow.

But, as Crow sees it, this really isn’t a choice. In high school, when she was questioning her sexuality but afraid to talk about it with her family, she knew she wanted a career in mental health to address her own. “I don’t know if that makes a lot of sense,” she says, but “I grew up without a source to go to for my mental health, so I wanted to become a source.” If she couldn’t see a bright spot at the end of the tunnel, why not be the light herself? And that thought, well, it felt great.





# Bronco News

SCU ALUMNI NEAR AND FAR



Artist Ricardo Cortez '07 picked up a new title—creative ambassador for the city of San Jose's Office of Cultural Affairs.

## High Road, Low Ride

THE LINE FROM young child to old human is not a straight one. It's a path that weaves and zags. It intersects with others and sometimes switches back on itself. Ricardo Cortez '07 thought he knew his way. As a kid, he'd been on the Mission campus for math and engineering camps. When he arrived as a first-year undergrad, that's what Cortez thought he wanted to study—math and engineering.

But for all that we think we know, there's often something extraordinary we don't. Cortez struggled his first

year at SCU. "It was the first time in my life I was getting D's and F's," Cortez says. He was trying, "but I was completely lost. You feel bad telling your parents. They wonder what's going on. They ask, 'What are you doing?'"

It was an academic advisor who saw the thing Cortez didn't. They asked a few questions and realized that Cortez had a different passion. "They told me, 'Why don't you take this design class and just see how you feel about it.'" And just like that, Cortez found his thing: art.

In one class, student artists made paper statues using materials from Spain. It sparked in Cortez the ability to see art in more places, made out of more things, imagining what could be. Outside of class, he took his work home, where his friends dug into the pieces and saw their own Chicano culture reflected back. It became a thriving feedback loop.

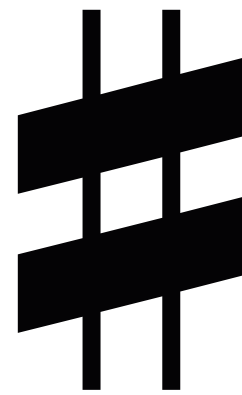
After graduation, Cortez pursued art, earning a master's degree from San Jose State University and slots in local art shows. He is now the director of marketing for Santa Clara's Miller Center for Social Entrepreneurship and an artist. His work often reflects his engineer-to-artist path, and almost always incorporates aspects of his Latino identity. In one show at the San Jose MACLA arts space, Cortez made an interactive paleta cart. He replaced the pictures of ice creams with videos and audio stories about the lives of people who push such carts for a living.

Much of his current work explores lowrider culture, which his father, a San Jose police officer, shared with him. During the pandemic, he digitized old copies of *Lowrider* magazine and put them online. His efforts reconnected communities that previously met at car shows or while cruising.

In his newest gig—creative ambassador for San Jose's Office of Cultural Affairs—Cortez will take on a role similar to the academic counselor who first directed him toward art. He will document lowrider culture with teens, who will use the images they capture to create sound-activated light boxes. It is a mashup of all his worlds—industrial design, art, and San Jose's unique expression of Chicano culture.

"Normally lowrider art is painting; it's murals; it's on fabric. This is a whole new genre of art—digital, technological—that hasn't been seen in this space before," Cortez says. He hopes he can show the young people he works with that life may take some unexpected turns but they can still enjoy the ride.

IMAGE COURTESY RICARDO CORTEZ '07. WORDS BY LESLIE GRIFFIN.



**Crack the Code.** "Seemingly simple problems could actually be much bigger upon inspection." That's one of the many lessons Junhyun Lim '21 learned when he teamed up with Shaunak Mashalkar '21 to solve a complicated math challenge. The result was a creative quarantine collaboration using their home computers to harness more powerful computers at SCU.



IMAGE COURTESY ADOBE STOCK. WORDS BY ELIZABETH GILLOGLY '93.

Renowned mathematician Carl Pomerance, a visiting professor to SCU's Department of Mathematics and Computer Science, challenged his number theory class to solve a problem. And he sweetened the deal with a \$620 prize.

The challenge: Find a positive prime number that meets certain conditions or prove it doesn't exist.

It's more than just a game. Testing for prime numbers is important in cryptography, the study of secure communication techniques or, you know, secret codes. Modern cryptography uses math to increase computer security and hide data. If a prime number like the one the students sought is found it would create a fast way of making codes.

Junhyun Lim '21 and Shaunak Mashalkar '21 asked math and computer science Professor Ed Schaefer for help. "We thought we could find such a number fairly quickly, or disprove it fairly quickly," says Lim. "Alas, this actually turned out to be an undertaking of several quarters."

Mashalkar says "the most surprising part of the problem was the sheer amount of data we were dealing with every day. In most STEM fields, large numbers are thrown around constantly, but rarely do you get a sense of their magnitude."

The team found new methods for creating many Fibonacci pseudoprimes, one of the types of numbers they sought. They tested more than 2 billion to see if any met the other condition of the challenge. None did, but they co-authored an article about their search and their innovative methods. The piece will run in *The Fibonacci Quarterly*, a journal once published at SCU.

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**Legend.** To survive the Great Depression, SCU football coach **Buck Shaw** took a second job at Standard Oil. Still, his 1936 and 1937 teams combined for a single loss, and upset LSU at the Sugar Bowl not once but twice. Here's a look at the aftermath of the Sugar Bowl from a new biography, *Buck Shaw: The Life and Sportsmanship of the Legendary Football Coach*, by Kevin Carroll.



The book also covers Buck Shaw's years with the San Francisco 49ers. He was the team's first coach and recruited many Broncos to join him there.

"When the final gun sounded the crazed contingent of Santa Clara fans exuberantly rushed the field and tore down the goal posts. It was an amazing upset," Kevin Carroll writes in *Buck Shaw: The Life and Sportsmanship of the Legendary Football Coach*. "With their 6 to 0 victory, Santa Clara had again shocked

the football world in back-to-back years by twice upsetting Sugar Bowl favorite LSU." But that pandemonium had nothing on what awaited the team at the end of the long train ride from New Orleans to Santa Clara.

"Over 3,000 fans greeted the victors' train when it arrived home. The Santa

Clara Fire Department, city officials, alumni, and fans accompanied the team as it paraded to the University campus surrounded by blaring sirens, honking car horns, flying confetti, and exploding fireworks.

What a fitting tribute for the Jesuit school with a student body of 500."

IMAGE COURTESY SCU ARCHIVES; WORDS BY TRACY SEIPEL



**DRAFTED** The Portland Timbers selected **Julian Bravo '22** in the second and third rounds of the 2022 MLS SuperDraft. As a Bronco, Bravo played primarily as a midfielder and tallied two assists in the 2021 season. At the professional level, he will play as an attacking-minded fullback.



**BIG ON ICE** When the National Hockey League team in Anaheim shifted from Disney's ownership it scored a name change—from the Mighty Ducks to the Anaheim Ducks. In the years since that move, the team gained a charitable foundation, a logo befitting hockey champions, and, along with other NHL teams in the West, a nearby minor-league affiliate after AHL's formed Pacific League division. **Michael Schulman J.D. '76** played a pivotal role in these moves as CEO of the hockey club, chairman of the foundation, and an alternate governor to the NHL's board. For his dedication to the sport, he was inducted into the 2021-22 Southern California Jewish Sports Hall of Fame.

**LEADING ROLE** UCLA named **Margueritte Aozasa '12** as the sixth women's soccer coach in its history. Before this, Aozasa coached at Stanford for seven seasons, helping the Cardinal score NCAA championships in 2017 and 2019 and Pac-12 titles from 2015 to 2019.

*A lifetime of movement, including on the rowing machine, has prepared William Wieand '53 to compete in the Senior Olympics at age 90.*



## OPEN HEARTS

IT WAS A fitting end to a 4,650-mile cross-country cycling trek to raise money for pediatric cancer research: Alec Fraser and friend Jamie Meehan arrived at Sullivan Aquatic Center in time for the start of the annual fall water polo tournament named for Fraser's son, **Julian Fraser '18**, a popular SCU water polo player who died in 2017 of bone cancer. They were followed by their wives in a minivan. What do the families remember most from the journey? Acts of kindness that eased their path. Current and former SCU water polo players, including **Tom Lennox '24**, did their part. Tom asked his parents to be on the lookout for

Team Julian from their home in Ohio. The family offered dinner, food, and a good night's sleep to the cyclists. San Diego-based Molly and Ted Eldredge, parents of water polo players **Annie Eldredge '19** and **Ford Eldredge '23**, offered up their vacation home in Idaho. Mark and Jamie McClone, parents of **Casidhe McClone '14** and **Graham McClone '17**—the latter a teammate of Julian's who joined two dozen others for the ride's last leg from San Francisco to Santa Clara—hosted meals for the team in Mendocino County. "What we are doing is nothing compared to the effort of their coast-to-coast trip," says Jamie McClone.

## Born To Move

MEET **WILLIAM WIEAND '53**, a Renaissance athlete. He swims. Bikes. Walks. Rows. Growing up, Wieand played beach volleyball in sunny San Diego and basketball throughout high school. He continued those sports at SCU, flexing his moves in intramural basketball and traveling 30 miles south to serve and spike on the beaches of Santa Cruz. Now 90, Wieand is expected to participate in the 40th annual Northern Virginia Senior Olympics in September, as he has done for the past 15 years. The games draw hundreds of Northern Virginia residents over the age of 50 to compete in everything from frisbee throwing to cornhole, diving, cycling, yo-yoing, and solving jigsaw puzzles. "I've been very fortunate that I've been healthy this long, and I think a lot of it has to do with the fact that I've been active all my life," says Wieand. "It was something that was always in my nature. I get restless if I don't do something after two or three days. I think it's certainly been helpful to keep me healthy throughout my life." Wieand, who says sports help him stay in touch with friends, is excited about the 2022 competition because he'll be in a new age group: 90-94. "I'm going to be at the bottom of my age group," he quips. "I'm going to knock 'em dead."



**Comfortable?** Executive and author **Nilofer Merchant '00** explores the settings that make it possible for visionaries to get, well, visionary. And not only explore but also quantify and measure those circumstances. She believes the results could upend business and change the world. It's an idea with big backing: Merchant has been named one of the top 50 business thinkers in the world.

How do people get comfortable enough to share their wild ideas? And what is the value of those ideas? **Nilofer Merchant '00** wants to better understand what goes into making true innovations.

"We know that people need to feel safe enough and courageous enough to make some ideas into better ideas," Merchant says. That's her starting line. From there, one could, in theory, find the value of that safety, or the return on investment from those ideas that the right environment helped workers share and develop.

"We have this profound gap here. Right now, we can measure humans as resources, as costs," she says, "but we don't know how to measure them as a source of ideas."

It's something Merchant thinks she can develop in a new lab, The Intangible Labs—she is founding to define the metrics of 21st century value creation. The space will service operational leaders with a new set of metrics to measure and generate value—and values.

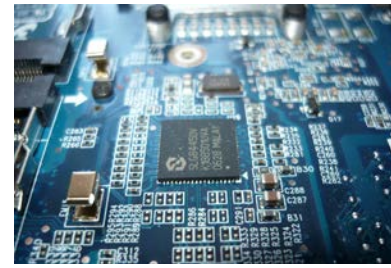
It won't be the first time something has gone from intangible to measured, she notes; think of brand value, for example. It's gone from an idea that marketers were pretty sure mattered to one that is measured with a net promoter score.

This is also not the first time Merchant has taken an idea and made it real. From her work with Apple and Autodesk to bringing three books of big ideas to life to recording one of the most popular TED Talks ever, this is what she does. Merchant's conceptualization—and actualization—of big ideas has landed her on the Thinkers50 list of the world's leading thinkers.

*Has someone told you that sitting is as bad for you as smoking? Chances are they nabbed the idea from the Nilofer Merchant '00, who did a TED Talk on the topic.*



IMAGE COURTESY NILOFER MERCHANT '00. WORDS BY LESLIE GRIFFY.



**AN HONOR** **Vishnu S. Pendyala Ph.D. '18** has been appointed to head the Silicon Valley chapter of the Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers (IEEE) and Computer Society. Considered to be one of the largest technical societies in the world, the IEEE is the world's home for computer science, engineering, and technology. Pendyala will help peer-review publications and direct training programs among other things.



**ON AIR** The Bay Area Hall of Fame recognized **Dana Jang '70** for his work over the airwaves—including founding an influential community-based radio station and helping launch prog rock on air in the region. Jang first found his place on the dial at Santa Clara. With friends, he later founded what became KKUP FM, a community radio station based in Cupertino. He was on-air talent and program director for KSJO and KOME when progressive and album-oriented rock were at their heights.



**CONNECTION** The University Alumni Association introduced a new way to build connections. Bronco Exchange is a new online platform that connects alumni, students, faculty, and staff to create a virtual community. Here, Broncos can find career advice, alumni with common interests, and more. "Bronco Exchange has given me the opportunity to reconnect with the Santa Clara University community," **Samantha Prasad '11, MBA '15** says. "It's been such a joy to offer guidance and share my career experiences with current students." Visit scu.edu/alumni.

IMAGES COURTESY ABIGAIL FIGUEROA-VERA, ADOBE STOCK AND ISTOCK. WORDS BY SARAH YOUNG '24, LESLIE GRIFFY, AND LUCY NINO '22.

# BRASS TACKS



*Mending the things around us has helped Abigail Figueroa-Vera '06 learn that she can beat the odds, and maybe heal broken hearts, too.*

**ABIGAIL FIGUEROA-VERA '06** is in the business of doing the impossible—breathing usefulness back into loved and antique furniture. It wasn't something she thought she'd be doing. But something she's learned to love. "I realized I had the power to create something beautiful from nothing," says Figueroa-Vera. Over her nearly two decades in business, she's found that mending the things around us also mends the human heart. Figueroa-Vera recalls a client whose husband had died the day before she came in: "She brought in a chair and told me getting

it upholstered was a part of her healing process. They'd been wanting to do it for so long." Figueroa-Vera likes thinking her company's growth mirrors the evolution of her own fortitude. "Any time things get hard, I don't get stuck. There's always a solution," she says. When she hits a wall, she reminds herself that she figured out how to pay for college by herself, and that she independently runs a successful business despite the odds. She knows that with hard work, nothing is out of reach. "It's never permanent. Tomorrow is a new day."

# All Good Pets

WHEN **LISA KUEHL HILAS '89** was a kid, Whiskey, a small terrier mix, made everything a little brighter. That memory now extends the time others have to spend with their furry companions while continuing to comfort Hilas. It all came to be when Hilas was at her lowest, diagnosed with Stargardt disease, a rare condition that left her legally blind. "I was just devastated," she says. She tapped into the joy she had with Whiskey and found purpose. Hilas founded a veterinary nonprofit, Saving Gracie—named for her current pup. The group pays for the veterinary care for pets whose humans cannot afford treatment. Lack of cash is common enough that the problem has a name—economic euthanasia is when a pet is put down for economic, not medical, reasons. A partner veterinary practice can have their clients apply for help with a vet bill. Reducing economic euthanasia meets Hilas' three goals for Saving Gracie: Save the human heart, save the pet, help veterinarians. It also helps Hilas reclaim the strength she felt she lost with her diagnosis.



*A new nonprofit hopes to reduce the number of pets put down for financial—not medical—reasons.*

## Class Notes

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

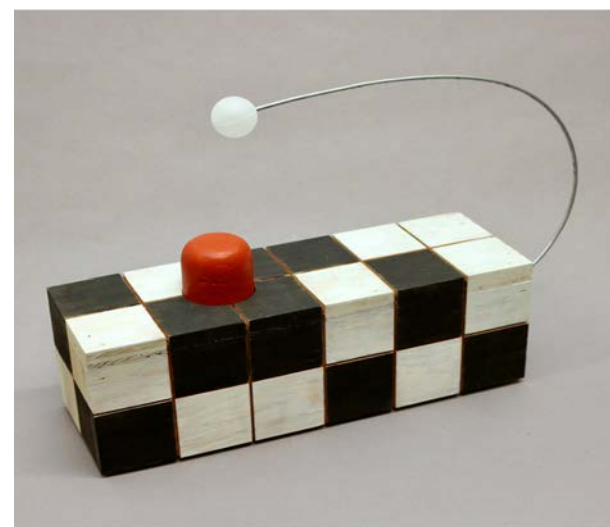
**1968** Married in the Mission Church on July 24, 1971, **Barry Dysart** and wife Lynn celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary on July 24, 2021, with a Renewal of Vows Mass at the same altar. In attendance were their five children, including **Brian '95** and **Meghan '02**, as well as Lynn's sister **Diana (Lickwar) Tone Adams** and Barry's brothers **Chris** and **Jeff '71**.

**1969** **Terry McDermott** has been writing pro-life poems since 2005, when God placed a call on his heart. His work has been printed in the *Daily Pilot* and many other publications.

**1971** **Catherine Fawcett** is far from retiring from life and her 30-year career as a real estate agent. She and husband **Jim Fawcett** married in 1971 and celebrated their 50th anniversary in December. After living in San Diego, they moved back to Bella Vista in Northern California. In the mornings, they sit outside and watch turkeys, deer, and quail come to their water stations to start the day. Life is good in the country.

**1975** **Marc Del Piero J.D.** '78 is CEO of Ag Land Trust in Monterey County. The trust was organized in 1984 by Del Piero and

*Button Pusher (wood, metal, plastic, 12" x 18.5" x 5"), from the recent exhibition by Steve Briscoe '82.*



four other community members to protect the irreplaceable farmlands of the Salinas Valley. Since then, the trust's board of directors has been committed to purchasing and preserving productive farmland, holding over 48,000 acres of farmland and agricultural open space conservation easements throughout Central California.

**1978** **Howard Peters J.D.** was inducted into the Keystone Central Foundation Alumni Hall of Fame, which celebrates outstanding accomplishments of its district members in Pennsylvania. He is known for his feats in chemistry and his love of chocolate, earning him the moniker the Chocolate Chemist. In addition to Peters' numerous awards, the ACS Division of Chemistry and the Law created the annual Howard & Sally Peters Award to recognize achievement for alternative careers in chemistry.

**1979** **Glenn Litwak J.D.** is an entertainment attorney for film, TV, and music based in Santa Monica. For the past three years, he has written his own column in *Music Connection* magazine called "The Legal Beat." Litwak has also been a speaker at music conferences around the country, such as South By Southwest and the Hollywood Reporter Film & TV Music Conference. ¶ **Barry O'Brien** is a co-executive producer of *Law & Order: Organized Crime* on NBC.

**1982 REUNION YEAR** The Transmission Gallery in Oakland recently exhibited the work of visual artist **Steve Briscoe**. *Processors, Barriers and Implements* focused on the pandemic and the last year of the Trump presidency. Known for melding found and recycled items into his compositions, Briscoe has been a resident artist at Paulson Fontaine Press in Berkeley, Public Glass in San Francisco, and at the Bemis program in Omaha.

**1983** **Michonne Ascuaga** is an advisory board member of the Center for Basque Studies, one of the world's largest collections of Basque-related materials. She helped relocate the sculpture *Basque Shepherd* from the Nugget Casino Resort to the University of Nevada, Reno, campus. The Center hosted an event celebrating the unveiling of the statue on the Day of the Basque Diaspora, highlighting the state's diverse history and Basque heritage through art, music, and food. ¶ **Diane Slinger J.D.** joins Michigan-based business law firm Jaffe Raitt Heuer & Weiss as a partner in the estate and wealth planning practice

group. Slinger brings more than three decades of estate planning counsel and examining changes in related legal policies. Her defined specialties include estate planning and probate law, corporate law, contract law, business planning, and real estate law.

**1984** **Pat Curran** has been appointed CEO of Health Plan of San Mateo (HPSM) in South San Francisco. He will lead the nonprofit through CalAIM, the state of California's multiyear initiative to transform Medi-Cal. Curran joined HPSM in 2016 as deputy CEO. Before HPSM, he held several executive leadership roles during his 13 years at CareOregon, a nonprofit health plan in Portland.

**1985** The Best Lawyers in America 2022 edition included **Paul A. Matteoni J.D. '88**, a partner in the Lewis Roca firm's litigation practice group. A former member of the State Bar of Nevada Board of Governors, he serves as a trustee for the Nevada Bar Foundation.

**1987 REUNION YEAR** **Gavin Colvert** is head of Stella Maris Academy, San Francisco's first classical Catholic elementary school, which follows an integrated model based upon the natural development of the human person. It opened in fall 2021. ¶ **Mary Ann Walker** is a board member for Blanchet House, a Catholic-founded nonprofit that aids homeless people and those with drug addiction. Walker also sits on the St. Thomas More Catholic Youth Organization board and served as athletic director of the Southwest Portland school for nine years. ¶ **Michael Williams** is policy director for the Child Abuse Prevention Center in Sacramento, an expansion of his work at the organization.

**1989** **Zareh Baghdasarian** is acting COO of StarNews Mobile's leadership team. Launched in 2017, StarNews Mobile provides opportunities for content creators in Africa and elsewhere to reach large local audiences and create a sustainable new income source from their work. ¶ After a rare retinal condition took her central vision, **Lisa Kuehl Hilas** dedicated her life to service. She founded Saving Gracie, a nonprofit working to end economic euthanasia by providing funds to people who are unable to afford emergency veterinary care for their beloved pets. ¶ **Jose Luis Pacheco** recently received a CalPERS board seat. Prior to appointment, Pacheco worked as a SharePoint developer and administrator

IMAGE COURTESY STEVE BRISCOE.



**Risk and Reward.** Shifting from well-established apparel brands to nascent and growing ones has allowed **Lisa Bougie '91** to support companies with an agenda to build a better world. From Gap to Patagonia, Nike to Stitch Fix, today Bougie governs and advises brands and businesses that advance wellness, climate action, and social justice, putting to work values she honed as a student.



When **Lisa Bougie '91** began her career in retail, brands like Benetton, Esprit, and Gap ruled the mall. Bougie was all in. She'd grown up loving these labels, and the companies made early impressions about how customers adopted brands to express their values.

Today, the values a brand projects are increasingly vital. Stakeholders demand a point of view. That's where Bougie looks to lead. She's advising and investing in early-stage companies committed to wellness, climate action, and social justice, including a personalized skincare line, a subscription-based organic

feminine care company, a software platform that uses consumer data to radically reduce brand waste, and a women's sports apparel brand.

"The world needs powerful examples of possibility," says Bougie. "All of the companies that I now work with are examples of responsible business—and responsible business, by the way, doesn't mean lack of shareholder value. In fact, quite the opposite: It means creating more value for all stakeholders over time."

Possibility is something Bougie has long been able to see before others. After

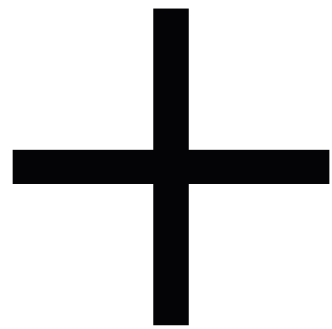
graduation, she worked at San Francisco-based Gap Inc. for more than a decade before moving on to Patagonia and then Nike. Bougie made the leap to then-budding Stitch Fix in 2013.

Values like sustainability and social justice, fortified by the scaling power of data science, are what Bougie believes brands must embrace to achieve durability and customer resonance.

"I suppose the problem is in the solution, and the solution is in the problem," says Bougie about the challenges facing retailers today. "After all, isn't opportunity the flip side of risk?"

*Among a long lineup of leadership roles, **Lisa Bougie '91** is on the board of Eileen Fisher and an advisor to the Leavey School of Business/Silicon Valley Executive Center Women's Corporate Board Readiness Program.*

WORDS BY TRACY SEIFEL; IMAGE COURTESY STOCK.



**Virtual Tradition.** A community grows with a pregnancy in a way that eases the burdens of parenthood. So many want to love this new life, a joy. In many traditions, family, friends, and neighbors swoop in to coo, take out the trash, or drop off food. A baby in a time of quarantine and virus? It upends those traditions and brings surprise benefits, too.

Neal Dinning '12 first heard the soft rhythmic heartbeat of their daughter Fionne over FaceTime. COVID protocols blocked him from prenatal appointments. During ultrasounds, Shayla Dinning '13 held her phone near her stomach as she lay on the hospital bed. Sounds of life shared through technology.

It was hard, but, Shayla says, "it was all worth it in the end just to see her."

Fionne was born into a community, of course—loving grandparents, family, and friends. However, with COVID, seeing them is as hard as getting dad into doctor's visits. Fionne is still too young to be vaccinated. While Shayla hopes antibodies from her own vaccinations transferred into Fionne's immune system during pregnancy, any form of interaction remains severely restricted. The reliance on technology continues.

"We can Zoom call and FaceTime and that's kind of how we get around it or try to share in our experience," Shayla says. "But it's not quite the same as being able to see them all in person."

Neal is there with her now, in person. His home office is adjacent to the nursery. Fionne's cries carry over the walls and into his meetings. It's allowed for extended bonding between the two that Neal likely wouldn't have had if he still commuted to work.

While they find silver linings and gratitude in this situation, the Dinnings look toward a future outside and one filled with connectivity beyond a screen. From meeting her large family to going on playdates with her cousins, that in-person community is waiting for Fionne, so traditions can begin anew.

*A pandemic-era pregnancy brought unexpected challenges, but the Dinnings are savoring the surprising joys, too.*



IMAGE COURTESY THE DINNING FAMILY; WORDS BY SARAH YOUNG '24.

## Lives Joined

**Danielle Higby '04, MBA '10** married Jason LeBeouf on May 30, 2020, on the banks of the San Lorenzo River. The ceremony was held at the Santa Cruz home of the groom's parents and officiated by the bride's cousin—**Jerald Infantino '62, J.D. '68**, a retired judge. Though unable to attend in person due to COVID, bridesmaids **Gina (Liuzzi) Country '04** and **Carla (Vacrezza) Bass '04, M.A. '07** joined via Zoom.

**Erin Kelly '10** married **Will Purcell '10** on July 24, 2021, in Jackson, Wyoming, surrounded by family and friends. The couple met at SCU in early 2007 while playing intramural soccer on Bellomy Field. Alumni in attendance included **Joseph Galbraith '10, Dan Arlan '10, Feriel Aoun '14, Trevor Bacon '09, Jimmy Patterson '10, Kim Hannon '10, Lynsey Martin '10, Tyler Martin '10, Shannon Chloupek '10, Madelaine Nixon '08, Jeff Peters '10, John Gragnola '10, Lauren Fendel '10, Jimmy Westlake '11, Jimmy Cacho '10, Sam Seely '11, Ross Smith '10, Courtney Smith '10, Rachel Meyers '11, Jackie McNally '10, Danny Meyers '11, Mary Patterson '10, Chad Bannan '10, Adama Carosso '10, Brendan Healey '11, and Chris Sauter '10.**

## Births & Adoptions

**Sarina Bronson '03** and husband Greg welcomed baby Peter on Dec. 11, 2021. Peter joins six siblings: Luke (13), John (11), Paul (9), Lucy (7), Martha (4), and James (2). The family lives in Rescue, California.

**Bethany Elias Jenner '09** and husband Zackery welcomed their first child, Felix Zakariya Jenner, on Jan. 8, 2022.

**Christina Johnson '08** and Josh Johnson welcomed daughter McKenna Carmel Johnson in July 2021. The couple hopes for a future fifth-generation Bronco, following in the footsteps of great-great-grandfather **George Malley '26**, great-grandfather **Pat Malley '53**, and grandfather **Terry Malley '76**.

**Alexandra A. Hamilton J.D. '11** and **Kevin Koch '06** welcomed their first child, Emerson on May 27, 2021.

**Sarah (Safir) Smith '12** and husband Craig welcomed their first child, Charlotte "Charlie" Diane Smith, on Feb. 7, 2021.

IMAGE COURTESY THE SMITHSONIAN'S FOLKWAYS LABEL.

with the San Jose-Evergreen Community College District, with nearly six years of CalPERS-covered service. He is also vice-chair of the Board of Directors for the Santa Clara County Federal Credit Union and president of California School Employees Association Chapter 363.

**1990 Eric Armstrong M.S. '96** was appointed senior VP of growth for Lime-light Networks. He will lead worldwide sales, new business development, and growth marketing. ¶ The San Francisco Better Business Bureau awarded **Patricia De Fonte J.D.** its Torch Award for Ethics in 2021, marking the first time an attorney has been so recognized. De Fonte is the founder of De Fonte Law P.C.-Estate Planning with Heart and sees estate planning as a social justice issue. She lives in San Francisco with her husband and two sons. ¶ **Theo Gonzalves** released two new works in 2021—*Gossip, Sex, and the End of the World*, an anthology of play scripts, and *Kulintang Kultura: Danongan Kalanduyan and Gong Music of the Philippine Diaspora*, a double album of traditional Filipino music he produced with Mary Talusan for Smithsonian Folkways Recordings. ¶ **Matt Mason M.A. '94** is publishing his fourth book of poetry. Out in April 2022, *At the Corner of Fantasy and Main: Disneyland, Midlife and Churros* is about more than fried sweets and amusement park fanfare. It explores how the heart is more reliable than memory and how places become hubs for connectivity and memorable moments.

**1991 Jeff Andreson MBA** has been nominated to serve on the board of directors for Ichor Holdings. He previously served as a director of Ichor, CEO, and CFO.

**1991 Dona Winnowski** founded Pericarditis Alliance with Allan Klein, her doctor from the Cleveland Clinic, and many other leaders in the field of pericarditis. The non-profit is dedicated to the management and treatment of pericardial disease.

**1992 REUNION YEAR Dana Blakely** was recently named to the SCU Alumni Board of Directors. ¶ **Charles Kovats** has been named the acting U.S. attorney for the District of Minnesota following the departure of former acting U.S. Attorney W. Anders Folk. Kovats served as the office's criminal division chief since 2018. ¶ **Anthony Scott J.D.** has been appointed to the board of Intrusion. He serves as the company's current president and CEO. Scott will serve on the board until the election of directors at the company's upcoming annual meeting of stockholders. ¶ **Daniel I. Spector J.D.** was added to Judicate West's roster of statewide neutrals. As a neutral with nearly 30 years of experience as a decorated litigator in trust, estate, family, and business disputes, Spector helps resolve controversies between parties and has extensive experience in litigation, meditation, and arbitration.

**1995 Dean Daniels M.A.** retired after 21 years as Office for Worship director for the Archdiocese of Milwaukee. He started a part-time teaching assignment at Sacred Heart Seminary and School of Theology and serves as coordinator for ecumenical and interfaith affairs for the archdiocese. He continues to support lay ministries and enjoys being Saba to his grandchildren.

**1996 Mandeep Khara MBA** has been appointed chief marketing officer for SecureAuth. Previously, Mandeep served as VP of global demand generation and channel marketing for Gigamon and has held senior marketing roles at various companies,



*Theo Gonzalves '90 produced a double album of traditional Filipino music for the Smithsonian's Folkways label.*



including Agari, Valimail, Arxan, VeriSign, and HP. ¶ **Francisco J. Silva** was appointed California Primary Care Association's new president and CEO. During his tenure at the California Medical Association, he served as general counsel and senior VP of legal affairs, economic services, and health policy. He was instrumental in helping the association navigate the politics and policy of complex health care issues before federal and state regulators to drive the public interest mission of the association and its physician members. He also helped establish and direct the organization's first justice, equity, diversity, and inclusion initiative.

*Outside the law office, **Lisa Myers '00** is also CEO and inventor of Ceres Chill, a cooling breast milk storage system for breast-feeding moms.*

**1997 REUNION YEAR** **Stella Ngai J.D.** has been appointed the chief campus counsel for UC Merced. She advises on matters affecting faculty, students, and staff, including employment, business transactions, academic affairs, and research. Ngai is the first female Asian American chief campus counsel in the history of University of California. In 2018, Ngai was appointed by the Board of Trustees of the State Bar of California to serve as a member of the commission on Judicial Nominees Evaluation. She is also the 2021 Commission chair.

**1998 Teju Deshpande MBA** and her team at Oya Solutions have been added to Deloitte's legal business services practice. Deshpande, now a principal based in Deloitte's Chicago office, brings more than 25 years of experience in the technology and legal services industries. ¶ **Chanpone Sinlapasai** has been appointed to the Multnomah County (Oregon) Circuit Court. She previously worked at the

Immigrant and Refugee Community Organization and as an anti-trafficking and domestic violence attorney at Catholic Charities.

**1999 Christopher Monahan** joined the Faegre Drinker firm in D.C. as a partner in the customs and international trade practice. Monahan advises U.S. and international clients on law and policy affecting complex international transactions across a range of industries. Monahan will be helping clients navigate highly technical and regulated international transactions.

**2000** After being chosen to serve as a Philadelphia assistant district attorney through the Cozen O'Connor Partners Program, **Lisa Myers** was promoted to shareholder for the law firm. During her time as an assistant DA, she received recognition in the press and by the deputy district attorney for her aggressive prosecution of felony and misdemeanor crimes. Myers is admitted to practice law in the U.S. and Canada and serves as the office managing partner for the firm's Vancouver office. ¶ **Gina Policastro J.D. '03** was named a Top Family Lawyer of 2022 by *The Daily Journal*. Policastro is a partner at Lonich Patton Ehrlich Policastro, P.C., in San Jose, where she has worked since 2002. She handles all areas of family law, including high conflict custody and domestic violence cases, complex business valuation and asset division issues, and complicated child and spousal support matters.

**2002 REUNION YEAR** **Kayla K. Horacek** has joined the all-female family law practice group of Hahn & Hahn.

**2003 Scott Gilles J.D.** has been appointed president of government affairs for the Griffin Company in Carson City. He previously was a senior advisor to Gov. Steve Sisolak and served in multiple leadership roles in state and local government. ¶ **Patrick Sheehan** has been appointed interim chief HR officer at the University of Wisconsin, Madison. He is liaison to the university's executive leadership and oversees all HR initiatives and functions for faculty, staff, and students. Sheehan has served in a variety of leadership roles at UW-Madison over the past 10 years, including director of workforce relations and director of talent acquisition.

**2004 Chris Garber** is CFO of Guild

Education, an education and upskilling platform for America's workforce. He will be responsible for building out financial operations in support of the company's continued growth. ¶ **Alison G. Johnson J.D. '07** has rejoined the corporate practice of Wilson Sonsini Goodrich & Rosati as a partner in its newly launched Salt Lake City office. Previously, Johnson was a partner in Holland & Hart's Boise office. She served as a leader in the emerging company practice and the food and beverage and consumer products industry group. ¶ The Presidential Leadership Scholars program selected **Aila Malik J.D.** as a member of its 2022 class. The program is a six-month opportunity for scholars to study the administrations of Lyndon B. Johnson, George H.W. Bush, George W. Bush, and Bill Clinton. ¶ **Kevin Tanaka** is the new executive chef for Four Seasons Hotel San Francisco. Tanaka brings 15 years of experience and the teachings of his Chinese grandmother, "Popo." With an expansive culinary career cooking throughout the Bay Area, Tanaka has combined his roots and techniques with his passion, resulting in unique culinary creations.

**2005 Erica C. Paul MBA '13, J.D. '19** took on a new role as the political and development director at Local 393 Plumbers, Pipefitters, Steamfitters, and HVACR Service Technicians. She says she is honored to have the opportunity to advocate for the rights for workers in Silicon Valley. She attributes her success and mindset to her days spent in the classrooms of SCU.

**2006 Stacy Radich** has been appointed CFO of Church Brothers Farms. She has over 15 years of finance and accounting expertise and has built her fresh produce prowess as a senior financial auditor for various companies in California's agriculture-rich Salinas Valley.

**2007 REUNION YEAR** **Jennifer Estremera J.D.** helped Reichman Jorgensen Lehman & Feldberg LLP win a \$236 million jury verdict for software company Densify against VMware, following a nine-day patent trial. ¶ **Kristen Stokes Fuoco Ph.D.** is director of student services and vice principal for the Madeleine Choir School. She has worked in education for 13 years, focusing on professional development for teachers and other areas. ¶ **Kyle Stephenson** accepted an associate professor position in the School of Psychology at Xavier University in Cincinnati. This past summer, Stephenson, his wife, **Ashley**

**Schweickart**, and kids Indiana (4) and Quinn (2) left their Willamette University home in Oregon for Ohio. Schweickart maintains her remote position as senior project and operations manager with MidPen Housing, a nonprofit affordable housing developer based in the Bay Area.

**2008 Craig Albanese MBA,** an accomplished health care leader and distinguished academic pediatric surgeon, has been named executive VP and COO of Duke University Health System. He will work with other clinical enterprise leaders to deliver outcomes and care across Duke's network, from the hospital to ambulatory clinics to care in homes and the community. ¶ Texas Instruments announced that **Ahmed Salem MBA** has been elected VP and general manager of Analog Signal Chain. In this position, Salem is responsible for the company's high-speed data products, including three product lines: FPD-Link, ethernet, and high-speed signal conditioning. ¶ **Asher A. Williams III** will embark on a weeklong, 545-mile journey from San Francisco to Los Angeles in June 2022 to support the life-saving services offered by the San Francisco AIDS Foundation and the Los Angeles LGBT Center. The services include counseling, HIV/STD screenings, resources for youth experiencing homelessness, people living with HIV, and so much more. Asher is hoping to raise \$10 for every mile cycled for a total donation of \$5,450. He wants donors to know they're taking a stand against stigma and helping create a world where health justice is a reality for everyone.

**2009 Jared A. Jefferson J.D.** has been appointed a judge in the Monterey County Superior Court. Jefferson previously served as a chief deputy public defender at the Monterey County Public Defender's Office, where he's held several positions since 2015.

**2010 Shannon DeNatale Boyd J.D.** was made partner at Price, Postel & Parma. Boyd's practice focuses primarily on education law, employment law, civil litigation, and public entity representation. She acts as general counsel, handling a variety of matters, including employment and labor for public entities as well as private clients. ¶ At 37, **Stephanie L. Jamieson J.D.** is the youngest person to ever sit on the Merced County Superior Court. In November 2021, Gov. **Gavin Newsom '89** appointed her to fill the vacant seat. Previously, Jamieson was a deputy public defender in Mer-

ced County, a leader in the misdemeanor unit at the public defender's office and in developing a homeless court in the county. ¶ **Carrie Woolley J.D.** is Manteca's new assistant city attorney. Woolley has worked in local government for nearly 11 years.

**2011 Alexandra A. Hamilton J.D.** has been promoted to partner and shareholder of Fiore Achermann, a San Francisco law firm dedicated to giving a voice to the injured and disenfranchised.

**2012 REUNION YEAR** **Marguerite Aozasa** is the new soccer coach for UCLA, the sixth female coach in the school's history. Previously, Aozasa coached at Stanford for seven seasons, helping the Cardinal to NCAA championships in 2017 and 2019 and Pac-12 titles from 2015 to 2019. Aozasa says she cannot wait to continue UCLA's tradition of elite performance on and off the field.

**2014 Natalie Herendeen J.D.** was appointed executive director of The Center for Community Advocacy.

**2016** After waiting through three separate town council sessions, **Sona Makker J.D.** was unanimously appointed a member and assumed office on the Moraga Town Council on Nov. 10, 2021. Born in Tracy, California, to immigrant parents, Sona watched them volunteer in schools and neighborhood groups all while holding down jobs and raising four kids. She decided to pick up where they left off and represent communities and demographics not historically on the council.

*Texas Instruments named **Ahmed Salem MBA '08** VP and general manager of its division handling high-speed data products.*



**2017 REUNION YEAR** **Javier Miguel "Javi" Benitez** announced his bid for mayor of Victorias City in Negros Occidental, the Philippines, in the 2022 elections. Voting takes place in May.

**2018 Vishnu S. Pendyala Ph.D.** has been elected to chair the Silicon Valley chapter of the Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers Computer Society. The institute is considered to be one of the largest technical societies in the world and the hub for computer science, engineering, and technology. As the chair of the chapter, Pendyala will help organize events and conferences featuring world-renowned researchers and experts.

**2020 Kelsey Turnbow MBA '21** started training after being drafted by San Diego Wave FC. This is the first time many players have had the opportunity to train together. "Now that all the girls are finally here and we finally got to meet the coaching staff, it's so surreal, and it's a blessing," Turnbow says. "We can't wait to get on the field and compete."

**2021** Fifth-generation Bronco **Emma Brennan** graduated in a pandemic year. She follows mother **Susan M. '86**, grandfather **Dr. Charles D. South III '59**, great-grandfather **Charles D. South Jr. 1916**, and great-great-grandfather **Charles D. South 1901**.

**2022 REUNION YEAR** The Portland Timbers have selected **Julian Bravo** in the 2022 MLS SuperDraft. Bravo played primarily as a midfielder at SCU and tallied two assists in the 2021 season. He projects at the professional level as an attacking-minded fullback, and if he makes the first team, will fit the Timbers' style of fullback.

## Faculty, Staff, and Friends

**David Pinault**, professor emeritus of SCU's Department of Religious Studies, was featured on the literary podcast *Cross Word* in October 2021. Pinault discusses his novel *Providence Blue*, in which he has intertwined the history of H.P. Lovecraft with Christian doctrine.

# Obituaries

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

**1942** The last living member of the first San Francisco 49ers team, **Ken Casanega**, died Oct. 10, 2021. As a 49er, Ken was a do-it-all threat, playing quarterback and halfback. He cut his NFL career short to serve in WWII and prioritize family, including his wife, Helen, becoming a math teacher. Casanega is a member of the SCU Athletic Hall of Fame.

**1945** As a licensed architect, **Edward Tuft** designed medical schools across the U.S. and hotels as far away as Saudi Arabia. Ed died Dec. 7, 2021.

**1947** Before attending SCU Law, **Robert Mertz J.D.** served in the Army during WWII. He went on to build his practice and start a family in Lodi. For 68 years, he served his community, including three years as a city judge. Bob died Feb. 1, 2022.

**1948** From copy kid to newspaper founder, **Alfred Orr Kelly** worked as a journalist for Central Coast newspapers, as well as *The San Francisco Chronicle*, *Washington Star*, and *U.S. News & World Report*. With his wife, Mary, he established the weekly *Berkeley Review* before becoming a non-fiction and fiction author. *The Big Wink*, a crime novel based in 1950s San Francisco, was published when Alfred was 97. He died March 17, 2021.

**1949** While attending Holy Cross High School, **Andrew T. Byrne** met Helen, the woman he'd later marry. The couple raised five children in Los Gatos while he worked for the FMC Corporation as a defense contractor. Andy died Sept. 21, 2021.

**George Filice** met Joan at a college dance, kicking off a five-year courtship. After they married and settled in Merced, George's brother Mike married Joan's twin sister, Jean. George died Oct. 11, 2020. He is survived by sons **Robert '82** and **Matthew '77** and cousin **Danielle Crute '99**.

**1950** **Richard Charles Caletti** contributed

to the growth of his family's company, Standard Structures, and was a longtime advocate for the United Way. He enjoyed playing tennis, snow skiing in Tahoe with his family, and dancing with his wife. Richard died Feb. 26, 2022, and is survived by sons **Steve '79** and **John '81**.

For over 30 years, **George Stevenson "Steve" Holeman, Jr.** worked at San José City College. As dean of student activities during the 1960s, Steve met fascinating characters, including Eleanor Roosevelt, Martin Luther King Jr., and Louis Armstrong. Steve himself played a part in history when he served as a medic in WWII. He and his second wife, Elayne, traveled the world playing golf. Steve died at age 95 on July 2, 2021.



*Edward Tuft '45 worked with famous architects on buildings, including the Texas State Capitol and palaces of Saudi kings and queens.*

**John "Jack" Smrekar** took his family on summer vacations in Lake Tahoe and Pinecrest with wife Liz. His other devotion was to sports—watching two different football games on side-by-side TVs while manning the grill. Jack died Dec. 16, 2021.

For 40 years, **William D. Ward** worked at Worthington & Skilling. He helped engineer iconic American structures, including the World Trade Center, before becoming president. A skilled fisherman to boot, he caught a 54-pound king salmon at age 85. He died Jan. 4, 2022.

**John Walter Wilhelmly** loved dancing and traveling with his wife, Isabel, with whom he raised five children. He took cruises independently after her death. Prior to retiring, he worked as an electrical engineer with PG&E for more than 35 years. John died Sept. 8, 2021.

**1951** **Eugene Edward Gene Feltz J.D.** joined the Navy immediately after high school graduation in May 1945. After his service, the legal profession was a natural fit for a man who loved a vigorous debate and to dispense advice, solicited or not. Gene died July 25, 2021, and is survived by **Thomas A. Cortopassi '89**, **Kyle P. Cortopassi '16**, **Callista E. '03**, **Maureen T. Cortopassi '88**, and **Grant M. '06**.

**Anton W. Kerckhoff** served a term as the president of the Pomona Valley Bar Association and was legal counsel for the Covina Irrigating Company of Covina for more than 60 years. He died in August 2021 and is survived by nephews **Christopher J. Fahey '75** and **Thomas P. Fahey '78**, niece **Theresa F. Mancellas '74**, and brother-in-law **Jerome C. Fahey '49**.

**1952** While **Donald Joseph De Geller J.D.** practiced patent law, he also had an eye for the arts. In 1975, he and artist Joseph Neary opened The Gallery in San Rafael. Donald also made two movies, including one about the 1960 Winter Olympics. He spent many summers boating on Lake Tahoe and winters skiing at resorts in the region where the games were held. He died Aug. 9, 2021.

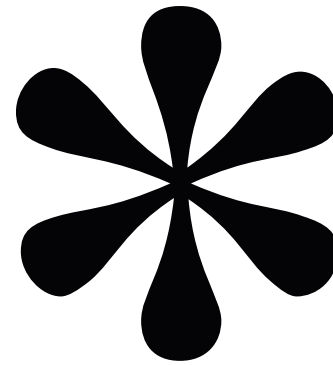
**Richard "Dick" Hoedt** was a founding member of the water polo team in 1950. After graduation, he took his love of sports to the Olympic Club, where he was a member for 79 years and a board member from 1991 to 1993. Dick had three holes-in-one to his name. He also served the SF Dental Society and CA Dental Association. Dick died Aug. 25, 2021.

**1953** An avid golfer and pancake maker, **Francis E. Eddin** served in the Army before earning a master's in electrical engineering. His career in computer systems engineering helped advance aircraft defense technology. Frank died Jan. 28, 2022. His wife, Joanne, and their family survive him.

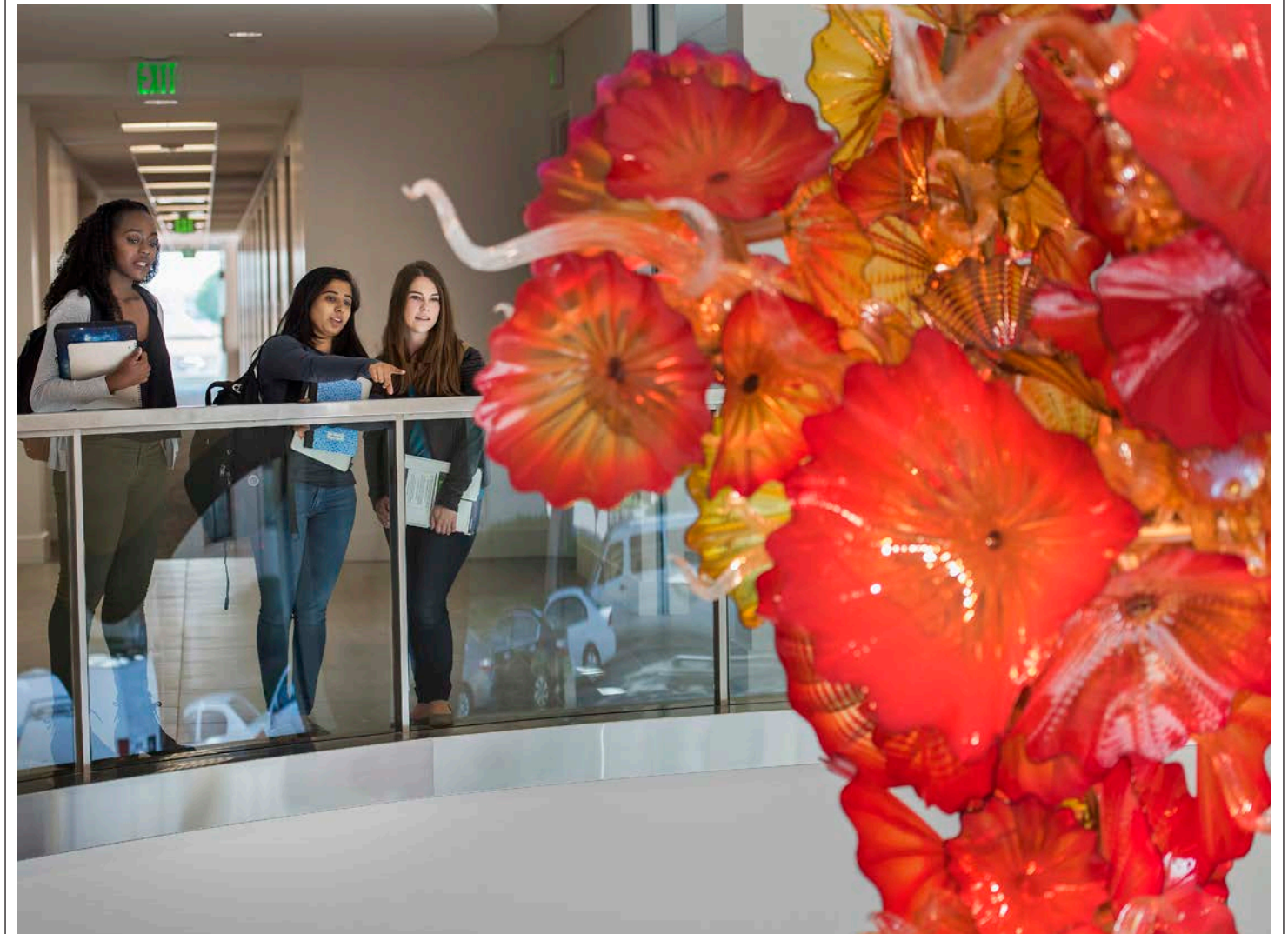
On an ROTC commission, **John "Jack" Hammond** joined the U.S. Army and became a fixed-wing and helicopter aviator. He served with the 7th Aviation Company in South Korea from 1955 to 1957. He remained active in the U.S. Army Reserves. In 1963, he met his life's great love, Sherie Davis, an American Airlines flight attendant. Jack died in May 2021.

**Louis "Lou" Lucas** couldn't get enough baseball. He was a catcher for the Broncos, taught and coached at Bellarmine College Prep, then returned to the Mission campus to serve as an assistant baseball coach for 20 years. In retirement, Lou volunteered in the SCU Athletic Department as a travel coordinator for nearly another 20 years. He died Nov. 19, 2021, and is survived by daughter **Diane '86**.

**1955** **Paul Baldacci '55** started a company to build family housing. His leadership on worker and building standards led to his induction into the CA Homebuilding Foundation Hall of Fame. Paul died Nov. 20, 2021, and is survived by grandchildren



**Finding Meaning.** The SCU degree **Edward M. Dowd '72** earned gave focus to his career. But it was his 1993 diagnosis of multiple sclerosis that helped Ed find passion—as he reoriented his life toward love, art, and giving back. Ed died Feb. 27, 2022, leaving an inspired legacy where Broncos continue to create and learn: the Edward M. Dowd Art and Art History Building.



In 1976 **Edward M. Dowd '72** began a booming career in investment real estate. He went on to found EMD Properties Inc., an investment real estate company, San Jose National Bank, and Commerce Savings and Loan in Sacramento.

No small feats. And for years, business took up much of his focus.

In 1993, that began to shift. At the age of 47, Ed was diagnosed with multiple sclerosis. Work took up less of his time. Art took up more.

"A world filled with art is a far more enjoyable place," he told *Santa Clara Magazine* in 2014.

Although he'd long given back, serving on the SCU Board of Fellows

and appointed by Gov. **Jerry Brown '56** as vice chairman of the California State Athletic Commission, Dowd wanted to do more after his diagnosis. And he found ways to combine those two passions—art and philanthropy.

Among his early gifts was a glass sculpture by artist Dale Chihuly for the lobby of the Palo Alto Medical Foundation in Mountain View, where Ed was treated for MS.

Chihuly, the famous Seattle glass master, is responsible in part for Dowd's love of art.

"Art transcends all time and seems like a great cause to me," Ed told *SCM*.

In 2014, he made a significant

donation to SCU, establishing the Edward M. Dowd Art and Art History Building. A bold orange and red Chihuly sculpture greets visitors there, as well.

The building is a cornerstone of the Mission campus' arts neighborhood, with the de Saisset Museum, Recital Hall, and Mayer Theatre, making the northwest portion of campus a destination for the fine and performing arts.

Among his final gifts are funding for advocacy programs for those with MS and support for the Natividad Hospital Foundation in Salinas.

Ed is survived by his family, including his partner, Terri Eckert, and brother **Thomas M. Dowd '70**.

*Edward M. Dowd '72 included sculptures by glass artist Dale Chihuly in some of his gifts. The works are part of what drew him to the arts.*

**Thomas '14, James D. '17, and Anthony '25,** daughter **Lisa '78,** son **James F. '87,** and brother-in-law **Richard Temps '67.**

**Philip Steven Bianco J.D. '60** met his future wife, Maureen, at a school dance. He was a fixture in the Tulare County Superior Court for almost 60 years. When asked what type of practice he had, he would say that he practiced “people law.” He died Dec. 28, 2021. Bianco family **Luke '84, David '01, John '86,** and daughter **Lisa Marich '83** survive him.

After a brief stint as a professional basketball player, **James Bowen** joined the Army, later becoming a teacher and coach. During the Hoover administration, he worked as an FBI agent, then as an investigator for Shell Oil. James settled down as a parish administrator—he and his wife, Betty, were active members at their church. He died Jan. 28, 2022, and is survived by son **Daniel '88** and daughter-in-law **Linda Bowen '86.**

**William F. Brown Jr. J.D. '60** paid for his high school tuition with his newspaper route. He aspired to go to law school and served as a second lieutenant in the Army to finance that dream. Gov. Ronald Reagan appointed him to the bench in 1975. In 1983, he moved to the Superior Court in Santa Clara County through an appointment by Gov. George Deukmejian. He died Oct. 12, 2021, and is survived by son **Gregory J.D. '92.**

**Harley Deere** was a successful neurosurgeon, primarily in Wiesbaden, Germany. He and wife Sallie were always the life of the party, full of stories that left everyone feeling better about the world. Harley died Jan. 10, 2022.

**1956** In high school, **Dean Norman Robinson** was named most outstanding athlete as a basketball and baseball player. It was also where he met the woman who would become his wife. Dean continued his athletic career at SCU. After college, he served in the U.S. Army before returning home to practice optometry. Dean died Dec. 7, 2021.

A Jesuit for 61 years, **Anthony P. Sauer, S.J., M. Div. '71** served a total of 40 years at St. Ignatius Prep, including 27 years as president. His favorite role, however, was that of English teacher. Fr. Sauer was the brother of **Michael '59** and **Patrick '63.** He died Nov. 28, 2021.

**David James Schwarz** learned to fly before he was old enough to get his driver's license. Later in life, he initiated a hospital ministry on behalf of St. George Catholic Church. Bringing Communion to hospitalized or homebound Catholics was his most satisfying achievement. He died Sept. 26, 2021.

**1957** **Lu Jenkins** built a 35-year career as a teacher, principal, and director for Los Gatos Union School District before serving as adjunct faculty for National University, coaching and mentoring aspiring teachers. A Bronco Bench Foundation and Athletic Advisory Committee member for many years, Lu supported Bronco soccer and baseball. He died Dec. 29, 2021, and is survived by wife **Phyllis M.A. '87.**

**1958** **Dave Higgins** found success in civil engineering. He joined Harbison & Mahony as a partner and later became president, at one point renovating the Cathedral of the Blessed Sacrament in Sacramento. Dave volunteered at the Carmel Mission Basilica and enjoyed playing golf. He died Jan. 28, 2022, and is survived by son **Dave Jr. '82.**

**Malcolm A. King** served as an Army JAG at the Pentagon, later settling in Moraga, where he and Marilyn raised their family. Malcolm practiced law in San Jose and was a member of the Knights of Columbus. He died Oct. 24, 2021, and is survived by brother **Michael '56,** nieces **Kathleen Twomey '81, Gretchen King '80, M.A. '97, Melinda King Grow '86,** and nephew **Kristopher King '79.**

After graduation, **Robert “Bob” Clemens Plageman** joined the Army as an officer and helicopter pilot. While stationed in Germany, he met and married Karen Sue Beck. After seven years in the service, the couple made their home in San Mateo, where Bob volunteered with his church and Cursillo Retreats, supported Karen's and his children's interests, and made time for his model trains. He died Sept. 17, 2021.

**1959** **Robert G. Alves** served in the U.S. Army for 23 years before a long career with Lockheed and countless rounds of golf. Nobody was closer to him than his wife, Juanita, with whom he shared 62 years. Bob died Sept. 23, 2021.

**Paul M. Lagomarsino,** affectionately called Doc Lago, always had his leather doctor's bag by his side, eager to assist anyone in need, whether it be a buddy after a bar brawl or a neighborhood kid with a split chin. In addition to seeing patients, he volunteered as team doctor for Jesuit football and rugby teams. As “Gramp,” he attended his grandchildren's sporting events, plays, recitals, and special occasions. Paul died Nov. 7, 2021.

After SCU, **James “Jim” O'Rourke** was drafted by the St. Louis Cardinals, with whom he had a brief career before heading to the minors. Jim then moved from baseball to real estate. He died Nov. 1, 2021.

**INSPIRING GIFTS**  
When St. Ignatius Prep instituted a full scholarship middle school in 2017, the campus was named in honor of **Anthony P. Sauer, S.J. '56, M.Div '71.**

Still in college, **Jim O'Rourke '59** led the Drain, Ore., Black Sox semipro team to the 1958 National Baseball Congress World Series.

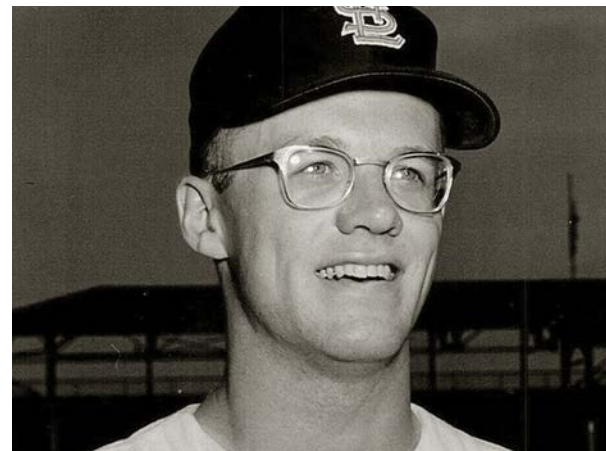


IMAGE COURTESY SCU ARCHIVES.

**1961** **Fred Meyer** had many careers. He started as a paperboy before working for his father's furniture and carpet store. After SCU, he worked as a CPA, a wine company controller, and VP of regulatory affairs for the San Jose Water Company. He joined the San Jose Rotary Club and spent many years in fundraising, often working a barbecue, feeding the homeless, or training Boy Scouts at the Sunnyvale Rod and Gun Club. Fred never missed church on Sundays. He died Aug. 18, 2021.

**1962** After passing the bar, **Robert Michael Devitt Jr.** went to work in San Luis Obispo. By the time he retired, he was the longest-practicing lawyer in the city. Michael also taught business law at Cuesta College for 40 years and served as the Associated Students, Inc. (ASI) attorney for Cal Poly for 15 years. He regularly hosted the Irish Bar Association's gathering on St. Patrick's Day. Robert died in November 2021 and is survived by his wife of 58 years, Mary Jo.

**Barry E. Hinman** was a history professor at the University of Nebraska and came back to the Bay Area as a special collections librarian at Stanford University. His research resulted in articles in *The California Nugget*, *The National Genealogical Society Magazine*, and *The American Genealogist*.

**1963** When **Robert B. Benton MBA '65** discovered he was too tall to fit in the cockpit of a fighter jet, he did the next best thing and sold aircraft for Northrop Aviation, flying and owning several small planes. Robert also believed dogs were pure positive energy, and loved a good pun. When not in the cockpit he was behind the wheel, driving as a volunteer EMT with his wife. He died Oct. 27, 2021.

**Dion Dominic Campisi** loved working alongside his brothers, **Richard '57** and **Jon Sr.** All proud sons of **Salvadore '27,** together they owned many properties. As a talented pediatric dentist, Dion was adored

by his patients and the families he served for over 30 years. He met his wife of 50 years in the practice. He is survived by his wife, children, grandchildren, and many Bronco nieces, nephews, and in-laws.

**John Gerhardt J.D.** volunteered at Our Daily Bread Soup Kitchen, at Kaiser (escorting new moms and babies to their cars), and at Mount Madonna YMCA, where John was the founding member and received the Heroes Award for 50 years of service. He assigned a specific song and story to each of his and his wife Sandra's grandchildren. John died Nov. 10, 2021.

After graduation, **Edwin Francis Hendricks** served as a military police officer, then a trial lawyer. He was an amazing attorney and an even better husband, father, brother, uncle, and grandfather. Ed died Nov. 28, 2021.

Lovingly known as “The Good Doctor,” **Ansel Paul Mello** considered patients and colleagues alike as friends, and Saint Agnes Medical Center his second home. His door was also always open to provide love and support to family and friends. Ansel died Jan. 12, 2022, and is survived by son **Branden '94,** daughter **Kirsten Years '96,** sister **Lesley Harrison '68,** niece **Kathryn Harrison '04,** nephews **Gregory Harrison '97** and **Blake O'Neill MBA '96,** cousin **Robert Reghitto '62,** and brothers-in-law **Edwin O'Neill '61** and **Joseph Harrison MBA '87.**

**1964** **JoAnn Kinion Davis** held leadership positions within activist organizations and created a college scholarship program and an urban community-based program at Ohio Dominican College. She and husband Ted were co-recipients of the NAACP's Humanitarian Award. JoAnn loved her family and never missed a get-together. She died Jan. 22, 2022.

**Martin Mart Petrich** served as officer-in-charge of a swift boat in Vietnam and later as CEO of MIW Aerospace, making parts for Boeing planes. In retirement, Mart became treasurer of Federal Way (Wash.) Rotary and co-creator and advocate for its foundation. Mart died at age 78 on Nov. 27, 2021. He is survived by cousins **James '69** and **Elizabeth '80.** He is preceded in death by uncles **John '41** and **Francis Clark '52.**

**Willard Mark Wood** died May 29, 2021. He is survived by wife Sharon, daughter **Kelly Mullin '94,** and sons **Ryan '97** and **Sean MBA '01.** A Marine captain, he also served as a Marine judge advocate and military judge. Relaxing on his Roche Harbor porch—a nautical radio tuned to the harbor patrol, a newspaper, and a cup of coffee in hand—is how Willard is remembered.

**1965** **Richard Andrew Arzino** enjoyed a well-worn pair of boots, team roping with his dad and barbecuing with the family's cattle brand. He and wife Joan shared a passion for travel, golf, and cooking. Together they created the annual Clam Dip Classic Golf Tournament, as well as a family cookbook celebrating a life well lived. Richard died Jan. 27, 2022.

**Joseph Di Leonardo J.D. '68** was awarded the Bronze Star Medal, the Army Commendation Medal, and two Gallantry Crosses. After the Army, Joseph practiced law and wrote two books, *Vietnam War and Red Wave Task Force 2020.* In retirement, he and wife Sharon moved to Angel Fire, New Mexico, where he enjoyed helping with the Veterans Parade. Joseph died Nov. 7, 2021.

**Kathleen Anne Doherty** pursued further education at USC, where she received the award for best student teacher and met her true love. She lived a life full of family, good friends, cheerful optimism, dogged determination, and wonderful summers on Balboa Island. And she never forgot a holiday or anyone's birthday.

**Robert Pete Price** met his wife, Sue, on the Mission campus. Those who visited their Sacramento home may recall the sign in their kitchen that read, “We interrupt this marriage to bring you the soccer season,” which was a reference to the years they coached their four children's teams. Pete died July 12, 2021. Sue survives him.

A “Joan” of all theatrical trades, **Joan Schirle** taught broadly, including at the Juilliard School of Drama. Her work earned her a Lifetime Achievement Award. She founded Dell'Arte International and was devoted to the concepts of issue-oriented theatre and community transformation. Her most recent play, *The Big Thirst*, focused on California water politics. Joan died Feb. 1, 2022, and is survived by sisters **Ann Flynn '64** and **Tonine Nielsen '67.**

**1966** **Carl H. Backers MBA,** aka Grandpa, Pops, Great-Grandpa, and, back in his early days, “Heinie” (a German nickname for a young boy), died May 12, 2021. An engineer at Lockheed Missiles and Space for 30 years, he worked mostly on quality assurance for nuclear submarines and missiles during the Cold War. In his retirement, he visited all 50 state capitals with his wife, Connie.

**1966** The first Army supervisor and Vietnam roommate for **Michael P. Diepenbrock J.D.** would later become his brother-in-law and lifelong friend. Like big brother **Anthony '51,** Michael practiced law in California. He died in February



**Kathleen Anne Doherty '65** was part of the first class of women to receive bachelor's degrees from Santa Clara.

2022. Wife Viorica survives him, as do their five children, including **Michelle '93** and **Philip '94.** His Bronco family includes nephew **Anthony II '74** and three Bronco cousins.

While stationed in Korea, **Merrill Newman MBA** trolled the Yellow Sea for unfamiliar fish. Upon his return, he taught high school before working for a series of technology companies. At 85, Merrill and a friend took a guided tour of North Korea. Upon boarding their return flight, Merrill was arrested on unspecified charges but was ultimately reunited with his family after being held incommunicado for six weeks. Merrill died Jan. 17, 2022, and is survived by his wife of 63 years, Lee, and family.

Monk, priest, scholar, and teacher, **Richard Paul Vaggione** died Oct. 23, 2021, in Kingston, New York. Fr. Vaggione wrote books and articles on the history and theology of the movements of the Christian patristic period.

**IN PARIS**  
**Barry E. Hinman '62** spent 12 years in Paris, France, where he became head of the language section of a company training people for jobs in tourism.

**1967** **Margaret Stewart** would write special prayers for friends and coworkers in their times of need. Her giving spirit was present in her work—she had a long career in bilingual education in Salinas. Margaret died Sept. 11, 2021, in Monterey, where she lived for many years.

**Susan Swendseid** took her first tour of Europe as a Girl Scout. In high school, she volunteered at a hospital and tutored local children. Later, Susie joined AmeriCorps, working on a Native American reservation in South Dakota and with a small Hispanic community in Durango, Colorado. For 30 years, she volunteered with the Greyhound Adoption Center as a placement coordinator. She also traveled the world with a *National Geographic* tour, visiting Antarctica and Africa. Susie died Sept. 25, 2021.

After serving as a Naval lieutenant in the Vietnam War, **Kenneth Roy Turner** leaned into his desire to help others. He went to dental school and ran a family practice for 45 years. Ken died Jan. 29, 2022, and is survived by his children and grandchildren.



**1968** **Janine M. Dolezel** worked for 25 years at the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development. She retired at 50, becoming a frequent volunteer. She enjoyed being a docent at Descanso Gardens, giving garden tours, and introducing preschoolers to nature. Always spunky and upbeat, Janine died on her 75th birthday.

The litigation skills of persuasion and pursuit led **Brian Lawther J.D.** to his wife, a former client he invited to dinner. The two were together until his death in May 2021. Aside from being an outstanding lawyer, he enjoyed golf—starting as a caddy before going on to win the San Jose Country Club Championship in 1988.

After retiring as an engineer, **Dennis Tanner M.S.** started The Chair Doctor, moving from engineering to fixing and repairing old furniture. Whether it was a beloved rocking chair or beaten-up stool, Dennis had the knowledge and tools to restore them. Dennis died Feb. 4, 2022.

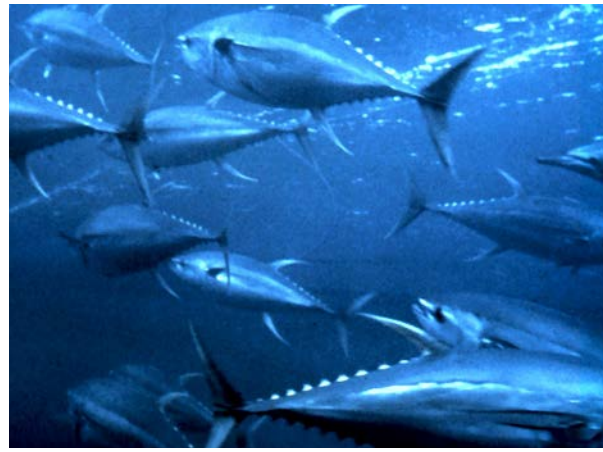
**Robert Niederer MBA** loved skiing—on water and snow—and river rafting. Old age did nothing to slow him; he hiked with an active group into his 80s. Bob also traveled the world with his wife, Francine Tanner. He died Oct. 19, 2021.

Growing up, **Paul Vantress** worked on his family's chicken hatchery in Marysville. After playing football at SCU, he served as a first lieutenant in the Army. Returning to California, Paul launched a career in the agricultural business. While Parkinson's hindered his mobility, he continued driving himself to boxing classes and serving as president of his local Parkinson's support group. Paul is survived by his wife, **Maureen '69**, and daughter **Kristine Vantress '92**.

**Christine A. Wilson** held an endless love for the world and its hidden mysteries. She is remembered for her eloquent and irreverent sense of humor, her independent lifestyle, and her many acts of kindness toward her family, colleagues, and fellow animal lovers. She died Sept. 24, 2021.

**1969** **Mara Bathiany** died Sept. 11, 2021. She worked at Bank of Alameda as a "problem-solver" VP dedicated to her clients. Mara also edited and published an award-winning quarterly newsletter on commercial banking and traveled with husband Robert to many destinations, including Rome, where they shared wine and laughter.

**Roselyn "Roz" Dumesnil** loved the Golden State. After marrying **Paul Dumesnil '69**, they started their family in the South Bay while Roz began a career in nonprofits. She loved to root on her kids, whether in Archbishop Mitty's gym or Bellarmine's theater. Her happy place was



the library, any museum, her backyard garden, and her pool, always full of swimming grandchildren. Roz died Dec. 8, 2021, and is survived by Paul and their family.

**Deirdre Flannery Gollop** earned her master's in special education from USC. She and husband **Frank Gollop '69** moved to Wisconsin, where Deirdre started a family and directed research for specialized childhood education at the University of Wisconsin. She died on July 20, 2021, and is survived by her husband and children.

**David Haan Groll MBA** traveled the world alongside wife Betty, from a donkey cart bumping through a Mongolian stream to a skyscraper in Basel. He kept in touch with everyone they met along the way, and enjoyed surprise visits. David died Feb. 24, 2022. Betty and their family survive him.

**Gary Kimmel MBA** was drafted into the Army in 1960 and served as a sergeant in Braconne, France, where daughters Kathy and Karen were born. He returned to California and welcomed more family into his life: wife Jeri, her daughter Barbara, and later, son Scott. Gary died Aug. 10, 2021.

**Michael McDevitt** made his mark on the SCU rowing team. He started his advertising career at Ogilvy & Mather in Los Angeles, later working in executive positions at the Newspaper Advertising Bureau, Conde Nast's *Parade Magazine*, and Zenith Media. Known for his love of beach barbecues, musicals, and the Beatles, Michael died Dec. 16, 2021.

As an entertainment attorney, **Thomas Rowan** represented the likes of Jimmy Fallon, Dave Chapelle, Richard Burton, Kenny Rogers, and Burt Reynolds. He was a joy at work and at home, hosting many parties with wife Marla at their Malibu home, where the food and wine flowed, and the laughs never ceased. Tom died Dec. 21, 2021.

In high school, **Bruce Scollin** played basketball on the St. Ignatius team that won the 1965 City Championship. He served on various boards and committees in SF. He died Aug. 3, 2021, and is survived by his wife and **Erin Skiffer '05**.

**Eric Aanenson MBA '70** invented a deep sea fishing lure that brought in three patents and an 800-pound yellowfin tuna.

**IN SERVICE**  
**Richard Paul Vaggione '66** served as parish priest in Episcopal churches throughout the San Francisco Bay Area and in greater Toronto, most notably as Incumbent of St. Matthias' Anglican Church.

**1970** **Eric Aanenson MBA** enjoyed hunting and fishing trips with his father and classical music with his mother. His early dream to become a concert pianist was curtailed after a tragic car accident took three fingers; however, Eric learned to rewrite piano master works for only seven. He died on Aug. 17, 2021, and is survived by his family.

**Robin Jeffs MBA** worked in a Palo Alto real estate investment partnership before becoming a registered investment advisor and managing retail and construction projects. Robin loved his family, and if he wasn't playing golf or tennis, he could be found plunking away at a piano. He died Aug. 30, 2021.

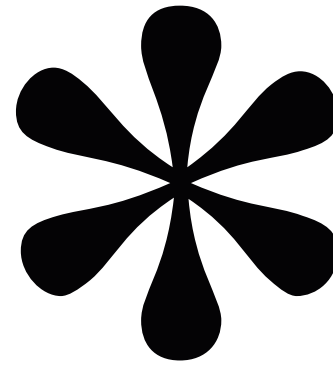
After mentoring underprivileged Black teens, **Antonia P. Pulone** worked in deposition reporting. She founded Pulone and Stromberg with her friend, which gained a reputation as a premier deposition reporting firm in the Bay Area. Antonia was also a founding member and president of Deposition Reporters Association of California. She died in August 2021 and is survived by husband **Stephen Walwyn '70**.

**Lorna Anne Schenk** became a Bronco just like her dad, **C. B. Sutherland '44**. She followed in his footsteps to work for the CIA and serve her country. She never stopped learning, becoming a registered nurse in her 40s. Lorna died Oct. 5, 2021.

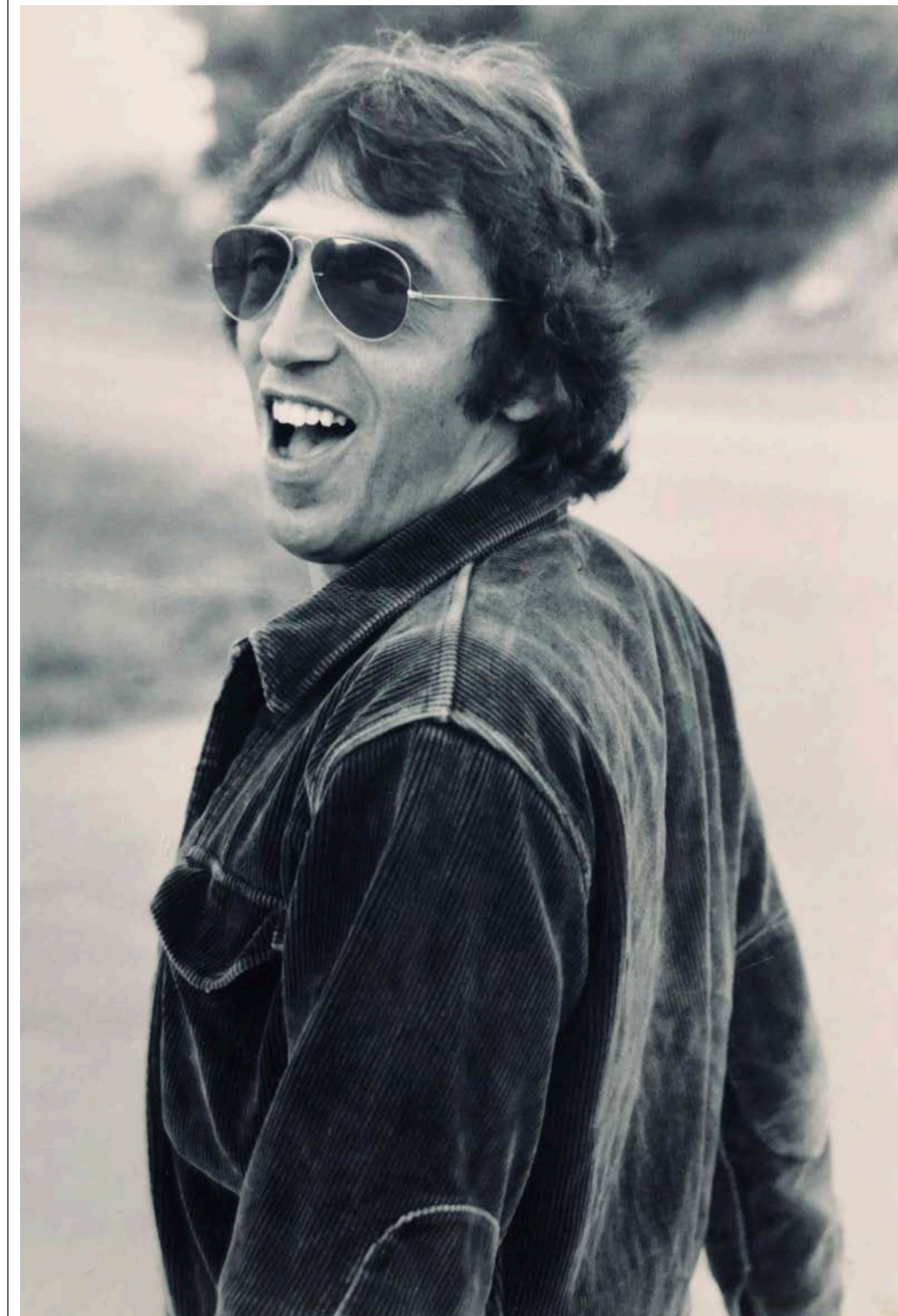
**David W. Scholz MBA** was born in San Francisco to **Rudolph J. 1918, J.D. 1920**. He was the youngest of four brothers, including **Rudolph '52** and **Richard '54**. Dave worked in sales and opened a commercial real estate firm. He also coached youth soccer and volunteered to feed the homeless. Dave is survived by his wife and children **Bonnie Puleo '86** and **Doug '90**.

**1971** **Richard Calone J.D.** worked as an attorney for the IRS before launching his own firm. He is most remembered for his service in the Army and for his zest of life. An avid bird hunter, Rich loved trap and skeet shooting as well as the SF Giants and good food. But there was nothing he cherished more than his family and friends. He died May 21, 2021.

**Rosanne "Rosie" Clayton** participated in extracurriculars, developed lifelong friendships, and met and married husband **Bill Clayton '71** at SCU. As a middle school teacher, Rosie's love for her students was so strong she simply couldn't walk away, leading her family to joke about her retirement parties, year after year. She died July 27, 2021, and is survived by her husband, son **William B. '03**, and niece **Laura R. Mason '00**.



**The Lawyer from Indian Country.** The flatness of Northeast Montana makes the big sky there look even bigger—almost domed. It's as if the few people who live there exist within a giant snow globe. **John Bushman '75, J.D. '80**, a member of the Turtle Mountain Band of Chippewa Indians who grew up there, called it Indian Country—the place to which he dedicated his life's work.



"He'd let us know it wasn't a glamorous life there. It was a hard life," says **Dan Malane '78** of his friend, **John Bushman '75, J.D. '80**. Still, it was a place Bushman sought to protect as a Native rights advocate until his death from lung cancer in 2019.

Bushman spent his childhood in Wolf Point, a former fur trading post along the Missouri River bordering what's now the Fort Peck Indian Reservation. He contracted polio as a toddler, just a few years shy of the invention of the polio vaccine. The illness left him with limited use of one of his legs, and he needed a cane to walk. Still, Bushman loved sports, particularly baseball and basketball.

At SCU, Bushman volunteered as an assistant manager of the basketball team, which included the great **Kurt Rambis '80**. He earned the nickname "Johnny Too-Bad," Malane says, for the way he pushed players.

After law school, he went to work for the Bureau of Indian Affairs, first in Northern California and then in D.C.

By the 1990s, he was chief counsel to the U.S. Senate Committee on Indian Affairs and championed a policy that would empower communities like Wolf Point.

The Senate was moving the program commonly known as welfare from federal administration to the states to run. Bushman pushed to give tribal governments the same authority and funding as the states to support their communities, some of the poorest populations in the country. Today that system, Tribal TANF, includes 74 approved programs, which serve 284 federally recognized tribes.

Around this time, Bushman met his second wife, Naomi Goldstein. They adopted two children, Donald and Eleanor, who joined a son, Daniel, and daughter, Annika, from Bushman's first marriage.

Goldstein says her husband was never resentful about the "hard life" he came from in Northeast Montana. "I think his memories were quite happy there," she says, and they informed his life's purpose. "He always knew he wanted to work for Native people. That's what drove him."

*John Bushman '75, J.D. '80 dedicated his life to Native communities like the one he grew up in.*

IMAGE COURTESY ADOLPH STOCK

IMAGE PROVIDED BY THE BUSHMAN FAMILY. WORDS BY LAUREN LOFTUS.

**William “Bill” Scharrenberg M.S.** spent countless hours running an annual golf tournament to raise money for childhood cancer research. In retirement, Bill worked part time in the pro shop at Eagle Ridge Golf Course, telling customers about his love of golf and family. He died Oct. 9, 2021, and is survived by wife **Mary ’79**.

**Curtis Thomas M.A.** was a storyteller, master barbecuer, begonia whisperer, professional armchair referee, and backseat driver extraordinaire. He always parted with a “God bless” and a warm handshake. Curt will be remembered as an exceptional human being, and, to his daughter, as the best there ever was. He died Nov. 24, 2021.

**1972 Catherine “Cathy” Giammona** touched many lives as an English teacher and activities director at James Lick High School in San Jose. She died Oct. 10, 2021, and is survived by family, including cousin **Scott F. ’97**.

**Barry Furtado** graduated from St. Martin of Tours, Bellarmine College Preparatory, and SCU. He was a volunteer division director for the Make-A-Wish Foundation in the Bay Area, granting wishes to children with life-threatening illnesses. He also started an outdoor Christmas tree tradition on Mulberry Lane and the surrounding neighborhood. He died June 16, 2021, leaving behind his wife of 50 years, Linda Patellaro Furtado.

**Benjamin Vega** played basketball, flag football, and softball at SCU. As a dad, he was a familiar figure on the sidelines of his son’s games. He also coached sports and taught social studies at Gilroy High School, where he attended. Ben died Aug. 24, 2021.

**1973 Mark B. Hames J.D.** was proud of his work in consumer protection and prosecution of elder financial fraud. In retirement, he enjoyed tennis, photography, and computers. He also volunteered as a teacher with an Almaden Valley senior group until the pandemic. Mark’s greatest passion, however, was his family. He died Oct. 2, 2021, and is survived by his wife, **Joanne ’68**, and children **Kerry Erickson J.D. ’06** and Brian.

**Paul Pelosi J.D.** was an avid sports fan and coached his children’s teams in Almaden Valley. His greatest joy was going to his grandkid’s games and school performances, family get-togethers, and holidays. Paul died June 30, 2021, after battling lymphoma. He leaves behind his wife of 40 years, Karen, and family.

For over 40 years, **Daniel O. Shattuc** served in countless positions in coin-collecting clubs across California. He chaired National Coin Week, driving many miles to visit local coin clubs. Dan was also a Green

Beret and an Eagle Scout, and he loved the outdoors, working with young people to create habitats for wood ducks around the Bay Area. He died in October 2020.

After WWII and the Korean War, **James William Wells MBA** settled down with first wife Betty and ran a toy store until her untimely passing. Bill spent countless hours building model railroads and trains with his second wife, Kitty, adding beautiful scenery. He died Oct. 5, 2021.

**1974 Marilyn Martha Marshall M.A.** had a passion for the outdoors, speaking fondly of her memories of summers on Lake Erie. She brought this enjoyment for nature to California, which she explored with her three children on many a road trip. Marilyn died on Sept. 9, 2021, at age 89.

**1975 Philip Bird J.D.** graduated from SCU Law cum laude. He worked in the attorney general offices in Hawaii and California. Philip also served in the High Court of the Marshall Islands Nuclear Claims Tribunal. Survived by his wife, Philip died on June 17, 2021.

While husband James was stationed in Germany during the Gulf War, **Patti J. Eichenberg** traveled alone to Romania to adopt two infant daughters, Ana and Laura. The family, which grew to include 12 dogs, moved to Texas, where Patti taught at St. Joseph Catholic School in Killeen. She died May 20, 2021, and is survived by brother-in-law **Thomas ’76** and niece **Caroline Manno ’99**.

**Gloria W. Finston M.A.** taught students with learning disabilities, working at Van Auken Elementary School and De Anza College. Gloria died on Sept. 6, 2021.

**Susan Kayser Grace** worked tirelessly to provide for her sons, who were the center of her universe. And she couldn’t resist jumping on the trampoline or going to the park with her grandsons. Susan loved gardening, cooking shows, reading a good murder mystery, and travel, especially cruising the Mexican Riviera and the Caribbean. Susan died Nov. 6, 2021.

For many years, **Nancy Kay Gritta** competed on tennis courts across the country. Off the court, she rose through the ranks before becoming finance director for the city of Woodburn, Oregon. Nancy went on to teach accounting courses at both George Fox University and Willamette University. She died Sept. 6, 2021, a grandmother, mother, and tenacious woman.

Born in the Bronx, **Martin Kaufman M.S.** moved with his family to San Francisco at age 11. He spent his adult life in Los Angeles and Thousand Oaks as a public

**WRIT SMALL**  
**James William Wells ’73 and his second wife, Kitty, operated the World of Miniature Museum, which included dollhouses, model train layouts, dioramas, and a working model of a cargo ship.**

**Gloria W. Finston M.A. ’75 knew what Palo Alto had to offer—hiking at Foothills Park, swimming at the local Eichler pool, and attending TheaterWorks Productions at the Lucie Stern Community Center.**



IMAGE COURTESY WIKICOMMONS.

school teacher. Marty loved math, exercise, the outdoors, classical music, and dining out with family and friends. He found joy and friendship in religious and community groups in retirement. A lifelong bachelor, Marty died June 27, 2021, at age 89.

**1976** An active member of the Kentucky Bar Association, **William P. “Bill” Cummings J.D.** is survived by his wife, Betty Ann. He died Oct. 26, 2021.

**Scott A. Sparks MBA** served as a deacon at St. Peter Chanel Catholic Church and worked for IBM before retirement. He died Dec. 29, 2020, at the age of 71.

**1977** After **Terence Cassidy** fell in love with **Elise ’77** (and the Rolling Stones), the couple pursued their dream of having a big family, and Terence shared his positivity and love of music with them. He practiced federal and appellate law at the Porter Scott law firm in Sacramento and in retirement enjoyed travel, serving on the board at Tower Brewing Company, and spending time with his family. Terence died Oct. 12, 2021.

After studying psychology, **Michael Sergeant M.A.** dedicated his career to counseling and educating for veterans. He loved music, people, family, and the outdoors, traveling across the world with partner Dianne, and spending time at home playing with his grandchildren. He died in November 2021.

**Don Stephens M.A./J.D.** and wife Jeannie loved to camp across the U.S. and Canada well into their 80s. Each trip was filled with memories of fishing, hiking, and Don’s unusual fashion sense of swimming trunks and cowboy boots. With Don around, there was never a dull moment in his family. Don died Nov. 19, 2021.

**Heda Yamada M.A.** earned her bachelor’s at NYU and taught for the Cupertino Union School District for 25 years. Heda died Oct. 22, 2021.

**1978 Janice Kathryn Murphy** served as treasurer and VP of pensions and investments for Kaiser, which she managed while raising her family with aplomb. Janice also volunteered with the American Heart Association, California Self-Insurers’ Security Fund, the Diocese of Oakland, and on her children’s field trips. She died Oct. 14, 2021.

**1979 Timothy Bonnel** became one of California’s most respected leaders in student financial aid advocacy through his work with the California Student Aid Commission and the California Community Colleges Chancellor’s Office. A grandfather and purveyor of pistachios and strawberries, he died Jan. 26, 2022, and is survived by daughter **Sarah Brockmeyer ’07**, sisters **Julie Rogers ’89** and **Jaimee O’Neil ’83**, and brothers **Daniel ’85** and **Thomas ’78**.

**Rachael Cecchetti** met husband **Roy Cecchetti ’79** in Rome through a study abroad program coordinated by Loyola Chicago. She was happiest being a wife, mother, and nonna. Rachael died Nov. 4, 2021, and is survived by her husband and family, including nephews **Don Sebastiani ’99** and **August Sebastiani ’02**.

Although her career was in insurance, **Lorraine McLaughlin M.A.** held a soft spot for children as a substitute teacher. Her greatest joy was being a eucharistic minister in the children’s ward at Stanford Hospital and at Holy Trinity Church. Lorraine visited every continent and over 30 countries, sharing unforgettable memories with her grandchildren and great-grandchildren. She died Jan. 30, 2022.

**Lynda Ponchione Montgomery** kept in touch with her children daily. Her Catholic faith was central to her life and something she impressed upon them. Lynda died Oct. 21, 2021. She is survived by children **Matthew ’06** and **Scott ’08**, and husband **David J. ’78**.

Former USC football team captain **Britt Wilcken Williams M.A.** mentored generations of players at Aragon High School in San Mateo, where he served as head football coach for 21 seasons. He died in August 2021, leaving behind his wife and children.

**1980** During their long marriage, high school sweethearts **Joseph Francis Greenhalgh MBA ’85** and wife Jody shared a love of music, dogs, and the outdoors. Joe proudly supported Jody’s dedication to her practice as an occupational therapist. He died in 2021.

**1981** Born and raised in Sacramento, **Theresa**



*Born on a farm in Washington, educator **Heda Yamada M.A. ’79** was interned at the Tule Lake Relocation Center in Northern California during WWII as a child.*

**Rose Matista** enjoyed a 32-year career with the Los Rios Community College District. No one loved their family more than Theresa, and her graceful navigation of 18 months of terminal brain cancer, helping her family every step of the way, was a testament to her strength. She was an avid SF Giants fan, and her four daughters were blessed to always have her on the sidelines at their softball games. Theresa died Sept. 1, 2021. Her father, **Francis Rooney ’50**, survives her.

At SCU, **William “JK” McGill** became the lead singer in the band Rave; for one show he borrowed pink pants from **Colleen Hogan McGill ’82**. They married at Mission Santa Clara a few years later. In 1988, JK bought Mike’s Coliseum, a comic book store in San Jose, where he worked until he died on Jan. 21, 2022.

From building furniture to fixing anything broken, **Marilyn Roberts M.A. ’83** taught herself to care for her world. Marilyn’s passion was teaching; her career focused on special education. Outside of work, she wrote books chronicling her family history and helped others with genealogical research. She died Feb. 6, 2022, and is survived by her children and extended family, including **Andrew ’86**.

**1982 Richard Pope M.S.** taught elementary school, diligently modifying curriculum to fit individual needs, and developing the Gateway to Critical Thinking Program for educators. A lover of all sports, Richard never missed his daughter’s games or dance performances. In retirement, he pursued new adventures, from classical music to tailoring his own outfits, and always made time for golf and bridge. Richard died Oct. 25, 2021.

**1983** For 30 years, **Nancy Castro M.A.** was a second grade and special education teacher throughout Santa Clara County. She also volunteered for Open Doors and Saint Vincent De Paul charities for many years. Nancy died Feb. 10, 2022. Her husband, her children, and their families survive her.

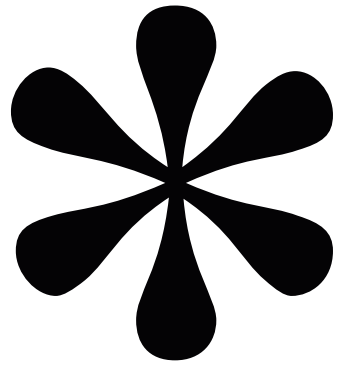
**1984 Christopher Luke Freitas** came from a large family and took care of them when he could. Chris worked in the Santa Clara County planning department. In his free time, he coached Mt. Madonna YMCA soccer and basketball. He died Feb. 26, 2022, while taking care of his mother. His survivors include his brother **Michael ’70** and nephew **Darren Stewart ’01**.

**Rita Volk** was born in Munich, Germany, but considered the Bay Area home. In addition to a long career at Deloitte, she enjoyed the finest art and wine, loved the fastest cars, and attended the famous Skip Barber Racing School. Rita died Dec. 24, 2021.

**1986** Despite being diagnosed with stage III pancreatic cancer in 2019, **Andy David “Bronco” Hospodor M.S., Ph.D. ’94** charged ahead with research and volunteer work through the Pancreatic Cancer Action Network. After losing partner Anne to pancreatic cancer, Andy lobbied members of Congress to increase awareness and funding for pancreatic cancer research. Professionally, Andy brought his computer engineering skills to several data storage companies in Silicon Valley, including IBM, Quantum, and Western Digital, and helped found several data storage startups. He died June 19, 2021.

**Bretta Nock** spent the past 30 years in Santa Monica working as a program director for the National Kidney Foundation and as the director of the Race to Erase MS. She also established the event company Wonderworks, which specialized in charity and political events. The youngest daughter of Yvonne and **Dick ’53**, Bretta died Jan. 10, 2022, and is survived by including sister **Marque’ Nock Molodanof ’82**, survive her.

**1990** After college, **Matthew Barreras** dug into a career in agriculture. He loved traveling and sports and was immensely proud of his daughter, Sofia, with whom he shared a love and discipline for soccer and running. Matt had the most brilliant smile, the most infectious laugh, and the warmest hugs. He died Feb. 12, 2022, and is survived by wife **Dawn ’92**, brother **Nathan ’97**, and sister **Laura ’84**.



**The Beginning.** It's hard to believe that the SCU women's sports program began in 1964 with a \$500 budget and two broken tennis rackets that **Marygrace Colby** fished from Sacramento trash cans. But everything starts somewhere, and Bronco women's sports begins with Marygrace, who headed up the women's program in its inception, retiring after four decades of revolutionary change.



*Among the things Marygrace Colby demanded for her students was access to the pool. Her request that athletes be able to use the gym sparked protests.*

Two years after admitting women students to earn degrees, SCU began to offer them something else to do with their time. "Recreation was the emphasis," **Marygrace Colby**, who headed up the program, told *Santa Clara Magazine* in 2012. "Athletics was a dirty word."

"It was so new to Santa Clara that you could almost do whatever you wanted," Marygrace said in a 1995 interview. "They didn't know what to do with me."

The newly coed campus wasn't sure what to do with her ideas, either. She pushed for women to have access to the Seifert Gymnasium—three hours on Tuesday nights. "The boys had a picket line around the gym," said Marygrace. *The Santa Clara* ran an editorial saying that

the women "were a detriment to the spirit of Santa Clara athletic events." The events were known as playdays—friendly tennis, half-court basketball, or volleyball matches against nearby schools, which included serving punch and cookies to opponents.

Marygrace wanted more for the students under her watch. "Male coaches accused me of being a 'women's libber,'" Marygrace said. "But I preferred the term 'advocate.' I challenged the administration to develop the programs that they have today."

The 1972 passage of Title IX, banning sex-based discrimination in federally funded education programs, supercharged her efforts. By 1974, 700 Bronco women were involved in 75 sports, including

Powder Puff football, bowling, and golf. In her decades on campus, she was a coach, director of women's athletics, and assistant athletic director.

Marking 50 years of women's sports on campus, she wrote to *Santa Clara Magazine* about the change she had seen, and more so helped make: "I have always admired those first female student-athlete pioneers at Santa Clara, who were provided with little in terms of finances, equipment, and qualified coaches. Fifty years later, Santa Clara's women's athletics and female participation at institutions all over the country have come a long way."

Bronco women taking to field and court today feel her legacy still. Colby died in January 2022.

IMAGE COURTESY: SCU ARCHIVES; WORDS BY LESLIE GRIFFY.

**1991** **Darren Bouton** worked as a longtime government affairs advocate and energy policy expert in California, serving as deputy cabinet secretary to Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger. Later in life, Darren worked for First Solar and Edison International before opening his own consulting firm, Bouton Strategy and Advocacy. He deeply loved his family, golf, and entertaining others. Darren died Sept. 4, 2021.

**1992** **Tom Brown, Jr.** was a beloved engineering professor at San Jose State and worked many years as an electrical engineer for Boeing, IBM, Applied Materials, and Western Digital. He died Sept. 7, 2021. His wife, Bonnie, survives him.

**1993** Upon formation of McArthur and Levin, **Rodney Lawrence Levin J.D.** focused exclusively on representing public agencies in special education. He cherished his time with his family, and together they enjoyed hiking, concerts, county fairs, and walking their beloved dog. Rodney was also an avid reader and history buff. He died July 10, 2021, at his home in San Jose and is survived by his wife and daughter.

**1995** Having made her first vows to the Congregation of the Humility of Mary in 1963, **Sr. Kathleen Hanley M.A.** taught ministry in Minnesota, Illinois, and Iowa and served as campus minister of music at the University of Northern Iowa, ministering to her religious community for decades. She died unexpectedly on March 26, 2021, at age 78 and is survived by seven siblings.

**1996** **Patrick J. Rodriguez** was a lover of the arts and worked in the graphic arts field at numerous entertainment companies, including Lucasfilm, Walt Disney Imagineering, Sony, DreamWorks, Spielberg, and The Third Floor. Patrick also taught graphic arts programs and was involved at various guilds and art centers. He died Aug. 27, 2021, and is survived by his wife.

*Patrick J. Rodriguez worked for entertainment companies, including Lucasfilm, Walt Disney Imagineering, Sony, DreamWorks, Spielberg, and The Third Floor.*

**1999** **Michael "Mike" Anthony Granata** worked as a licensed engineer and owned multiple design engineering companies. He could be found walking his golden retriever twice a day and loved spending time with his wife, cars, and drums. Mike died Nov. 1, 2021.

**2000** Avid outdoorsman and photographer **Thomas Patrick Casey Jr.** was certified in wilderness first aid and as a kayak guide in

North Carolina. In 2011, he accomplished his lifelong goal of hiking the Appalachian Trail, earning the trail name "Cackle" for his iconic laugh. He also ran Calendar Club and Go the Game Store businesses for a number of years and was willing to help anyone who asked. He died on July 26, 2021.

**2002** A security researcher, **Daniel Kaminsky** used his skills for kindness. When a friend struggled with color blindness, he developed the DanKam, a mobile app that uses a phone's camera to differentiate colors otherwise indecipherable to the colorblind. He died April 23, 2021, a man for others through the end.

**2005** **Sarah Lynne Tarpley Nettles** met husband Larry at a nursing home in Florida. They fell in love and were married there on May 1, 2021. Sarah died June 17, 2021, after struggling for 16 years with a disease of the brain. A lifelong Episcopalian, she took hospice volunteer training and worked with many families. Sarah also loved nature, the poetry of Mary Oliver, playing cards, tennis, and the flute. She'll be remembered for her generous, loving spirit by friends the world over.

**2007** **Karen R. Lehman M.A.** lived a life in the pursuit of education. After earning her B.S. in sociology at the University of Iowa, Karen became a special education teacher. She continued to educate and support her students until her retirement in 2015, traveling to 48 states. She died June 2, 2021.

**2014** **Laura Isabella Newell Sylvan** never went a day without sharing her love with others, especially for husband Kayvan. Her passion for music grew throughout her life; she owned a music studio and taught flute and piano for many years. After taking a break for motherhood, she returned to academia and earned a B.A. in English and German studies. Laura died Oct. 10, 2021. Her son, **Jason '96**, survives her.

A loving husband, father, brother, and



uncle, **Antonino Cartelli II** adored his family and their annual reunions during the holidays. Affectionately known as "Tony," "Pop," and "Nanno," he died July 30, 2021. His children, who inherited his love of racing, cars, and musicals, survive him.

**Gregory Westfall Perry** played football at SCU. He went on to teach and coach at Will C. Wood High School in Vacaville and at Davis High School. He died April 5, 2021. His wife and family survive him.

## Faculty, Staff, and Friends

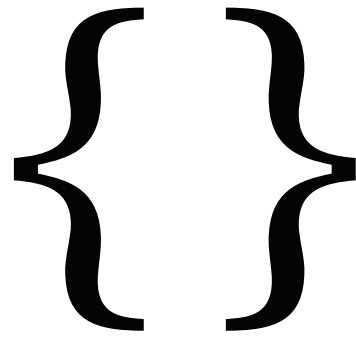
A clinical professor at Santa Clara Law, **Ray Bernstein** served as senior staff attorney, criminal research division, for the 9th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals. Ray also practiced civil and criminal law and received numerous awards for his pro bono service. He was also a member of his San Francisco synagogue, Congregation Sha'ar Zahav. Ray died Dec. 18, 2020.

As an electrical and computer engineer in Silicon Valley, **Frederick Wingfield Clegg** enjoyed a career as a professor at SCU and at Silicon Valley stalwarts, including Hewlett Packard and Sun Microsystems. An avid pilot, he worked as a certified flight instructor before and after retirement. He died Dec. 25, 2021.

By the time **John Endres, S.J.** retired as Professor Emeritus of Sacred Scripture (Old Testament), he had published books on the Psalms, the history of the Old Testament, and traditions shared by ancient Jewish and Christian literature. Fr. Endres died Jan. 26, 2022.

**James W. Felt, S.J.** joined the philosophy department in 1965. His research and teaching interests centered on metaphysics, especially that of St. Thomas Aquinas and Alfred North Whitehead. He held two endowed chairs as the SCU Jesuit Community Professor and John Nobili, S.J., Professor before retiring in 2006. He died Feb. 17, 2022.

**Phil Holland** founded one of the largest privately owned doughnut chains in the country. He wrote *The Entrepreneur's Guide*, and with wife Peggy developed a curriculum based on the book. In 2014, he and Peggy selected SCU to steward the program, and the Leavey School's My Own Business Institute was born. The Hollands bequeathed a \$17.5 million endowment to the University to ensure the institute would remain free for anyone, anywhere—it's students and alumni are from more than 140 countries around the world, and thousands of people earn certificates each year. At 95 years of age, Phil died Dec. 26, 2021.



**At Our Feet.** Around 1822, a member of the Mission community, likely an Indigenous person, laid out adobe tiles to harden in the sun. At a moment between wet and dry, a small dog or coyote sauntered or maybe ran by at full tilt—this detail is lost to history—across the clay, leaving tracks that remain in the St. Francis Chapel at the back of the Mission Santa Clara de Asís.



**STRUCTURAL RELICS** The Mission Santa Clara de Asís went through many iterations and locations before becoming the Mission Church we know today. What remains of its 1822 adobe structure—an interior adobe wall and tiles—is in the current St. Francis Chapel at the back of the church. Today's main church structure was built after a 1926 blaze destroyed most of the Mission.

**WHOSE PRINTS?** It's not clear what kind of animal left the prints on the adobe tile in the Mission. Communities living in California at the time of contact with European settlers had many types of domesticated dogs, although few breeds survive today. The area was also home to wild canids, including coyotes, foxes, and wolves.



*These prints aren't the only animal tracks on the Mission Church's tiles. A cat or squirrel likely made another set as adobe tile was left outside to process, White says.*

*Spying these prints today may bring a delighted sense of connection to the past. We have the thriftiness of those before us to thank for the experience. "In the early Mission days, slightly damaged or imperfect materials were not automatically thrown out as today," says Charles White, Mission Church director.*

**ROOM FOR A BABY BOOM** St. Francis Chapel came to be in 1980 when the main building couldn't keep up with the demand for infant baptisms. White and then University President **William J. Rewak, S.J.** reclaimed the space, then a storage area. **Howard Major, S.J.** created a new ceiling and a freestanding cross that sits against the adobe wall.



**HERE TODAY** Indigenous people in the region at that time, mostly the Ohlone and the Muwekma Ohlone people, remain in the Bay Area. Santa Clara University strives to better recognize the contributions and sacrifices of first peoples with a significant renovation of the de Saisset Museum's collection, a community PowWow, a working group, and a regular reminder before events that this land is the traditional home of the Ohlone and the Muwekma Ohlone people.



**AN ACCIDENTAL CANVAS** During the Mission period, Indigenous community members made adobe floor tiles by hand from clay, leaving them in the sun to cure before being placed.



IMAGES COURTESY SCU, ADOBE STOCK, AND SHUTTERSTOCK; WORDS BY LESLIE GRIFFIN. IMAGE BY JIM GENSHEIMER.



## INSPIRATION

One good deed snowballed into nearly \$500,000 for scholarships for Santa Clara Law students who need help paying tuition. It all started when Acting University President **Lisa Kloppenberg** and her husband, Mark Zunich, decided to donate to a new scholarship fund. The gesture was turned into a Day of Giving challenge (with donors kept anonymous at first). The goal: garner at least 150 donors to the School of Law. By afternoon, that goal had been surpassed, and the identity of the donors revealed at a midday ceremony. But another surprise was nigh: **Andy Kryder '74, J.D./MBA '77**, and Judge **Risë Jones Pichon '73, J.D. '76**, shared that the Law Advisory Board and SCU Board of Regents had raised over \$325,000 in Kloppenberg's honor. Oracle general counsel **Dorian Daley J.D. '86** and her husband, Michael Krautkramer, had matched \$150,000 donated by the Law Advisory Board. Kloppenberg, visibly touched, shared how the couple had been inspired by their mothers, neither of whom could afford to attend college. Thanks to the new Lisa A. Kloppenberg & Mark R. Zunich Endowed Law Scholarship Fund, that will be a problem for fewer students in the future. "An endowment is a permanent source of funds—it will always be here to support students who are in financial need," says Kloppenberg. "Law school is hard enough. If we can make the burden a little bit easier for them, all the better." Who can you inspire today? scu.edu/donate