A superbloom is a decade in the making. What caused it? A wet winter sparked unprecedented growth, says Justen Whittall, an associate professor of biology who closely studies California’s native plants and trends in evolution of flowers’ colors. The superbloom started in January in the desert east of San Diego, then moved north and east. After five years of drought, Mother Nature gave California the gift of brilliant brightness, a sight she rarely sees. Wildflower plants sprouted from seeds that had been dormant, and new growth filled the bare land. But not every place was so blessed. A large portion of California has been overgrazed by cows or developed, Whittall notes. “If there’s a place that hasn’t been overgrazed, overdeveloped, or has some refugia, it will be a superbloom in those locations.” Instead, look for wild populations of desert hiding places for native plants that haven’t been eaten, overrun, or built over. And visit this spot in the remote Carrizo Plain National Monument, which this spring was put under executive order review, potentially opening it up to oil drilling and mining.
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LETTERS

WAKE-UP CALL

As I read the article about John C. Cruden J.D. ‘74. it brought back memories of my time as an admiral’s attorney. On March 24, 1969, at about 4 a.m., I was awakened by a call from the general counsel of Exxon Shipping, who needed to negotiate a salvage contract in Valdez, Alaska, for docking of tankers. Over the next four hours, we worked through my client’s standard salvage contract, reached an oral agreement, and the tugboats began assisting the Valdez. I got dressed and drove to my San Francisco office to prepare the written agreement.

The following week, I completed contracts for three more clients to assist with cleanup operations. These contracts required almost daily modifications as equipment was added and subtracted from the operation. I received a status call at about 7 p.m. each evening to modify contracts and keep up with the facts.

By May, my involvement tapered off and my wife and I went on vacation to get away from the intensity of this operation.

Following the enactment of the Oil Pollution Act of 1990, the U.S. Coast Guard signed a master contract with John to provide the largest client’s tug, barges, and other marine equipment be readily available in the future.

Dennis Kelly ’68
Hillborough, California

MOMENT IN TIME

Love the two-page photo of the South Fork of the Yuba River (Timon Bemolz photo, Spring 2017) near Nevada City, California, during this great winter! I enclosed a video of this wonderful old bridge taken from the newer one during similar conditions in February 1977.

The roar of the churning river adds a dramatic effect. Terrific idea on the four-page foldout on the new STEM campus.

Thank you for your letter sharing the memories of Kristol Hollevy’s award. He was also involved in the Hungarian Jesuit Refugee Services activities, and his pictures bring value to Hungarian people as well.

Anna Maria Jacobs
Budapest, Hungary

IN GOOD COMPANY

I am a third-generation alumna and current SCU staff member. I’ve been reading Santa Clara Magazine since I was a little girl. Even after my grand-father John “Jack” Bemolz ’32 swore an oath against Fr. Locatelli in the ‘90s, the most recent issue of SCM always held a place of pride on my reading table, just next to his beloved National Geographic. When my father, Tim Bemolz ’79, would bring home one of my most recent copies, I would gobble the magazine and take it up to my room as if it were addressed to me alone. I love your magazine and enjoy reading the beautiful hard copy you send to me. Best wishes to you and your team for continued success!

Sarah Brockmeyer ’07
San Jose

LIKE A FOX

Page 8 of the Summer 2016 edition asked: “What would the Bay Area ohne without Santa Clara University?” That is an important question to me. The one thing that sets America apart from other countries is our spirit of entrepreneurship. It is okay to try, fail, dust oneself off, and try again with renewed vigor. The whole Bay Area thrives on this.

I attended Santa Clara in what might be called the glory days of early tech—1973. I was reading in the precision of Gerald Al-exander son as a teacher in mathematics and science of discovery with Dick Peffley in mechanical engineering. I conducted experiments with Larry Nathan in inorganic chemistry and received responsibility from Tennant Wright, S.J., in religious studies. But I learned to think from Geoff Fox ’62 in physics. Even seen the Fox logo as a decal on a vehicle or as a logo on a piece of clothing? I can’t drop off my son at high school without driving through the student parking lot seeing this decal proudly displayed on most vehicles. Will, if I told you this logo originates with Geoff Fox, former student and teacher at Santa Clara? Fox is the founder and CEO of Fox Racing.

It was cosmic as a student waiting each Monday morning in Daily Science Center to see what new injury Dr. Fox would have blemish on his beloved dirt bike racing. But he conveyed his passion and made it all quite practical for each of us to follow our dreams.

It is no secret in the Bay Area that undergraduate engineering students coming out of Santa Clara are something special.

Bill Keane ’74
Grass Valley, California

STAINED GLASS AND DNA

The impressive and truly fab- ulous idea on the four-page foldout on the new STEM campus.

Sarah Brockmeyer ’07
San Jose

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Bill Keane ’74
Grass Valley, California

We love our print edition, but this video is a sight to behold. Head over to the online mag at magazine.scu.edu to check out Woody’s footage. —Ed.

Woody Nedom ’60
Los Altos, California

We're making corrections, zine published by an association or corporation, we should have referred to DNA. The right way to explain the CRISPR system: “Clustered Regularly Interspaced Short Palindromic Repeats” of DNA that give the technique its acronym.” —Ed.

B.T. AND THE HUT

The Shattering of Local stoolie The Hut has brought a few more memories. Here’s one.

I’d pitch a pitcher or two in The Hut. But I was hardly a denizen. Law school and working at a technology company kept me pretty busy starting fall 1982. That was the year Silicon Valley got bombed with malathion to eliminate the medfly. It was a controversial move by the administration of Gov. Jerry Brown ’59. The governor’s chief of staff, Brian Thomas “B.T.” Collins ’70, J.D. ’73, famously demonstrated the safety of the pesticide by drinking a glass of it at a press conference.

By second year, the panic was off and I could take some fun classes. Among them a class on legislation, taught by Dorothy Gray J.D. ’79.

Dorothy had been in Sacramento among Jerry Brown’s kitchen cabinet and became friends with Collins. B.T. lectured for well over an hour on how things get done in the legislature. His case study was how he took the California Conservation Corps from one of the governor’s barking dogs and converted it into a shining star by cracking down on disloyalty in the camps and making sure it got good press. “In politics,” B.T. told us, “perception is more important than reality.” He must have said that half a dozen times.

At the end of the lecture, B.T. invited us all to The Hut and the beer flowed freely. About halfway into the second pitch, I said, “Hey B.T. we were all on a first name basis by then” (we knew each other from college). He said, “What do you think I think from that glass?” He said, “What do you think I think from that glass?”

Thank you for your letter sharing the memories of Kristol Hollevy’s award. He was also involved in the Hungarian Jesuit Refugee Services activities, and his pictures bring value to Hungarian people as well.

Anna Maria Jacobs
Budapest, Hungary

MAGGIEMESEN

April your magazine was honored with an outstanding non-profit publication award, presented by the Western Publish- ing Association. The MAGGIEs honor the best magazine published by a nonprofit; best consumer magazine and best educational publication design, best editorial, and best photography for “Where are they taking us?” by Collins Xeno J. Kyo, and best interview or profile for “Let There Be Light,” the profile of French Cop- pul’s 2019, the NASA man who saved the Hubble Telescope, written by Robert Zimmerman. Check these stories out in our digital archives. When the news broke, here’s what some readers had to say on Facebook:

Major congrats to Steven Boyd Saum and the Santa Clara Magazine team. Bravo! Santa Clara proud!!!

Marie Barry ’66

Congratulations! This alum looks forward to every publication.

Anne Quaranta ’89

Excellent news! It’s a fabulous publication. Congratulations.

Heidi Lelborn Leupp ’84

Dotty because: physics teacher and mathematics entrepreneur; Geoff Fox ’62

B.T. PHOTO COURTESY B.T. COLLINS

Wall of honor: B.T. Collins, J.D. ’73, with the B.T. Collins Memorial Scholarship in Memory Law Library. In his own words, “Read more about B.T. in our archives.”

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Near the end of April, Pablo Madriz ’07 moved across the country to start a new job with a law firm in Manhattan: mid-sized, focused on civil litigation. It’s a great opportunity in a city he loves. He’s excited. But it’s also a big change. “I was a teacher, worked for a nonprofit, and then in public defense,” Madriz says. “I’m very people oriented.”

What Madriz is politely avoiding saying is that he is used to putting others first. While a student at Santa Clara, he was a LEAD scholar. The urge to serve—passing on the opportunity to students later in college and into the workforce.

“One class brought in representatives from nonprofits who discussed structure and funding sources. ‘I think we’ve identified a real need for our students in providing through college to career,’ Kimura-Walsh explains. ‘An first-generation college students, they don’t often have access to family networks or social capital.’

Madriz is thrilled at least three more co-founders will experience LEAD. The program makes a difference, he says. “It leaves a mark on students.”

Learn more and support this cool program: w.scsu.edu/lead

To a guy like Steve Nash playing ball at Santa Clara: the only YYC, Kurt Rambis ’93 and ’96 into the SCU Hall of Fame. Rambis and Nash are in the same class. To a guy like latex, LEAD helped her get the job she has today. As a first-generation student, college remains improbable: a 6-foot-3 guard from Canada who parlayed his one and only scholarship offer into an 18-year NBA career. Nash turned 39 on April 28.

Nash thanked his parents, teammates, and coaches at SCU. Nash had a lot in common. Now they have one more thing: the Santa Clara University Athletics Hall of Fame. Rambis and Nash received a $1.5 million grant from the Koret Foundation. The grant adds year-round counseling, career development seminars, faculty and staff positions, alumni mentors, and nearly doubles the number of scholarships. A discretionary fund also gives students some financial flexibility for emergencies.

The new seminars and events also provide more support to students later in college and into the workforce.

The new seminars and events also provide more support to students later in college and into the workforce.

To Steve Nash and Super-Coach: too slow. Can’t jump. Not quick, long, or strong enough. NBA scouts thought Nash ‘96 and Kurt Rambis ‘80 had a lot in common. Nash thanked his parents, teammates, and coaches at SCU. Nash had a lot in common. Now they have one more thing: the Santa Clara University Athletics Hall of Fame. Rambis and Nash received a $1.5 million grant from the Koret Foundation. The grant adds year-round counseling, career development seminars, faculty and staff positions, alumni mentors, and nearly doubles the number of scholarships. A discretionary fund also gives students some financial flexibility for emergencies.

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On the Road. The recruiting trail is a figurative term. A time, not a place, when coaches like SCU’s Herb Sendek build their program. But for a three-month stretch each summer, it becomes more literal. Coaches head to cities like Dallas, Atlanta, and Indianapolis, bivouac in motels with continental breakfasts, and cram into gyms for amateur tournaments.

But the effort pays off. Take one of Sendek’s recruits at N.C. State: Julius Hodge. Sendek doesn’t exactly remember the first time he saw him, but he knows many times he watched him play the last summer of his recruitment—64. “Basically, I saw all of his games in the July recruiting period except one.” It doesn’t always take 64 games to land a commitment, but Hodge was worth it: five-star player, McDonald’s All-American, gritty competitor, monie for miles. Not only was he good, but tough—a mentality changer for your program. “He not only was good, but tough—a can, gritty competitor, moxie for miles,” Sendek says.

The summer isn’t 64 games long anymore—more like 40—but that makes opportunities more meaningful. Sendek has a knack for finding guys who fit his system. Like Cedric Simmons in 2004—a top-35 recruit who became a first-round pick, Henry Caruso ’18, in 2017. But more important, he has a great feel for the game,” Sendek says. “Guys who know how to play.”

Today, Hodge is an assistant coach at Santa Clara. He, along with Sendek and assistants Jason Ludwig and Justin Gainey, hit the road this summer. “To do them right, you need to do it,” Sendek says of his assistants. “You can’t just spend two days in a big city. You’ve got to spend two weeks in a small town.”

Mission Matters

ATHLETICS

SUMMER 2017

8 SANTA CLARA MAGAZINE
DEAN OF COOL

Alfonso Ortégaa in the vanguard of researchers seeking to solve the increasingly complex problem of cooling electronics integral to daily life—laptops, mobile devices, and data centers. And beginning in August, he becomes integral to the School of Engineering at SCU—as the new dean and John M. Sobrato Professor of Engineering. He arrives at SCU from Villanova University, where he established the National Science Foundation Center for Energy Smart Electronic Systems, forged deep relationships with the U.S. electronics industry, and served as associate VP for research and assistant provost.

Nuns and Nones. When Elizabeth Drescher was in grad school, she drove home cross-country each spring. She wondered what spirituality meant for those she encountered—not just the religious. So over the past three years, this associate professor of religious studies asked. From Maui to Maine, she turned to the religiously unaffiliated, the Nones, and said: Tell me about your spiritual lives.

Through his research, Alfonso ortega (left) has worked with tech companies Cisco, HP, and Facebook, and Microsoft. And he gets students involved.

AS THE ETHICS BOWL TEAM Manufactured guns in a 3-D printer isn’t just a possibility. It’s happening. What do we do about it? We asked Jonathan Jaworski ‘17 and the SCU Ethics Bowl team for their take. This year the team went to nationals and took fourth—the first time a team from SCU has made it to the semifinals. Jonathan, take it away: “With 3-D printing, guns can suddenly be manufactured independently, easily, and cheaply. How do we balance technological progress and our need for safety and security? We can’t stop 3-D printers from existing. Do we limit what we can 3-D print? We thought it was a violation of autonomy to make it illegal to print 3-D guns. The nature of 3-D printing makes it impossible for limitations to be put on the printers themselves. We proposed these guns could only be legally printed at certified centers that would test the gun for safety, place a metal rod in it to set off metal detectors, and add an ID number. We argued this using the framework of utilitarianism: this maximized societal welfare by putting effective safety measures in place, while not overly restricting technological advancements and autonomy.” The legality of producing 3-D printed firearms was a favorite topic for the Ethics Bowl team. SCU didn’t get assigned the topic at regionals, but they did get to offer a rebuttal. Their opponent argued that restricting printing was too great of a limitation on personal liberty. Jaworski countered they hadn’t adequately balanced autonomy and safety concerns. Bronze win.

Gitmo in Person

As a place, Guantánamo Bay is beautiful. Population 6,000, nice beach, a McDonald’s, souvenirs for sale. “Life goes on,” says W. David Ball, an associate professor of law who specializes in criminal procedure. Several dozen people are still detained there accused of terrorism. Ball notes. Ball recently went to observe a tribunal hearing. The four-day visit was highly restrictive in what he could see, record, or ask. It stirred in him new moral qualms about Guantánamo. “The Eucharistic meal, not the opposite way around.”

When you see a survey exploring “how religious Americans are,” whether “religion is declining,” researchers ask people, “Do you belong to an institutionalized religious group—a church, a synagogue, or a mosque? Do you believe in God? Do you study a sacred scripture? Do you pray?” When I asked my classes, “How would you describe your religiosity or spirituality?” There were the things that came up. When I surveyed people, what they talked about was pretty much the same for the religiously affiliated and nonaffiliated, and even for nonreligious practitioners. I came to call what I heard the four Fs of contemporary spirituality: family, friends, Pals, and food—enjoying time with family, enjoying time with friends, enjoying time with pets or other animals, sharing and preparing food. The only conventional item on the top 10 list was prayer, which is sort of the mobile technology of religion. Anyone can do it, anywhere.

\*DEAN OF COOL

DEAN OF COOL

Deepest of all, W. David Ball et al. (left) is modeled on a medical student, not the opposite way around. "The Eucharistic meal is a model of a meal, not the opposite way around.

MISSION MATTERS

FAITH

The phrase “thinking about,” doesn’t hold the way “I have concern and hope for you.” I want to convey “praying for you,” it’s different than “I’m thinking about you.” I want to convey that I have concern and hope for you. The phrase “thinking about” doesn’t hold the kind of paradoxical complex reality. I also spoke with people who said, “I don’t mean to pray. It makes me uncomfortable, but in certain circumstances it’s the only thing I can do that addresses the emotional complexity of a particular situation.”
Models and Mentors

Robin Shahar graduated near the top of Emory Law. After a summer clerkship with the Georgia attorney general’s office, she was offered a job following graduation. But when the A.G. learned that Shahar— who is female—planned to marry another woman, the offer was rescinded. Shahar sued. She lost, won one appeal, lost another appeal, and the Supreme Court declined to review her case. In Antigay Bias in Role-Model Occupations, E. Gary Spillers, Presidential Professor of Ethics and the Common Good at SCU’s School of Law, examines the impact of cases like Shahar’s—specifically, how employment discrimination systematically eliminates role models from certain fields and caps expectations in those fields. “For the straight person as well, the lack of such gay pioneering role models’ means in the concept of what it means to be gay,” Spillers says. He uses data and demographic research together with personal anecdotes to trace the trajectory of employment stereotypes, biases, and discrimination.

Emotional Investment

Would you buy your mom a rose for Mother’s Day or give her $10? Both cost the same—but don’t go, go with the rose! What does this have to do with finance? Plenty, says Meir Statman, the Glenn Klimek Professor of Finance. “Stocks, bonds, and all other financial products and services are like roses, watches, cars, and restaurant meals, all providing utilitarian, expressive, and emotional benefits.” Investment decisions, like everyday decisions, should be made with emotional and utilitarian benefits in mind. But normal people are not simply rational. In Finance for Normal People: How Investors and Markets Behave (Oxford University Press), Statman starts with this truth and helps people harness it. “It is models that must conform to people, not the other way around,” Statman says. “Normal people are more complex than rational ones, yet normal people are who we are.”

What Sparks Your Enthusiasm? Professor Tim Healy is a live wire. Ideas swarm in his brain like extra electrons in his outer valence band, and for five decades he’s brought that spark and connection to the SCU electrical engineering faculty. With an impish smile, bright blue eyes, and inquisitive and thoughtful nature, he is revered and treasured by students and colleagues alike.
Tsunami and Rebirth animate a series of paintings by Bosnian-born artist Amer Kobaslija, whose chronicle of devastation, cleanup, and renewal filled the gallery in the new Edward M. Dowd Art & Art History Building earlier this year. When the 2011 earthquake and tsunami struck Japan, Kobaslija was horrified. Yet he found it hard to pull away from watching the catastrophe unfold live on television. “At first I could not process the scope of the destruction,” he says. So how to make sense of it? He got permission to enter the port city of Kesennuma and traveled there to bear witness to the tragedy. In the work that resulted from the trip, meticulous detail meets loose painterly gestures and abstract passages in a way that seduces the eye and pulls you in. “You want the audience to enter into that landscape, not look at it,” he says. “The painting seeks to convey what it means to be there.”
We always thought we were in it together. Not just managers—because of the equity.

payment on a house—baristas by the way, went to college, bought a car, put a down everybody equity in the company. People as much as the coffee we sold. We gave with it even when health care cost almost got. People said we were crazy. We stuck got the same coverage I got and the CEO first organization to give health insurance it or not. That’s the lesson I learned and about doing it whether you could afford caring was I could do anything in service to another will cover you on our health care policy.” Howard said absolutely not. “We care—same thing, “There are people to ask Jim what he would do for health and he said we’ll pay your salary. Howard we’re going. But here’s a 33-year old CEO that’s losing money. We don’t know where when you can’t work?” Jim said there were ard asked, “What will you do for money can we do?” Jim said, “Well, I’d like to work as long as I can. Howard said, “You can work as long as you want.” Then How­ard asked, “What will you do for money when you can’t work?” Jim said there were agencies that could help. Howard said ab­solutely not. “You belong to us. We will pay your salary.” Remember, this is a company that’s losing money. We don’t know where we’re going. But here’s a 25-year-old CEO and he said he’ll pay your salary. Howard asked Jim what he would do for health care—same thing, “There are people to help.” Howard said absolutely not. “We will cover you on our health care policy.” What message did that send me? That I could do anything in service to another human being. That caring wasn’t about whether you could afford it. Caring was about doing it whether you could afford it or not. That’s the lesson I learned and one that’s lasted to this day. We were the first organization to give health insurance to part-time workers in 1999. And you got the same coverage I get and the CEO get. People said we were crazy. We stuck with it even when health care cost almost as much as the coffee we sold. We gave everybody equity in the company. People went to college, bought a car, put a down payment on a house—baristas by the way, not just managers—because of the equity. We always thought we were in it together.

We always thought we were in it together.
ANNA DEAVERE SMITH
doesn’t let a roaring, maniacal laugh, filling SCUs Louis B. Mayer Theatre with the sound of Taos Proctor, a 6-foot-4 Yurok Indian fisherman who had been kicked out of schools as a kid, sent to reform school, and incarcerated in state prisons, including San Quentin.

“Prison don’t do nothin’ but make you a worser person,” said the real-life character embodied by Smith in Notes from the Field, the celebrated actress and playwright’s latest work of documentary theatre. “About what’s come to be known as the school-to-prison pipeline, kids of color who are set up to fail in school and end up behind bars.

“You stab somebody, you stab ‘em five or ten times, you don’t care. You know, I mean, they’re worthless, who cares?” believed Smith, who transformed herself into the boastful Proctor and other vivid characters when she performed excerpts from the show in April as part of her fruitful SCU residency. Engrossing character through timbre and cadence and gesture, she morphed into a sharp, funny Salvadoran-American mother trying to keep her kids away from gangsta pants, guns, and crime; the passionate, young African-American Mayor Michael Tubbs of troubled Stockton, California, decrying the numbing routineness of violence; a fed-up young man arrested for torching a police car during the Freddie Gray riots in Smith’s hometown of Baltimore, Maryland; Congressman John Lewis, describing a tearful reconciliation in Montgomery, Alabama’s First Baptist Church with a young, white police chief asking forgiveness for past injustices.

SMITH’S mission is to become America word for word, by “putting myself in other people’s words the way you think about putting yourself in people’s shoes.”

Introducing Smith before her April performance with jazz bassist Marcus Shelby, Theatre Professor Aldo Billingslea, who directed Welcome to Claradise, put it this way: “Listening is the superpower of Anna Deavere Smith. She’s built a career on going into locations in a moment of crisis, where people have often stopped listening to each other. And she’s made a practice of listening to all sides and to bringing those voices to life in such a compelling way that all sides can hear and be heard. It’s a superpower sorely needed today.”

Smith’s method of inquiry inspired the play created by students in a seminar taught by Lecturer Brian Thorstenson. Thorstenson wrote Claradise from dozens of interviews with people across campus: students and groundskeepers, faculty, food service staff, SCU President Michael Engh, S.J. They were asked about moments of grace and moments of disruption that they had experienced in this serene place.

The students didn’t know what the story would be when they began interviewing people last fall. But after those disturbing acts on campus in October, the questions about disruption and grace became particularly relevant.

SMITH, a professor at the Tisch School of the Arts at NYU, where she is founding director of the Institute on the Arts and Civic Dialogue, was heartened to learn that social justice is part of Santa Clara’s mission. “The country needs a more enriched moral imagination,” she said. “Art institutions have convening power. It’s an opportunity for people to come together and talk about things they wouldn’t otherwise be discussing and practice the potential of being an active citizenry.”

Frieda Smock
WRANGLER and the JAZZMAN

A dog with millions of fans. And Bill Stevens, a blind jazz pianist, teaching students to do more than they imagined possible.

BY JESSE HAMLIN

It was just last fall that Wrangler joined Bill Stevens, the vibrant, double-fisted jazz pianist and SCU music lecturer. If you don't already know Wrangler, odds are one of your friends does. The yellow Lab became a star on NBC's Today show, where he appeared daily for more than a year with a trainer from Guiding Eyes for the Blind.

Wrangler won hearts around the nation before leaving showbiz to start six months of rigorous training at Guiding Eyes in Yorktown Heights, New York. Last year, he and Stevens were the subject of a Today segment filmed on and around the Mission campus.

"He loves the work and is doing really well," Stevens says of Wrangler, who likes to be where the action is. "Because he grew up on the Today show, he thinks everything is about him. He's definitely a ham. When the Today show was here trailing us around, he was in his element, just loving it."

At SCU, Stevens is very much in his element, too. He loves to swim, bodysurf, and practice the intuitive dance form called contact improvisation. He brings the same joyous energy and spirit of discovery to his classroom teaching and his SCU concert performances. His fluid playing, with its bracing block chords and long, melodic lines, draws on a wide range of sources, from Bill Evans and Keith Jarrett to Oscar Peterson and Earl "Fatha" Hines. His most recent album, A Blues By Any Other Name, was recorded live at SCU in 2014 with bassist Ryan Lukas and drummer Frank Wyant, who also teach in the music department. Since his new dog arrived, Stevens has been writing some Wrangler-themed tunes.

"GUIDE THEM ON THAT JOURNEY"

Wrangler is the pianist's third guide dog. His first, Do­

He loved teaching, and his big goal is to get students to understand how to learn effectively, to realize that they are capable of doing more than they imagine and to have confidence in their ability.

"If I don't know how to do something, it doesn't mean I can't do it, if I know how to learn," Stevens says. "Be comfortable with partial progress. Keep showing up on good days and bad days... I'm there to guide them on that journey. Music skills are the occasion for teaching that."

DEEP LISTENING

After the pianist learned he was getting Wrangler—whose name was chosen by Today show viewers—he listened to a few of the show's clips and was stirred by the outpouring of love for this dog. "I'm hoping it’s an opportunity to do more outreach about blindness." Stevens says, "and create more empathy in our culture about guide dogs and blindness and about diversity and difference in general."

The pianist and his new dog collaboratively negotiate their day-to-day world, getting to know each other better and refining their communication. Having a TV-famous dog isn't a big deal, and most people don't recognize Wrangler. But Stevens was impressed to learn that the dog who now shares his life appeared in a commercial during Super Bowl 50.

Stevens grew up on the East Coast. He has been legally blind since birth and almost completely blind since age 14. He earned a degree in music composition at The Oberlin Conservatory and a master's in piano performance at the University of North Carolina at Greensboro. He also studied deep listening with Pauline Oliveros, a noted avant-garde composer with a holistic approach to music.

"Deep listening is the practice of listening to all sounds, all the time," he says. "Her goal was to listen to all the sounds that are happening in the world as if listening to a piece of music. For me, that opened up doorways into meditation, using listening as meditative focus."

In turn informs Stevens' approach to improvisation, allowing him to be more in flow: "What is the music impulse in this moment? Can I hear that? Can I reflect that? Can I have that come through?"

JESSE HAMLIN is a Bay Area journalist who has covered arts and music for the San Francisco Chronicle. Read more about Bill Stevens and Wrangler, and listen to Bill's music, at billstevensjazz.com.
Casts a Shadow

The impact of recent travel bans on international students isn’t clear—but it isn’t good. Four graduate students tell their stories.

By Matt Morgan

MARGI MEHTA M.A. ’18 is fascinated by data. “Online shopping—it’s all about data,” she says. “I can learn about any business through data. If you can treat data well, it gives you a lot more than you expected.”

Mehta came to the United States from India in 2016 to dig deeper into data: learn patterns, formulate predictions. Where better than SCU, in the heart of Silicon Valley, to dig deeper into data: learn patterns, formulate predictions. Where better than SCU, in the heart of Silicon Valley, to

MIN ZHU MBA ’17 saved for three years in China to pay for her graduate education. The uncertainty of what comes after graduation is stressful, she says. She once was determined to work in the States, and she will apply for an H-1B. But also, she says, “I’ll just go with the flow.”

DON’T SLIP UP

Aya Masuo MBA ’18 hails from Japan. Her visa was put on probation once, as an undergrad. She got sick—a stomach illness—and missed weeks of class. If you’re no longer a student, you can’t use a student visa, right? Doctor notes cleared up the confusion, but it was a lesson in how quickly visas can unravel. With the travel ban, the threat of a simple slipup in paperwork has intensified. “If I got sick tomorrow I’d probably be really worried,” she says. “Maybe that doctor note isn’t effective anymore.”

The concern came home earlier this year when Masuo’s grandmother became gravely ill. Masuo was worried if she couldn’t return, but why does my family have to suffer along with me?”

AM I AN AMERICAN?

In the beginning, every part of living in the United States was tough, says Meera Tankella M.A. ’17, who moved here when she was 15. From clothes to her accent, she didn’t fit in. Classmates struggled to understand her speech. But she liked singing. She listened well. She would learn.

Eleven years later, she’s a graduate of UC Davis, and she just finished her master’s in counseling psychology in June. She will have a year to find a work sponsor and apply for an H-1B. Each year, 65,000 H-1B visas are awarded by lottery. She will have one shot. She worries that changes to the lottery will make her chances even slimmer.

“I wouldn’t fit in in India,” Tankella says. “The life I know is here. My family is here. My partner is here. I can’t even think of how it would work. I dress like one, I talk like one—am I an American?”

Matt Morgan is the associate editor of this magazine.
St. Peter’s Basilica, 1965: Jim Purcell and a class of fellow priests are ordained.

Inset: Purcell in the library, the intellectual heart of campus.

A Bigger Stage

First priest, then social worker, CEO, and teller of stories: Jim Purcell on what drew him to Santa Clara—and what Jesuit education can be.

BY STEVEN BOYD SAUM

The year was 1986. Congress had just passed comprehensive immigration reform, creating a path to citizenship for existing undocumented immigrants. At the time, one of the largest immigration counseling programs in the country was run by Catholic Charities, whose programs in the South Bay were led by Jim Purcell.

That program was about to be swamped: “We had to double its size overnight,” says Purcell.

Santa Clara University was in the process of launching the Eastside Project, a program to bring together the work of the University with the community in East San Jose, especially the poor. It would both help the community and transform students through an understanding of the gritty reality around them. So Dan Germann, S.J., one of the founders of the Eastside Project, came to meet with Purcell to see if Catholic Charities might partner with the University in hosting students to work with immigrants.

“We’ve got just the program,” Purcell told him.

After training by Catholic Charities, Santa Clara students helped with paralegal work and translation. They assisted people applying for citizenship. For SCU, Catholic Charities, and Jim Purcell, it was the beginning of a beautiful friendship. It was also the last time Congress passed comprehensive immigration reform.

Other roles for Jim Purcell: eldest of nine children, born and raised in San Francisco’s Haight-Ashbury before it was known as such. High schooler taught by Jesuits at St. Ignatius College Prep. When it came time for college, he couldn’t decide if he wanted to be a lawyer or a priest. So he applied to Stanford University and the seminary. He was accepted by both. He opted for the seminary, figuring that if serving as a parish priest didn’t work out that he wasn’t meant to be a priest—and he could always become a litigator, like his father. Actually, there weren’t so many litigators like his father—who in the 1940s took on a case representing Mitsuye Endo, a Japanese-American woman interned during World War II, and argued it all the way to the U.S. Supreme Court.

“Every time I come to the library, the intellectual heart of the campus and one of Purcell’s favorite places at SCU. He remembers vividly the day the building opened in March 2008.

“The first wave of students that walked in were saying, ‘Wow! I can’t wait to study here!’ And this place has lived up to its promise.”

It certainly has. In 2017, the library won the equivalent of the Academy Award for libraries: best blessed university library in the country, based in part on how faculty and students use its marvelous resources (see page 72).

Purcell helped build this place. Beginning in 1997, and for the next 14 years, he served as SCU’s vice president of University Relations. Or, as he liked to refer to himself, “Storyteller in Chief”—helping nurture support for students, scholars, and programs at Santa Clara. 
“A Jesuit, Catholic university needs to really have its students encounter the gritty reality of life. Well, the gritty reality of life is all about stories.”
The Good, the Bad, and the Kid

In which we talk with Ron Hansen M.A. ‘95 about truth and fiction and Billy the Kid—and when you can’t tell the good guys from the bad guys.

INTERVIEW BY STEVEN BOYD SAUM
ILLUSTRATION BY TIM O’BRIEN

Ron Hansen earned a place in American letters early on with a story collection, Nebraska, and two remarkable novels on the Old West: Desperadoes, about the Dalton Gang, and The Assassination of Jesse James by the Coward Robert Ford—a finalist for the PEN/Faulkner Award and later made into a film directed by Andrew Dominik and starring Brad Pitt. His fiction has grappled with faith and identity—in the spare and haunting Mariette in Ecstasy, and in the shipwrecked lives of Exiles. He has told the tale of Hitler’s Niece and, in A Wild Surge of Guilty Passion, traced the paths of a scheming couple who committed a murder in the 1920s that became known as the crime of the century. Atticus, his story of a prodigal son and grieving father, was a finalist for the National Book Award. His two most recent books are She Loves Me Not, New and Selected Stories, and a novel that returns to gunfighters’ territory: The Kid, telling the tale of Billy the Kid like it’s never been told before. "One of our most honored and prolific authors," assessed critic Sven Birkerts in The New Yorker. "Easily one of America’s trustiest and finest living writers," wrote the San Francisco Chronicle. Hansen has taught at Santa Clara since 1996. He directs the creative writing program and holds the Gerard Manley Hopkins, S.J. Chair of Arts and Humanities. Born in Omaha, Nebraska, he graduated from Creighton University, went on to the University of Iowa Writers’ Workshop—where he studied with John Irving—and held a Stegner Fellowship at Stanford University. He also holds an M.A. in spirituality from SCU and is a deacon in the Catholic Church.

SCM: Let’s start with a question that is usually answered by critics. Looking at your work—the cadence of the sentences, the voice, the subject matter—are there elements that you can point to, given the range of subjects that you’ve tackled over the years, and say they are uniquely yours?

RON HANSEN: You know, I try to write differently with each book, but there is something inescapable about your own voice. And I think mine would be characterized by maybe an annoying fondness for turning nouns into verbs. I also have a fondness for imagery, especially metaphors. And I would like to think that you could read one story in the collection She Loves Me Not, and then another, and they would seem to be by someone else, but I know there are probably some elements that people are picking up that indicate, “Oh, this is by Ron.” I don’t know any more than that. I was thinking about how you develop a style. Most writers begin as imitators. I was very influenced by John Updike and Edgar Allan Poe early on, and so I was imitating their prose. But I don’t write like either one.
Eventually, your own voice starts to leak through, and pretty soon for better or worse it’s only yours, not anybody else’s.

**SCM:** What about the role of the exterior world in your work—the world, the scene of the outside?

**HANSEN:** I was once talking to John Gardner about his fiction, and he said, “You know, whenever anybody picks up a tool or a gun in your work, it gets hot.” And he thought that about my descriptions of weather, as well. I’m not an indoor writer. I started as a painter—I wanted to be an illustrator for newspapers, of all things, and I got into doing portrait painting. Then I decided I could make multiple copies of books a lot easier than multiple copies of oil paintings. But that experience with visual art made me very aware of color, of the outdoors, and of particularity of detail. I wasn’t very creative as a painter. I was just a copiist, and that’s one reason why I decided to turn to fiction writing, I’m still a very visual writer, in that I’m actually seeing the scene appear before me while I’m writing it down. There’s kind of a cinematic aspect to a lot of my writing because I’m already seeing the movie in my mind.

**SCM:** What was it that drew you to writing about Billy the Kid?

**HANSEN:** I read a nonfiction book by Stephen Tatum called Inventing Billy the Kid back in 1963. I was fascinated by the way he described the ecological and showed how their perception of Billy changed over the years. I think that’s one thing that led me to write the novel, and then he became just an outlaw, but in 1926 in The Saga of Billy the Kid Wallace Pursued a Writer of America for the screenplay adaptation of The Assassination of Jesse James by the Coward Robert Ford. Someone in the audience said, “Whatever happened to that Billy the Kid novel?”

I had totally forgotten about that project. It just sort of sat in the back of my mind, something to write about, and I thought, “Why not complete a trilogy about the famous outlaw of the Old West?” I began by reading everything I could get my hands on about Pat Garrett and then eventually started writing. In fact, chapter four is the first thing I wrote, because I was just trying with the right tone for the novel and the right feel I felt easy to do. In chapter four, we meet Billy as he was then called William H. Bonney. His original moniker was the name of Antrim, and finally he became Bonney, which was kind of a narrative voice that I was looking for when I wrote this novel. I was searching for a voice that friends would battle friends, and even loyal family members would try to kill each other. When the rebellion was over, they returned to their normal pursuits without much regret, letting bygones be bygones. Perhaps the Kid thought that settling scores was natural and something he could just walk away from.

**SCM:** The one photograph of Billy the Kid plays a role in the novel as well.

**HANSEN:** I was struck by the fact that everybody talked about what a handsome dandy he was, how he loved fancy clothes—and then you see the old photograph of him which looks really shabby. Instead of his usual somber, he’s wearing kind of a stovepipe hat that’s been caved in, an oversized sweater, a sailor shirt, and frumpy trousers.

“I thought, ‘Why not complete a trilogy about the famous outlaw of the Old West?’” —George S. Hansen, novelist

To determine what was the right thing to do, because he could see so many evil people working against him.

**SCM:** There’s even the scene where you have competing poses going after one another: “We’re coming to arrest you.” “No, we’re coming to arrest you!”

**HANSEN:** Exactly. It’s an amazing period. The chief prosecuting attorney for the district court had himself killed a competing attorney in the courtroom. So I imagined myself as him, an old codger living on to do, because he could see so many evil people working against him.

**SCM:** Where does this story go? In the first line you’re talking right to the reader: “You’ll want to know about his mother; she being crucial to the Kid’s becoming.” You already sort of have the sense that the history is unfolding. And later on you have a cameo by Jesse James.

**HANSEN:** Yes, there’s a yarn around a crackback-barrel quality to some of the writing that the Kid mashes with more literate and poetic prose. And that’s supposedly a true story—that Jesse James was seeking out people to replace the gang that was shot up in the Northfield, Minnesota, raid, and he somehow had heard about Billy the Kid. He found him in Las Vegas, New Mexico, and tried to recruit him. But Billy told him that he only stole horses and cows, he didn’t steal from people or banks or railroads. And so Jesse gave up on him, went back to Missouri, and found some rubes to do his bidding.

**SCM:** How different are they in terms of character? Because I think a lot of your readers have Billy the Kid and Jesse James in the same constellation.

**HANSEN:** I think that Jesse James was a charming psychopath who could pun with people with his seeming good nature. Whereas Billy was mainly sociable with only brief periods of violence, of anger, and usually he thought the anger was justified, that he was righting an injustice. Jesse thought that he was justified because he felt himself as a guerilla in a Civil War that had never actually ended. But he was worthy of statehood.

Eventually, your own voice starts to leak through, and pretty soon for better or worse it’s only yours, not anybody else’s.

**SCM:** What was the novel about where he’s gonna write next, and I said, “I think I’ll do a book on the Kid” and that was a scene I felt was easy to do.

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Whitehill was impressed, telling the jailer, “Henry has an ingenuity with which I have heretofore
ing in a minstrel show?”

and then when a jailer for once wasn’t watching, the Kid ducked down into the fireplace and,

and even the sheriff’s wife wanted him to at least escort the fourteen-year-old to their house

were friends of Henry, sharing a pretty Englishwoman’s classes in the one-room public school,

“Oh yes, passing on and passing the remnants along; that’s what we all bound to do,” she

A gardener with a hoe saw the Kid’s soot-blackened hands and face and asked, “You play­

and the fineries floating and puffing on the backyard clotheslines in the soft October breeze. Skedaddling out of town and hiding his loot in Crawford’s Mill, Som­

What’s the lesson that we can get from Billy the Kid?”

surveyed had he not first linked up with miscreants like Sombrero Jack—so named

A gardener with a hoe saw the Kid’s soot-blackened hands and face and asked, “You play­

A gardener with a hoe saw the Kid’s soot-blackened hands and face and asked, “You play­

For three times and four times he did it, I think, because of the spangled Mexican hatwear he favored. Jack was ten years older, held a stonemasonry job, and just for company let a lonely fourteen-year-old orphan tag along like a tolerated little brother when Jack was pursuing thievery, an excess of whiskey, or the

Why me? in his ruminations. And it was when Billy got his first taste of the thrill of power—

But the new sheriff just smacked the boy’s cringing head three, four times and waggled a finger as he lectured him, since he knew folks reacted hard to the

now, so, thereunto he returned it and returned to Mrs. Brown’s, telling the Kid he’d go halve with him if the worshipful boy would sell it.

and periodical soaps, and fond of puns. His perfect wording was

One of the other elements, in the confusion of who are the good guys and who are the bad guys, is that this
takes place against a backdrop of what become known as the Lincoln County War, where not just people were going around and stealing.

One moment that I love is near the end where you have him talking with a journalist. Of course the jour­

Ron Hansen is a graduate of the University of Oregon and received his MFA from the University of Washington. His most recent novel is

The Kid was asked by a journalist what he would like to share with a newspaper’s readers. He said, “I would advise your readers never to engage in killing.”

SCM: One moment that I love is near the end where you have him talking with a journalist. Of course the jour­

HANSEN: I think James Joyce was the one who used the phrase “saying the unsayable.” A lot of people con­

We used to be instructed, at least when I was growing up, to never talk about politics or religion at the dinner
table. So there’s a reticence to address a subject that’s in fact extremely important to them. But I thought of

I hypothesized that Billy had seen others in their finest clothes and formal poses and wanted to be completely
different, purposefully dressing himself up like a tramp. He looks like a good in that photograph, and I don’t think

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HANSEN: I have been influenced by my interest in Billy the Kid. I hypothesized that Billy had seen others in their finest clothes and wanted to be completely different, purposefully dressing himself up like a tramp. He looks like a good in that photograph, and I don’t think that was unintentional.

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SURPRISE ME

HANSEN: There’s a radical shift in tone and subject matter. You’re not writing about dust and lonesome anymore, as one Hol­

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Let’s look at the biggest threats to our very existence. For a glimpse into the future, start with a tiny group of islands literally going underwater.

**BY BRIAN PATRICK GREEN**

**BETWEEN THE SUMMERS OF 2001 AND THE SUMMER OF 2003** I lived in the Marshall Islands, in the middle of the Pacific Ocean, working as a high school teacher with Jesuit Volunteers International. It was a life-transforming experience in many ways, but the way in which it affected me most profoundly involves the relationship between humanity and our most destructive technologies. This is because the Marshall Islands have experienced and are experiencing these destructive technologies firsthand, and as I lived there, I saw their effects on my friends.

After World War II, the United States used the Marshall Islands to test nuclear weapons—including the first experimental hydrogen bombs, the largest nuclear weapons the U.S. ever tested. Entire islands were vaporized and became mile-wide craters, and due to lingering radioactivity, large areas of the Marshall Islands remain uninhabited. Scientific and military recklessness exposed the Marshallese to nuclear fallout, and they experienced radiation sickness, birth defects, lethal cancer, and other horrible effects from these tests—consequences that continue to this day.

The U.S. military still maintains a base in Kwajalein Atoll for testing ballistic missiles and interceptors, and its rent is a major source of revenue for the local economy. I have seen dummy nuclear warheads reenter the atmosphere white-hot, glowing like meteors, and as I lived there, I saw their effects on my friends.

**Majuro, Marshall Islands: A boy named Fredrik, 14 at the time, stands on the wall that keeps the sea at bay from his family’s home. At high tide, the sea breaks into the yard.**

The U.S. military base on Kwajalein simply builds its seawall higher. Weapons testing must go on.

**SOMETHING REALLY BIG**

The Marshall Islands are enduring the horrendous effects of two particular technologies, nuclear and fossil fuel, but something bigger is going on here. Over the past few decades, humanity has experienced an unprecedented technological revolution, propelling us from being of little existential threat to ourselves to being, perhaps, the single gravest threat to our own existence. Becoming collectively so dangerous was never any one person’s intent. Fossil fuels and nuclear energy are both technologies humans intended for good (even if they’ve sometimes produced weapons of war). So how have these technologies come instead to represent such risks to us, their creators? Through our choices, of course. And where choice is involved, so too should ethics. This is why I work on the ethics of technology, and particularly, the world’s worst risks.

Global catastrophic risks are those that threaten to devastate large areas of Earth’s surface, whereas existential risks are ones that threaten the extinction of humanity. Today, there are at least 10 natural sources of global catastrophic risks (ranging from asteroid impacts and pandemics to ocean anoxia and supervolcanoes), and in the near future, there will be at least 10 sources of global catastrophic risks made by humans, ranging from nuclear weapons and anthropogenic climate change to bioweapons and artificial intelligence.

Scholars who study these risks seek to understand them and prepare ways to mitigate against or adapt toward them. Much begins simply with education. In my work at the School of Engineering and the Markkula Center for Applied Ethics, I teach ethics to engineers. In my classes, we consider the dangers of viruses and malware to cyberphysical infrastructure and the benefits and dangers of artificial intelligence. We consider the democratization of biotechnology, the dangers of bioterrorism, and steps that can be taken for biodefense. And we consider the global situation and response to climate change. In my publications, I have considered the dangers of solar flares and climate change and have written about the implications of the nuclear arms race. In my work at the School of Engineering and the Markkula Center for Applied Ethics, I teach ethics to engineers. In my classes, we consider the dangers of viruses and malware to cyberphysical infrastructure and the benefits and dangers of artificial intelligence. We consider the democratization of biotechnology, the dangers of bioterrorism, and steps that can be taken for biodefense. And we consider the global situation and response to climate change. In my publications, I have considered the dangers of solar flares and climate change and have written about the implications of the nuclear arms race.
We need a revolution in our behavior, in our ethics, rather than just a revolution in our technology.

We have the capability to solve these problems. Some technological problems can be solved with better technology, and many people are working on these tasks already—for example, renewable energy. With renewable energy, we can move our economy away from such carbon-intensive fossil fuels as coal and oil, and instead run the world on sun, wind, and geothermal. Nuclear fusion—the power behind the most devastating bombs in the Marshall Islands—may be controllable in the next few years and provide a nearly unlimited source of energy.

The transition to renewable energy helps to mitigate the risk of climate change, but merely stopping the rate of change is not enough. Atmospheric composition must be rolled back to pre-industrial levels if we want to restore the climate to which we are historically accustomed. That will require technologies to remove carbon dioxide and other greenhouse gases from the air and sequester them elsewhere. One approach is to simply harness what nature has already given us in plants—organisms that naturally collect CO2—and then remove that carbon from the carbon cycle, for example by burning it as inorganic carbon. “Terra preta” in the Amazon reveals that humans long ago discovered the usefulness of incorporating charcoal into their soil, along with other fertilizers, to create a long-term gain in fertility while also storing carbon for millennia. Research in this field is ongoing.

In addition to mitigating the risks of climate change, we must also adapt to them. Some damages from climate change are inevitable—for example, the rise in sea level we are already experiencing. To respond, we must take simple actions, such as building flood control. Unfortunately, while flood control is a simple idea, it is also very expensive. For example, in the San Francisco Bay Area, studies have been done to determine the feasibility of damming the Golden Gate in order to maintain the Bay and Delta region’s sea level. The cost to build such a project would be tens of billions of dollars, but the cost to build flood protection in the same region would also be expensive, as would a “managed retreat” where property is abandoned to the sea. In the face of oncoming destruction, which path do we prefer?

Climate change is a slow disaster, but other human-made catastrophes could be much faster. Nuclear weapons captured the world’s imagination during the Cold War, but nuclear stockpiles are now reduced. Yet there is still sufficient firepower to destroy humanity—and to accomplish to ruins. Reducing nuclear weapons stockpiles should remain a vital moral priority.

Emerging technologies have dangers as well, but may also provide solutions to our problems. Artificial intelligence has long been malignized in movies such as The Terminator, but AI also may give us the power to better evaluate our risks and determine how to solve them efficiently. While AI is sometimes viewed as a panacea, where all will be fixed in a “singularity” or “intelligence explosion” that will lead to AI becoming god-like and subservient in its goodness, this is mere mythology. What we need even more, whether we believe in God or not, is a revolution in our own behavior, in our ethics, rather than just a revolution in our technology.

While technological development surely is not easy, the more difficult problem is choosing to try to solve the problem of catastrophic risk on a much vaster scale, at the level of ethics and politics. We need ethical action and political cooperation to promote good technologies and limit bad ones—and, more than that, to change our hearts so that even bad technology can be used in a good way, we will choose not to do so. Ultimately, to paraphrase Shakespeare, the fault is not in our technologies, it is in ourselves. How can we create a future where technologies contribute to human flourishing and not to human destruction?

If there is one thing we can learn from history, it’s that a better future will not happen on its own. It will only happen by the hard work and dedication of many good people, organized and cooperating globally, for the good of all humankind. Our organizational scale must match our task, and the good we seek to preserve must be common to us all.

American writer and environmental activist Wendell Berry once said, “The only thing we can do for the future is to do the right thing now.” What is the right thing for me, as an individual, to do?

As an individual, what I can do in the world is marked by what I have done so far. I have grown up in America, lived in the Marshall Islands, and I work in academia. I have not gone into business, or politics, or the military; those paths are now far from me. I can only do the right thing here, and now. And so I teach and write, and hope that I might communicate something to someone, somewhere, which will help make the world a better place.

I network with like-minded individuals in academia, business, government, and religion. We all have little things we can do.

Yet in the end, always, my thoughts are pulled back to the Marshall Islands, slowly growing, where I first learned to think. As I look back on my time there, it becomes so clear why I now do what I do. We have made these mistakes before. People have died, lives have been ruined, entire cultures changed. Nations remain, awaiting destruction... or awaiting renewal and future flourishing. Our story is not yet finished. What future we make together is up to us. How can we work together on this great task?

BRIAN PATRICK GREEN is assistant director of campus ethics programs at the Markkula Center for Applied Ethics and adjunct lecturer in the School of Engineering.

SANTA CLARA MAGAZINE SUMMER 2017 37

We need a revolution in our behavior, in our ethics, rather than just a revolution in our technology.

The transition to renewable energy helps to mitigate the risk of climate change, but merely stopping the rate of change is not enough. Atmospheric composition must be rolled back to pre-industrial levels if we want to restore the climate to which we are historically accustomed. That will require technologies to remove carbon dioxide and other greenhouse gases from the air and sequester them elsewhere. One approach is to simply harness what nature has already given us in plants—organisms that naturally collect CO2—and then remove that carbon from the carbon cycle, for example by burning it as inorganic carbon. “Terra preta” in the Amazon reveals that humans long ago discovered the usefulness of incorporating charcoal into their soil, along with other fertilizers, to create a long-term gain in fertility while also storing carbon for millennia. Research in this field is ongoing.

In addition to mitigating the risks of climate change, we must also adapt to them. Some damages from climate change are inevitable—for example, the rise in sea level we are already experiencing. To respond, we must take simple actions, such as building flood control. Unfortunately, while flood control is a simple idea, it is also very expensive. For example, in the San Francisco Bay Area, studies have been done to determine the feasibility of damming the Golden Gate in order to maintain the Bay and Delta region’s sea level. The cost to build such a project would be tens of billions of dollars, but the cost to build flood protection in the same region would also be expensive, as would a “managed retreat” where property is abandoned to the sea. In the face of oncoming destruction, which path do we prefer?

Climate change is a slow disaster, but other human-made catastrophes could be much faster. Nuclear weapons captured the world’s imagination during the Cold War, but nuclear stockpiles are now reduced. Yet there is still sufficient firepower to destroy humanity—and to accomplish to ruins. Reducing nuclear weapons stockpiles should remain a vital moral priority.

Emerging technologies have dangers as well, but may also provide solutions to our problems. Artificial intelligence has long been malignized in movies such as The Terminator, but AI also may give us the power to better evaluate our risks and determine how to solve them efficiently. While AI is sometimes viewed as a panacea, where all will be fixed in a “singularity” or “intelligence explosion” that will lead to AI becoming god-like and subservient in its goodness, this is mere mythology. What we need even more, whether we believe in God or not, is a revolution in our own behavior, in our ethics, rather than just a revolution in our technology.

While technological development surely is not easy, the more difficult problem is choosing to try to solve the problem of catastrophic risk on a much vaster scale, at the level of ethics and politics. We need ethical action and political cooperation to promote good technologies and limit bad ones—and, more than that, to change our hearts so that even bad technology can be used in a good way, we will choose not to do so. Ultimately, to paraphrase Shakespeare, the fault is not in our technologies, it is in ourselves. How can we create a future where technologies contribute to human flourishing and not to human destruction?

If there is one thing we can learn from history, it’s that a better future will not happen on its own. It will only happen by the hard work and dedication of many good people, organized and cooperating globally, for the good of all humankind. Our organizational scale must match our task, and the good we seek to preserve must be common to us all.

American writer and environmental activist Wendell Berry once said, “The only thing we can do for the future is to do the right thing now.” What is the right thing for me, as an individual, to do?

As an individual, what I can do in the world is marked by what I have done so far. I have grown up in America, lived in the Marshall Islands, and I work in academia. I have not gone into business, or politics, or the military; those paths are now far from me. I can only do the right thing here, and now. And so I teach and write, and hope that I might communicate something to someone, somewhere, which will help make the world a better place.

I network with like-minded individuals in academia, business, government, and religion. We all have little things we can do.

Yet in the end, always, my thoughts are pulled back to the Marshall Islands, slowly growing, where I first learned to think. As I look back on my time there, it becomes so clear why I now do what I do. We have made these mistakes before. People have died, lives have been ruined, entire cultures changed. Nations remain, awaiting destruction... or awaiting renewal and future flourishing. Our story is not yet finished. What future we make together is up to us. How can we work together on this great task?

BRIAN PATRICK GREEN is assistant director of campus ethics programs at the Markkula Center for Applied Ethics and adjunct lecturer in the School of Engineering.

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We need a revolution in our behavior, in our ethics, rather than just a revolution in our technology.
A $30 million gift from the Thomas and Dorothy Leavey Foundation to help build a new home for science and engineering and thereby bring together electrical engineers and biophysicists and mathematicians to solve complex problems.

**WORDS BY STEVEN BOYD SAUM**

**ILLUSTRATIONS BY OWEN SMITH**

**The outstanding news came out June 2. The Leavey Foundation is giving $30 million to help build the Sobrato Campus for Discovery and Innovation. This is a project unique in undergraduate education—creating a space to bring together electrical engineers and biophysicists and mathematicians to solve complex problems.**

You read in our last edition about the landmark gift from John Sobrato '60 and Sue Sobrato: $100 million, the largest gift in SCU history. That's to build the biggest building in SCU history, to make the University a part of Silicon Valley like never before—and to say to alumni and friends: Come join us.

In fact, more students will be joining us here. "The Sobrato Campus for Discovery and Innovation will allow us to increase enrollment by several hundred students in STEM-related areas," says Jim Lyons, our vice president for University Relations. "High-tech leaders want more engineers, more mathematicians, more computer scientists. But normally these people all study in different buildings. They might not even talk to one another. In this building, they could be right next to one another, sharing lab and classroom space. From a curricular standpoint, they're going to work together across disciplines and across schools. That's what we need to solve problems in our world.""}

**Premier Pitcher, Square Dealer**

Generations of students have benefited from the support of the Leavey Foundation, established by Thomas E. Leavey '22 and Dorothy Leavey. Scholarships have made SCU affordable to a diverse range of students. A gift from the foundation made possible the construction of the Leavey Center, home to SCU Athletics. The foundation invested in programs to enable the Leavey School of Business to become nationally recognized.

So who was Thomas Leavey? Third son of Irish immigrants, raised on a dairy farm in California’s Humboldt County. His father wanted Thomas to go to college so he wouldn’t spend life working “in the ditch,” like his dad. Thomas arrived at Santa Clara in January 1918. He studied, he played baseball—earning props as “the premier pitcher.” He served as an active-duty officer during World War I, returned to study, then headed east for a government job and to complete a law degree at Georgetown. The mid-1920s found him in Los Angeles, working in banking. LA was booming; it had just become the largest city in California. The age of the automobile was going into high gear, too. Leavey made an observation: Rural drivers have fewer accidents than city drivers. So they should have lower car insurance rates. On that premise, he founded Farmers Insurance.

Business grew. And the stars aligned for Thomas in other ways: He met Dorothy Risley; they wed in 1930. A daughter, Kathleen, was born; and another, Dorothy Therese. In the postwar boom, business thrived. In 1948 Thomas created a profit-sharing program to give employees a stake in the company’s successes. And in 1953 the Leaveys created the Leavey Foundation to support causes they believed in. Thomas’ classmate Edwin A. Heafey ’20, namesake of the Heafey Law Library, drew up the papers.

Thomas Leavey became a founding member of SCU’s Board of Regents in 1959. In recognition for his “service to both Catholic and secular education in America,” SCU awarded him an honorary degree in 1964. He joined the Board of Trustees in 1967 and helped steer the University through a time of great change in higher education. All the while, he and Dorothy gave—usually quietly—many millions to support educational, medical, and Catholic causes. Thomas died in 1980, and Dorothy continued to lead the foundation. In recognition of her work, SCU presented her with an honorary degree in 1989. She passed away in 1998—at 103 years.

**Foundational Values**

Today the Leavey Foundation, based in Los Angeles, is chaired by daughter Kathleen McCarthy Kostlan. She values the education Santa Clara provides, producing “graduates not only with excellent critical thinking skills, but also the moral compass to put them to use for the greater good of the world around them.” Granddaughter Kathleen McCarthy Duncan carries forward hands-on involvement with SCU, serving on the Board of Regents. Grandson Michael McCarthy ’60 previously served as a regent and a trustee for SCU.

At the foundation, they’re excited about what the Sobrato Campus makes possible: a focus on STEM and solving complex problems. That’s in the DNA of Silicon Valley. We’re pretty jazzed about it, too.
Take what is good and make it better: work with an ethical grounding in doing science, then bring together a range of disciplines to look at problems from different angles.

WICKEDLY COMPLEX

Emerging diseases, cyberterrorism, and food insecurity are tough nuts to crack. That’s why we need to put scientists and engineers together to solve them.

BY MICHELLE MARVIER ’90

As a biology major at SCU in the late 1980s, I spent hundreds of hours in the lab and field, doing science and not just reading about it. Beyond the classroom, I did research in a professor’s lab—two projects actually, one of which led to a paper in the peer-reviewed scientific literature. At SCU, I gained amazing hands-on experience, and I was well prepared for graduate school.

But during my time studying science at SCU, I was not once exposed to engineering. Oh, I had friends in engineering, and I heard stories about their senior design projects. But I never entered their buildings. I never saw how they worked or what they did. And I was not exposed to design thinking, the engineering sister to the scientific method.

Now I’ve been a professor at SCU for 18 years, and for the first 15 of those, nothing had changed. Working in biology and later a new department of environmental studies and sciences, I never once stepped into the engineering buildings, only a few hundred yards from my lab. And students from the sciences and engineering had little contact with each other, outside of a few required introductory courses.

SCU’s new Sobrato Campus for Discovery and Innovation will forever change that. When this new campus opens, every SCU undergraduate student—STEM majors and non-majors alike—will learn how scientists and engineers approach problems, and our majors will experience firsthand our ability to arrive at better solutions when we work together.

ALL TOGETHER NOW

Today’s problems, ranging from cyberterrorism to emerging diseases, food insecurity, and climate change, are wickedly complex. As we at SCU look to Silicon Valley, we see that the most innovative breakthroughs do not come from individuals working in isolation, and no single approach or methodology can save the day.

The old model of siloed disciplines is gone, and we are transforming the way we train students to reflect this new reality. Our new STEM initiative is bringing faculty together across departments to rethink our courses, our research programs, and how our students work and play together.

And our new Sobrato Campus for Discovery and Innovation is key to this revolution. Soon we will leave our isolated science and engineering spaces, currently scattered across nearly a dozen buildings, and we will build a cohesive home for all STEM. Students entering this campus will find inviting spaces for conversation, study, and putting their ideas into action. Work that is currently shuttered behind doors will be visible to all who walk our halls. Makerspaces, innovation lounges, and classrooms designed for active learning will allow students and faculty to work together in new ways. Thanks to the generosity of the Sobrato family, and now the Leavey Foundation, SCU will be at the leading edge, training our next generation of STEM innovators and leaders.

MICHELLE MARVIER is a professor of environmental studies and sciences and the co-author of Conservation Science: Balancing the Needs of People and Nature.
Artificial Intelligence and Public Trust

A future with artificial intelligence is no longer a sci-fi fantasy. But how do we ensure that it is shaped with moral intelligence?

WORDS BY Shannon Vallor
ILLUSTRATIONS BY Josh Cochran

The future is here. With the exploding commercial market for high-powered, cloud-computing AI services provided by the likes of Amazon, Microsoft, and Google, the reach of artificial intelligence technologies is virtually unlimited. What does this mean for humans? How will we adapt to a world in which we increasingly find ourselves in economic, creative, and cognitive competition with machines? Will we embrace these new technologies with the same fervor as we embraced televisions and smartphones? Will we trust them? Should we trust them?

Popular essays and news articles about an AI-driven future often highlight grim warnings of science and technology luminaries like Elon Musk and Stephen Hawking, who raise the specter of the emergence of “superintelligent” machines that could threaten human survival or assume control of our future. Yet most AI researchers regard this prospect as highly unlikely, for it presupposes the emergence of artificial general intelligence (AGI)—the kind of flexible, self-aware, and fairly comprehensive understanding of the world that humans enjoy. The AI that we have today (and will be seeing a lot more of) is of an entirely different kind, one that fundamentally lacks the capabilities needed for AGI. For the foreseeable future, humans will navigate a world populated by artificial agents that possess no general understanding of the world—or of us, or of themselves, or much of anything at all, really. What they will have is exceptional skill and speed at performing specific, well-defined tasks that used to require human intelligence. This kind of AI, powered by large datasets combined with advances in machine learning techniques, doesn’t recreate or even imitate our kind of smarts at all. It bypasses it—and does smart things without it. Although this kind of AI may seem far less scary than a self-aware Skynet that decides to wipe out human pests, the risks of this more mundane species of AI are no less perilous.

One obvious risk: a new wave of AI-driven technological unemployment. Although economists’ predictions vary, an oft-cited 2013 study from the Oxford Martin School estimates that as many as 47 percent of American jobs could be at risk from AI-driven automation within a few decades. Even if artificial agents cannot wholly replace most human workers in the short term, the emergence of task-specific artificial intelligence across a broad range of new industries and social contexts is already rapidly transforming every domain of human activity, from commerce and transportation to education and medicine. Every system that makes, sells, or distributes goods and services to human beings has the opportunity to benefit—and to be radically destabilized by—the new wave of machine automation and decision support that task-specific AI makes possible.

CAN WE TRUST AI?

Today, AI-powered software is used to identify terrorist threats and targets in voice, image, email, social media, and SMS data; to assign criminal defendants risk scores for judges to use in making bail, sentencing, and parole decisions; to tell your local law enforcement where they are most likely to encounter certain crimes; and to diagnose cancers and recommend personalized treatment plans. Task-specific AI algorithms are calculating how likely you are to “fit” into the corporate culture or remain with the company to which you have applied, how close a “match” a stranger is to your romantic preferences, how likely you are to repay the loan you applied for, or the chances that your kid will thrive at the selective private school you want her to attend. These decisions govern how well or how poorly our lives go: whether we live or die, whether we work or are unemployed, whether we are free or unfree. What would it take for you to trust a machine to make such life-changing decisions for you—or for your employer, loan officer, doctor, insurance company, or your child’s college admissions committee? In many cases, it’s already happening. There is a common saying that commands prudence in matters of social reliance: “trust, but verify.” Consider this: In virtually none of these artificial decision support systems can you, as an ordinary person affected by the outcome, know how the algorithmic decision process is carried out, or what salient factors drove the algorithm’s result in your particular case. In many cases—due to the lack of transparency in “deep learning” algorithms that work without showing their internal logic—even the systemic programmers and administrators lack a clear view of how or why the system reached its conclusion.

Lack of transparency in some “deep learning” algorithms means that even system programmers lack a clear view of how or why the system reached its conclusion.
themselves based on changing inputs and outputs. Verification of such a system's accuracy and reliability, or reconstruction of a machine's pattern of reasoning, is often impossible in individual cases. At best we can say that as a statistical matter, over a large number of trials, the system produces acceptable results at least as often as a human would. In fact, the impressive power of many machine-learning techniques results from designs that systematically make it impossible to guarantee an accurate result in any particular case. In such systems, it is inevitable that they will sometimes, however rarely, produce "inappropriate" solutions—even wildly inappropriate, just because AI "agents' reason" so differently from human intellects.

Ironically, at other times algorithmic systems will produce harmful and unfair outcomes for the opposite reason—that is, because their decisions will not be different enough from ours, if they are trained on human-generated data that infects them with our own harmful biases and falsehoods. Examples include racial bias found in criminal risk-score algorithms widely relied upon by U.S. judges, algorithms which produce the illusion of "neutral," "objective" analysis but in fact reproduce unjust human prejudices by mislabeling black defendants as high-risk reoffenders at far higher rates than similar white defendants are mislabeled. A less grave but still ugly example was Microsoft's notorious "Tay" teen chatbot that in 2016 began "learning" to adopt white supremacist slurs and conspiracy theories within hours of its release on Twitter.

WHO'S RESPONSIBLE?

One might be tempted at this point to say: "Well then, so much the worse for AI—let's just get rid of it and go back to relying on our own mental horsepower!" But this kind of neo-Luddite response to AI would be throwing the baby out with the bathwater. Due to the immense speed, adaptability, and computational power of these new software tools, they hold the promise of helping us solve countless urgent problems that human minds are just too slow, too distracting, or too constrained by evolutionary pressures to solve alone. Would you be willing to forget—or forgive—for your children and grandchildren—a cure for Alzheimer's, or cleaner and vastly more efficient power systems, or reliable weather and global climate forecasts, or better responses to drought and famine? Then we cannot afford to reject artificial intelligence out of hand. This creates an unprecedented ethical imperative for AI researchers, designers, users, and companies and institutions that employ them. Artificial intelligence is immensely powerful, but it is not magic. It does not run without human intelligence—including, even chiefly, our moral intelligence. The future of an AI-driven world depends less upon new breakthroughs in machine-learning algorithms and big data than it does upon the choices that humans make in how AI gets integrated into our daily lives and institutions and how its risks and effects are managed.

This imperative falls within the realm of ethics because core human goods and values are at stake. An artificial agent that ruins the rest of your life by falsely labeling you a high-risk defendant, or that denies you a home or a job because of a random algorithmic quirk that no one can see, is implicated in an injustice, especially when it is relied upon by other humans in ways that deny you due process or meaningful remedies. We cannot sit by and allow compassion, justice, liberty, and respect for human dignity to be sacrificed at the altar of algorithmic efficiency. Every AI-enabled decision process is still a human responsibility, all the way down to its deepest, darkest, most inscrutable layers. Things can be done to foster and earn the public's trust in artificial intelligence. First, companies that develop and market AI-driven technologies need to cultivate a sincere public conscience and internal corporate culture, supported by incentive structures, that reflect awareness of the unprecedented social power of these tools. Respect for human life and dignity is not incompatible with healthy commerce and reliance on markets. It's essential to it. If we don't tolerate profit-driven recklessness and contempt for public health and safety from companies that build and operate nuclear reactors or airliners, we cannot tolerate it from companies that build and operate AI, especially when they impact critical human systems and institutions.

Second, the public needs to adopt a more critical, questioning relationship with technology and its social effects. We each need to become better educated about the promises and the limits of artificial intelligence, and to actively demand and participate in AI governance and oversight, in both formal regulatory structures and informal citizen-driven structures. From the person who is asked by their doctor or employer to surrender genetic data to an AI-driven cloud platform, to the HR manager who downloads an AI hiring assistant to sort résumés or evaluate interview responses, to the juror or judge presented with an AI-generated risk score, we all need to ask reasonable questions and demand reasonable answers about AI-driven systems, such as: "What are appropriate uses of this tool? What are common inappropriate uses/misuses of this tool?" "What human biases could have skewed the data this system was trained on, and what measures were taken to identify or mitigate biased results?" "What kind of errors will this system most likely make, when it makes them?" "What auditing processes are in place to identify individual errors or harmful/unjust patterns in the results?" "What steps can I or my organization take to ensure that independent human checks and other due-process measures are available when an algorithmic decision is contested by an affected party?" Third, institutions that rely heavily upon AI-driven solutions, especially those institutions that protect fundamental human goods such as education and health, need to develop institutional structures and incentives that ensure that fundamental human values central to the mission of the institutions are not lost or sacrificed to the rule of algorithmic "efficiency" and its opaque authority. Human judgment must remain in the loop in such a way that the ethics of human intellect, the virtues of moral wisdom, and an ethos of personal responsibility are preserved and given ample opportunities to be practiced and honored. Artificial intelligence can even be enlisted in this effort as artificial helpers and tutors that encourage and support the ongoing cultivation and refinement of human intelligence, rather than demoting or degrade it to a lesser status. Artificial intelligence is already one of humanity's sharpest tools. But like any very sharp tool we have crafted for ourselves, it must be treated with care and discernment. We must know where and when it is safe to use, and where and when it is not. We must know with whom to entrust its use, and with whom to not. We must know how to keep its power from injuring or enslaving ourselves, or those we love. And we must know that the tool and its power is always the responsibility of the one who trusts it.
Red Army Street in Minsk. Stalinist architecture, yes—but nearby are Neo-Romanesque and baroque churches. Stability? In spades. They've had the same autocrat for president since 1994.

Observing elections near and far.

Our tale: God Bless America, hell freezes over, and prayers for the dead.

BY STEVEN BOYD SAUM

A confession: I have never had much sympathy for those who don’t vote, so long as their names are on the rolls and it’s just a matter of showing up on Election Day or getting that ballot in the mail. But last September I was in Belarus to observe the country’s parliamentary elections. Belarus has justifiably earned a reputation as Europe’s last dictatorship: The same president, Alexander Lukashenka, has ruled since 1994. For a decade there was no member of the opposition in parliament; it has been more than 20 years since any election there was judged free and fair by the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE). So in Belarus, if you said, “My vote won’t make a difference,” that means something—even if the last box listed on every ballot is one you can mark “against all.”

More important, for the fall 2016 parliamentary elections, at least 50 percent of voters had to turn out in order for the election to be valid. So not voting could actually be a way to throw a wrench into the system.

I’ve observed elections for more than a decade in the former Soviet Union with the OSCE—the organization that has set the gold standard for election observation. In the days before the September election in Belarus, I worked with OSCE colleagues to visit polling stations to observe early voting, to talk with election commissioners about how the work was going, and to discuss with local independent observers the problems they had seen. On Friday night, I also got together for a beer with a couple musicians.

Aleksey plays bass and Siarhei plays percussion with Port Mone Trio. Call their work experimental: accordion carries the melody, and it’s Belarusian roots music meets jazz and ambient sound. Call their songs mesmerizing and haunting and beautiful: Their 2014 album, Thou, was recorded live in a forest, “an appeal to the natural, pure, primordial aspects of the human soul that exist beyond social norms and regulation,” as they put it in the liner notes.

I was running a little late for our rendezvous on the steps of Freedom Square, just outside the Burger King. While he was waiting, Aleksey tried one of their burgers for the first time. He hoped that I wouldn’t be offended, but he confessed that he was unimpressed by this American fare. He also confessed, later, over a ruby-colored beer in a local pub that, until he had received the email from me saying I...
would be in Minsk for the elections, he had forgotten about the elections. I found that amusing; ubiquitous billboards promoted the elections and scores of individual candidates. Perhaps all this just became more noise propaganda in a land run by the former manager of a Soviet state farm.

A friend of Siarhei’s joined us for the second round. An editor for an online magazine, she was well aware of the elections—but would they mean anything? And would anyone beyond the borders of Belarus care what happened in this land of 9 million people—a population a little less than the state of Michigan? Fair questions. After all, in the run-up to the elections, the story about Belarus that got the most coverage in the U.S. press was the fact that Steven Seagal—one-time action movie star turned friend to post-Soviet autocrats—had visited Belarus to meet with President Lukashenka. A picture of the two of them on Lukashenka’s farm showed him admiring the president’s produce, Seagal munching on an enormous orange carrot.

It was an arc back to the absurd. More serious was the news from fall 2015, when Belarusian writer Svetlana Alexievich was awarded the Nobel Prize in literature for her “polyphonic writings, a monument to suffering and courage in our time,” as the Nobel committee put it. A journalist by training, Alexievich has gathered stories from hundreds of people over decades and woven these oral histories into chronicles of the war in Afghanistan, the Chernobyl disaster, the collapse of the Soviet Union. Lukashenka criticized her for throwing “a bucket of dirt” on Belarus. Perhaps all this just became more noise propaganda in a land run by the former manager of a Soviet state farm.

A time full of hope has been replaced by a time of fear. The era has turned around and headed back in time.”

RESIGNATION

Election Day was September 11 in Belarus—a Sunday. Anyone with a cellphone using a local provider got a text message reminding them to vote. For days, observers had heard concerns expressed over inflation of voter tallies during early voting. After all, if you’re going to lie about the number of votes that a candidate receives, you can’t have the number of votes exceed the number of people who supposedly voted. There were occasional reports of ballot box stuffing—a stack of 40 or so ballots folded together, visible in the transparent ballot box.

Sunday afternoon at a polling station in Minsk I witnessed a direct action. A member of the precinct electoral commission resigned in protest, accusing the chair and the rest of the commission of falsifying the numbers of early voters. The woman who resigned was part of the opposition; one of the concessions to democracy made during this round of elections was that a handful of members of the opposition were actually allowed on the electoral commissions. Previous commissions had typically been composed of a range of pro-government people. It’s easier to get the results you want in an election when everyone is working together.

The independent press was alerted, cameras caught the moment. The chair of the precinct commission shouted for the police to clear out the media. A policeman sauntered in, sized things up, then left; the journalists weren’t breaking the law. A few years ago, that might not have mattered. But this election was supposed to be different.

When it came to counting, though, perhaps things were not so different. Too often, the process was mere ritual than rigor: ballots dumped onto the table, then various election workers grabbing for all the papers that supposedly were marked for their candidate. There was no attempt to examine the ballots collectively, no double-checking, no showing the ballots to observers, no verbal announcement of the figures being entered into a computer: just a secretary silently writing down tallies that were announced at the end.

As a matter of principle, the OSCE works under the presumption that it has no stake in the outcome of an election. It only cares about the process: Is the election free and fair? Official results put turnout at 75 percent. Independent observers estimated far less—some closer to 20 percent. Based on that, one opinion piece assessed: In this election, the real winners were Boycott and Against All. Yet when votes were counted, out of 110 members of parliament, two members of the opposition were selected. Protests occurred the day after the election, but there was no violent crackdown, no police descending with truncheons on the square, hauling people away by the handful. Reasons for hope?

The economy of Belarus needs help. The economy of longtime supporter Russia is struggling under sanctions (AKA “Crimea”) and low oil prices. So Belarus has sought more investment from China and better relations with the European Union and the United States. Improving U.S.-Belarus relations isn’t hard in one respect: until recently, they have been terrible. Belarus kicked out the U.S. ambassador eight years ago and still doesn’t have one. But Belarus is not North Korea. And many people in Belarus are wary of Russian intentions; look what happened to Ukraine.

BAD MATH, BASEBALL, AND BERLIN

A week after the elections in Belarus, Russia held its parliamentary elections. In the September 18 vote, Putin’s United Russia party trounced all comers. Closed-circuit cameras caught commission members stuffing ballot boxes in multiple precincts; those videos quickly popped up on YouTube. Where fraud was too blatant to ignore, the results were invalidated; a few days after the election, nine precincts had their results invalidated—including a couple where the number of ballots in the boxes exceeded the number given out to voters. Oops.

Along with the results of the voting, this election was important to Putin because of what would follow—or rather, what would not follow. There would be no repeat allowed of the 2012 protests on the heels of parliamentary elections, when tens of thousands of protesters took to the streets declaring “Putin is a thief!” In 2016, voter turnout was down significantly. But that’s not to say that Putin enjoys support across swaths of the country—just as Lukashenka has real support in Belarus. Though you have to qualify that support as being accompanied by—
warped by—state-controlled media, and the fact that these are countries where dissidents and journalists are threatened, beaten, or arrested, assassinated. The politics of truth gets along best with regime-friendly media.

More, Svetlana Alexievich offers some insight: “In the West, people demonize Putin. They do not understand that there is a collective Putin, consisting of some millions of people who do not want to be humiliated by the West. There is a little piece of Putin in everyone.”

As for me, I wasn’t in Russia for the elections. I was at the G8 Summit everything on San Francisco Bay while our boys in black and orange depthwalked through a Latino-Greenapple. At the seventh-inning stretch, we sang “Take Me Out to the Ball Game” and then, as we have since the terrorist attacks in 2001, “God Bless America.”

After the Giants, after that baseball fan's defeat that woke up—enough to win the wild card and give the Cubs a run in their plays for the playoffs. I heard her by way of full disclosure that I was born and bred in Chi­cago, and the geography of my youth has shaped my attitudes toward both elections and baseball: the elder son of a rock-ribbed Republican who took his boy to his first game at Wrigley at age 5, who set me on a path to believe that there could be a measure of truth to the notion that war isn’t what it used to be. He placed a stone and he said a prayer for the dead.

The Preliminary Assessment

You’ve seen numerous recaps of the U.S. election—but per­haps not what the OSCE had to say. From a nonpartisan, international perspective, the OSCE has an interest in process, not outcome, a fewverbatim:

Recent legal changes and decisions on technical aspects of the Voting Rights Act. With heightened concerns about voter registration and electronic voting, the OSCE decided a serious contingency in 2016 was needed. On October 31, Day 1 in America, I headed pre­cisely, in turn, were brutal.

Work on the Friday before the election in 2016 took us near the village of Khatyn—a memorial of cruelty and sor­row. In March 1943, after a partisan attack on German soldiers nearby, 85 troops rounded up all 110 villagers—including women and children—in a barn and set it on fire. Soldiers machine-gunned anyone who tried to escape. Then they bulldozed the village to the ground. Khatyn lies in an idyllic glen, and in the fading September sun, golden in the evening, we found ourselves in a land without houses. There are no houses in Khatyn now. There are stone chimneys as symbols of that which did not burn; each bears a plaque inscribed with the names of the family members of a household, and each chimney holds a bell. Every 30 seconds, the bells chime—sharp, brassy, not quite in unison—a solemn polka for 4,000 victims.

Khatyn is not alone in what it suffered. Hundreds of such villages were destroyed. But to make a pil­grimage to Khatyn is to look into the dark recesses of our collective soul. We, as a species, are capable of this.

A week after the election, Belarus was back in the news. Putin had made him a Russian citizen. The day after that, observers for the largest ever OSCE mission for a U.S. election on our shores: nearly 300 short-term observers from member states, working under the auspices of the OSCE. For the first time, Russian media was disin­chantment in the air; Gorshkov spoke of in­creasing backlash he saw against globalization. In a Q&A, I asked: What do you say to the people here in Central and Eastern Europe who feel they were misled—that democracy and a free market hasn’t delivered what was promised? Thatcher chimed in first. “Cheer up!” she said. More fol­lowed—but not enough of the stuff that would stir the heart and restore those faith in democracy.

In Russia, these were Boris Yeltsin’s final days as leader. On New Year’s Eve 1999, he resigned, saying some things that hadn’t gone as he had hoped, and he handed over reins to his chosen successor, Vladimir Putin.

He found a shard of broken tombstone that had belonged to his great-grandfather. He placed a stone and he said a prayer for the dead.
In the pocket of Tom Bonfigli ’75 are 18 prayer cards. They are tattered, yellowing, frayed at the edges. He reads from the cards—or rather recites their prayers, no reading necessary—every day. The words are memorized, called upon as needed.

“I always went to Mass, but not daily,” Bonfigli says, referencing his six weekly visits to 6 a.m. Mass. On Sundays, he allows himself to sleep in and attend the 7 a.m. service. “With alcoholism, you are never cured. If you are going to be able to function, you need a higher power.”

Bonfigli is precise, a numbers guy. He coaches basketball and remembers every game and every date. Last year, the number 12 became important. His 752 career wins at Cardinal Newman High School put him in the top 12 for wins among high school boys basketball coaches in California. A few more numbers: 13 North Bay League championships in 23 years at Cardinal Newman, 21 wins per season in 35 years.

Of all of the dates, figures, and stats, one day plays an outsized role: March 10, 1995. The day Bonfigli drank and drove himself straight into Sonoma County Jail, arrested for DUI. A longtime party guy, Bonfigli hit his proverbial rock bottom and looked to the Church for guidance. He prayed to the Blessed Mother: If she helped him quit alcohol, he would help her children. Teach them. Coach them. Be faithful. Bonfigli says he heard an answer and kept his pledge. He has not had a drink in 22 years.

Bonfigli doesn’t shy away from talking about his struggle, saying it’s a way of teaching. In fact, his students have been part of his strength. The rosary he carries with his prayer cards was a gift from a student.

Darryl Vice, Cardinal Newman junior varsity basketball coach, was one of those students: a starting guard from 1983 to 1985. That was in the thick of Bonfigli’s troubles. Even as a player, he heard stories about his coach.

“With high school kids, it’s really tough to pull the wool over their eyes,” Vice says. “When I was playing, it never got in the way of what he was trying to do.”

Bonfigli described himself as a functional alcoholic at the time. “But functioning isn’t enough.”

“Where I was drinking, I was not the person I wanted to be around my kids all of the time,” he says. “Now, 95 percent of the time, I am the person I want to be around them.”

OLD SCHOOL HOOPS

For Bonfigli, teaching basketball means mastering the basics. It’s been the same for decades. You play against Cardinal Newman and you’re going to reckon with a stifling defense and constant motion on offense. Old school? That’s fine by him.

“It’s the bounce pass, it’s the way you stand, it’s the way you close out, it’s the way you box out,” says longtime assistant and brother, Jerry Bonfigli. “If the ball is loose and you’re not diving on the floor, then we’re doing some laps.”

Colleagues say no one spends more time in preparation than Bonfigli. But Bonfigli says his focus is teaching kids to do the right thing. If he does that, the wins will come, and they have. Cardinal Newman has twice vied for the state championship under Bonfigli and had just three losing seasons ever.

His responsibilities have evolved over the years. He has become more than just a basketball coach or teacher, which makes it more meaningful.

“You are a psychologist, sociologist, you are a troubleshooter,” Bonfigli says. “In some cases, you are the most important person in their life.”

Bonfigli has counseled and served as sponsor for former players and colleagues, including Vice. Eight years ago, Vice’s wife reached out to Bonfigli, and the coach helped his former player become sober.

“He was a father figure when I was a kid, but now it’s more like a big brother,” Vice says. “He’s been through some of the same things.”

Sobriety has led Bonfigli to wear his spirituality on his sleeve. He says a prayer with students before class. His teams go to chapel before, and say a prayer after, every game.

“At Catholic school you don’t have to be Catholic, but you need to be a better person,” he says.

Bonfigli will keep coaching and teaching as long as he has the will. When he retires, he will continue mentoring to remain true to his promise. “I am imperfect, but I’m closer to what I want to be. I’ve committed the last half of my life not to happiness but to serenity. I have suffered through some heartache and made some really bad mistakes, but this is a catharsis—like walking through fire.”

KERRY BENEFIELD writes for the Santa Rosa Press Democrat.
Haunted

As soon as he laid eyes on the eerie insides of the Winchester Mystery House, Brett Tomberlin ’03 knew he had discovered the foundation of a great movie. But back in 2006, even he might not have had the power to guess he would convince one of the world’s most acclaimed actors to make it with him.

That’s exactly what happened. In May, Tomberlin, one of two producers for Winchester, was on location for the final shots of the supernatural thriller starring none other than the Queen herself—Helen Mirren.

In 2006. With time to kill before the show, the pair took a last-minute fill-in for SCU’s Golden Circle Theatre Party. Tomberlin’s role as chief wrangler, cheerleader, and check writer for the $14 million project during its decade-long gestation has very Santa Clara-centric beginnings. After college, he used alumni connections, and alums, to get the project through myriad hoops and false starts. Following Tomberlin’s role as chief wrangler, cheerleader, and check writer for the $14 million project during its decade-long gestation has very Santa Clara-centric beginnings. After college, he used alumni connections, and alums, to get the project through myriad hoops and false starts. Following Tomberlin’s role as chief wrangler, cheerleader, and check writer for the $14 million project during its decade-long gestation has very Santa Clara-centric beginnings.

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To appease the ghosts, she oversaw a campaign of ceaseless construction. By the time she died in 1922, the house had been under night-and-day building for 38 years, and Winchester, a virtual shut-in, had become the kind of enigma that Mirren finds totally intriguing.

“It’s very similar to playing the queen,” Mirren said on the last day of shooting. “There’s so much to learn about her and yet at the same time the very center of all the knowledge is this character of utter mystery.”

Mirren doesn’t believe in the supernatural, but she can empathize with Sarah Winchester. “I do believe in the power of belief,” Mirren said. “I think human beings are driven, really, by their imaginations above all, and the power of that is endless.”

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Look familiar? Only one photo of Sarah Winchester exists, with the facades to the right of the fortress looking fake from a distance. Here, Helen Mirren emerges the same during filming of the motion picture Winchester.

Up until publication of the first volume of Don Quixote, Cervantes’ life was dominated by failure. He did not receive much of a formal education. As a soldier in the Battle of Lepanto (1571), he is wounded in the right hand and loses the use of it for the rest of his life, after the battle, on his way back to Spain, Cervantes is kidnapped by Algerian pirates, and it takes five years for him to be ransomed back home. Back home in Madrid, Cervantes attempts to become a playwright and fails. He resists in the army, becomes a tax collector, and is jailed for embezzlement. He goes bankrupt, is excommunicated, and finds himself in debtor’s prison, where he begins Don Quixote. The novel is praised, and Cervantes makes little money from it. A second volume is written by someone else, Fernández de Avellaneda, in 1614, to capitalize on the original’s popularity.

Bulgakov’s career was also marked by failure. Although he began his literary life as a successful playwright and novelist, he quickly ran afoul of the Soviet censors and Stalin. His plays were either pulled quickly from the stage or not produced. Bulgakov and his work represent the individual—particularly, the creative artist—struggling against but stymied and silenced by social, political, and historical forces. The Master and Margarita is an amazing story—a fantasy really—about the creative artist’s ability to challenge and triumph over an oppressive world. Conversely, Bulgakov’s adaptation of Don Quixote is, in part, about the creative artist coming to terms with his limited power to change and overcome systemic oppression. It is Bulgakov’s own song. Bulgakov and his work—that’s the story of the underdog, successful or not, to which everyone is attracted. It is a story that is as true for Ukraine’s current struggle with Russia as it was for the abuses of Stalinist Russia.

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Muzhik of La Mancha. Why would the Kyiv-born author of The Master and Margarita take on Don Quixote? Scholars Scott Pollard ’81 and Margarita Marinova set out to answer that, translating and explicating Mikhail Bulgakov’s version of the play Don Quixote. By the 1930s, nothing Bulgakov wrote could be published or staged in Stalin’s Soviet Union. Yet he saw himself as a playwright.
BANNAN AWARD. Call the Spec­chiola house Santa Clara: East. From­from­from­from­from­from­from­from­from­from­from­from­from­from­from­from­from­from­from­from­from­from­from­from­from­from­from­from­from­from­from­from­from­from­from­from­from­from­from­from­from­from­from­from­from­from­from­from­from­from­from­from­from­from­from­from­from­from­from­from­from­from­from­from­from­from­from­from­from­from­from­from­from­from­from­from­from­from­from­from­from­from­from­from­from­from­from­from­from­from­from­from­from­from­from­from­from­from­from­from­from­from­from­from­from­from­from­from­from­from­from­from­from­from­from­from­from­from­from­from­from­from­from­from­from­from­from­from­from­from­from­from­from­from­from­from­from­from­from­from­from­from­from­from­from­from­from­from­from­from­from­from­from­from­from­from­from­from­from­from­from­from­from­from­from­from­from­from­from­from­from­from­from­from­from­from­from­from­from­from­from­from­from­from­from­from­from­from­from­from­from­from­from­from­from­from­from­from­from­from­from­from­from­from­from­from­from­from­from­from­from­from­from­from­from­from­from­from­from­from­from­from­from­from­from­from­from­from­from­from­from­from­from­from­from­from­from­from­from­from­from­from­from­from­from­from­from­from­from­from­from­from­from­from­from­from­from­from­from­from­from­from­from­from­from­from­from­from­from­from­from­from­from­from­from­from­from­from­from­from­from­from­from­from­from­from­from­from­from­from­from­from­from­from­from­from­from­from­from­from­from­from­from­from­from­from­from­from­from­from­from­from­from­from­from­from­from­from­from­from­from­from­from­from­from­from­from­from­from­from­from­from­from­from­from­from­from­from­from­from­from­from­from­from­from­from­from­from­from­from­from­from­from­from­from­from­from­from­from­from­from­from­from­from­from­from­from­from­from­from­from­from­from­from­from­from­from­from­from­from­from­from­from­from­from­from­from­from­from­from­from­from­from­from­from­from­from­from­from­from­from­from­from­from­from­from­from­from­from­from­from­from­from­from­from­from­from­from­from­from­from­from­from­from­from­from­from­from­from­from­from­from­from­from­from­from­from­from­from­from­from­from­from­from­from­from­from­from­from­from­from­from­from­from­from­from­from­from­from­from­from­from­from­from­from­from­from­from­from­from­from­from­from­from­from­from­from­from­from­from­from­from­from­from­from­from­from­from­from­from­from­from­from­from­from­from­from­from­from­from­from­from­from­from­from­from­from­from­from­from­from­from­from­from­from­from­from­from­from­from­from­from­from­from­from­from­from­from­from­from­from­from­from­from­from­from­from­from­from­from­from­from­from­from­from­from­from­from­from­from­from­from­from­from­from­from­from­from­from­from­from­from­from­from­from­from­from­from­from­from­from­from­from­from­from­from­from­from­from­from­from­from­from­from­from­from­from­from­from­from­from­from­from­from­from­from­from­from­from­from­from­from­from­from­from­from­from­from­from­from­from­from­from­from­from­from­from­from­from­from­from­from­from­from­from­from­from­from­from­from­from­from­from­from­from­from­from­from­from­from­from­from­from­from­from­from­from­from­from­from­from­from­from­from­from­from­from­from­from­from­from­from­from­from­from­from­from­from­from­from­from­from­from­from­from­from­from­from¬
It’s not the Holy Spirit

It’s not the Holy Spirit
letting up out of an oil-slicked puddle
between the tracks on 9th Ave,
that feathered blur flashing
toward the N-Judah’s windshield.
It’s only a rock dove, tail fan
splattered, pewter wings spread wide, reversing direction mid-air.
But tell me, what better prayer
than this? The near miss, the heart
shocked awake, that bird rising
over sooted buildings, gated doors.

—Cheryl Dumesnil ’91

FROM THE COLLECTION Showtime at the Ministry of Lost Causes (University of Pittsburgh Press), Dumesnil’s most recent book. Her other works: the collection In Praise of Pulling and the edited anthology Dorothy Parker’s Album: Tat­tos on Writers, Writers on Tat-tos. We’ve delighted this English major come home to SCU in spring 2018 to give a reading in SCU’s creative writing series.

UNEASY READING

CURATING THROUGHOUT her 30 years as a teacher she met a prostitute named Gloria.
It was a Sunday. Trenshaw, then a graduate student at SCU’s Jesuit School of Theology in Berkeley, wanted to do as Jesus did: wash the feet of friends. Gloria had been worn down by life; her feet were deformed, fungus under her toenails.
The encounter is part of Meeting in the Margins: An Invitation to Encounter Theology in Berkeley, wanted to do as Jesus did: wash the feet of friends. Gloria was a bright kid and accustomed to speaking with adults. That doesn’t always fly in middle school; “I wanted it to be known as—not equal—but have everyone respected for their opinions and where they’re coming from,” she says.
This is where perception changes reality—talking back to teachers in middle school often brings punishment: detention at first, maybe suspension. From a student is missing classes, falling behind.
But for Leah, teachers at St. Andrew met her where she was. “I built these relationships so teachers understood what I needed,” Sparkman says, “I learned when to be outspoken and who to be outspoken toward.”

Make no mistake: St. Andrew is built on a challenging program. Classes run 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. with up to two hours of study hall—a long day, but it gives students every chance to succeed. Study halls ensure that students get help from teachers so they finish homework. A full-time counselor sets up in-home visits to understand challenges facing families. Like this: 53 percent of St. Andrew students come from non-English speaking homes. Most are first-generation immigrants. St. Andrew helps with high school placement, FAFSA, immigration education, employment after college. “We play the role of a parent who’s been to college,” Busic says. They’ve even helped kids get braces and paid heating bills.
On average, students at St. Andrew jump five grade levels in three years. Each student also is guaranteed a free private education in high school and continued counseling. “It’s a family in every way,” Sparkman affirms.
She is set to graduate from St. Michael’s University School in British Columbia, the family’s USC on full scholarship, already vying law school. She wants to study law, learn more about religions, and get involved in social justice, too.
“Leah is so comfortable in her own skin,” Busic says. “She’ll find ways to be a leader.”

RULE MAKER

Now the foremost authority on the sideline of the National Football League, Mike Pereira ’72 came to SCU as a scholarship athlete in baseball and basketball. It wasn’t until his junior year that his football career started as a youth official, working tripleheaders in East Palo Alto for beer money. Pereira details the transition from field athlete and cancer survivor to the country’s most prominent referee in After Further Review: My Life Including the Infamous, Controversial, and Unforgettable Calls That Changed the NFL (Triumph Books).
After changing 78 rules in his nine years as director of officiating for the NFL, Pereira pioneered the job of rules expert in broadcasting, explaining the rulebook and officials’ calls during nationally televised games for Fox Sports. Pereira’s interests have lately turned from on-field justice to social justice. The Sacramento resident formed Battleground to Ballfields, which offers financial assistance, training, and job opportunities for service members and women who want to become officials. Pereira thinks veterans have the requisite leadership, concentration, discipline, and fearlessness under pressure to make good referees.

REVOLUTION! In Women Heroes of the American Revolution: 20 Stories of Espionage, Sabotage, Defiance, and Resistance, Susan Casey ‘66 tells the sto­ries of spies, nurses, resistors, rescuers, and soldiers—remarkable revolutionaries whose legacies and influences were all but erased from history textbooks. This volume for young adults draws on women’s experiences to deliver exciting stories.

There’s no question in your mind what it means to be with someone “untouchable.” She has 20 years’ experience as a healer and theologian and serves as a guardian ad litem (helping mentally incompetent per­sons) for the Superior Courts of several counties. Trenshaw details her work with society’s outcasts, from an AIDS victim in hospice to the homeless in San Francisco’s infamous Tenderloin district, where she combines massage therapy with sacrament. She brings humanity to lifestyles often overlooked or demonized.

A Leg Up. What happens when you offer a free Jesuit education to kids of limited means? Or open a network of contacts and resources to first-generation students? One single middle school can’t change the world—or even transform Portland, Oregon. But President Carolyn Becic ’87—and with a crew of Broncos on her staff—is opening doors for young people at St. Andrew Nativity.

Here’s what compassion can do to the educational arc of a 12-year-old. As Leah Sparkman ’23 puts it, she was a pretty outspoken sixth grader. Her teachers would say outspoken is putting it mildly. Sparkman was a bright kid and accustomed to speaking with adults. That doesn’t always fly in middle school; “I wanted it to be known— not equal—but have everyone respected for their opinions and where they’re coming from,” she says.
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“Leah is so comfortable in her own skin,” Busic says. “She’ll find ways to be a leader.”
Celebrated their 25th wedding anniversary on Feb. 16 with a renewal of vows at the Mission Church—where it all started!

### 1972 REUNION YEAR

**Elections**

- **John Joseph** (Carlos) De Maria M.A. ’71 received the School of Engineering’s highest honor, the Distinguished Engineering Alumni Award. De Maria is a research fellow at the U.S. Department of Energy’s National Energy Research Scientific Laboratory (NERL). With a career spanning more than 25 years, he has been instrumental in furthering renewable energy research and advancement around the world. Y. Charlie Bassman was appointed interim chief zoning administrator for the City of Danville in Los Angeles. Bassman has worked for the city for the past 40 years and is still here!

### 1973 REUNION YEAR

- **Josep Ramonnes M.B.A. ’83** is a trial attorney at Omnia and has practiced in employment discrimination, harassment, retaliation, and employment-based visa cases for more than 20 years. He now specializes in employment discrimination, harassment, retaliation, and employment-based visa cases.
- **Rolanda Pierre Dixon J.D. ’83** was appointed and is filming on location in Pittsburgh. For her impact on the Software, and Additive Manufacturing” as part of the Santa Clara employee family!

### 1978 REUNION YEAR

- **Donna Marie** (Scott) Hargrove J.D. ’78 retired from her position as director of communications and editor of the Santa Clara Employee magazine.
- **Gary Winterhalter** is a parish dedicated to social justice and service, representing the 16th District, a Republican who has been reappointed to the Board of Visitors for Valley. Through her consulting firm, she works as an external re-
- **Rachel Raskin** (Resource Publications). This is his 32nd book and was appointed and is filming on location in Pittsburgh. ¶ jury attorney representing the parents of the victims in the tragic Ghost Ship fire in Oakland, California. In December. Over the past 30 years, Alexander has served as a director of communications and editor of the Santa Clara Employee magazine.

### 1979 REUNION YEAR

- **Jesper Rasmussen** (Resource Publications). This is his 32nd book and was appointed and is filming on location in Pittsburgh. ¶ jury attorney representing the parents of the victims in the tragic Ghost Ship fire in Oakland, California. In December. Over the past 30 years, Alexander has served as a director of communications and editor of the Santa Clara Employee magazine.

### 1980 REUNION YEAR

- **Keith Rausch** has worked for the city for the past 40 years and is still here!
- **Peter Coe Verbica J.D. ’99** has been named a 2015 Elite American Lawyer. He worked for his signature favorite treats.

### 1981 REUNION YEAR

- **Darby Winterhalter** (Resource Publications). This is his 32nd book and was appointed and is filming on location in Pittsburgh. ¶ jury attorney representing the parents of the victims in the tragic Ghost Ship fire in Oakland, California. In December. Over the past 30 years, Alexander has served as a director of communications and editor of the Santa Clara Employee magazine.

### 1982 REUNION YEAR

- **Mary Alexander** (Resource Publications). This is his 32nd book and was appointed and is filming on location in Pittsburgh. ¶ jury attorney representing the parents of the victims in the tragic Ghost Ship fire in Oakland, California. In December. Over the past 30 years, Alexander has served as a director of communications and editor of the Santa Clara Employee magazine.

### 1983 REUNION YEAR

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While Chris was studying abroad at Casa de la Solidaridad in El Salvador, Clare joined music ministry and began playing piano to accompany the liturgies. Upon his return, both kept seeing the other and wondering, “Who’s this other person at the piano bench?” It didn’t take long for a romance to blossom.

In 2016, Vanessa (Garcia) Zakes ’05 married Kevin Zakes at Cathedral of the Blessed Sacrament in Sacramento, California, in a New Year’s Eve celebration. Maren Lovgren ’06 married Marcus Moreno ’07 on Dec. 5, 2016, at the Saratoga Football Club in Saratoga, California. John Sahine ’07 officiated, and the ceremony included over a dozen fellow alumni and several dozen donors.

Stig (“Patrick”) Mowrer ’06 married Elizabeth “Brette” Allen on Feb. 17 at the Manhattan Marriage Bureau, Bette, 52, helps manage advertising for luxury fashion brands at Google in Manhattan. Patrick, 33, oversees the development of apps at Upstart, a company that helps with moving tasks.

The couple met in 2013 at a mutual friend's party in Brooklyn.

Amanda Martin Bates ’08 married Daniel Bates on June 4, 2016, at Mission San Clara, surrounded by their family and friends. Alumni in attendance included Alison Walczewski ’06, Grant Cushing ’06, Kiley Nosé ’06, Torrey Bowles Reynolds ’08, Hannah McCarty Croswald ’08, Andrew Shepard ’03, Julianne Haas Garnett ’00, Dave Garnett ’08, Lisa Fialkoff Haas ’01 and Kade “Willie” Tremor. The couple met at MIT in 2003 at a mutual friends party in Brooklyn.


In addition to serving as director of professional development programs at SCU, Chris works at Clay Parthus as a music coordinator and is completing his master’s in theology at the San Francisco Theological College. Chris is finishing up her doctoral in mechanical engineering at UC Berkeley and regularly visits local schools to help empower young women to become scientists.

This summer, the couple is heading to Peru for their honeymoon, with plans to visit the special towns and peoples Chris met on a previous trip researching the rural liturgical music plays in the Indo-Maronite community for justice, and in celebrations of faith.

“I hope to continue to learn from the communities I visit and reframe how we provide liturgical music in America.”

For Chris’s procession, Chris wrote parts for the brass—complementing, incorporating strings, trumpet, flute, piano, cello, and oboe.

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### Lives Joined

**Bianca Placencia** ’06 married Christian Wilkens on Sept. 17, 2016, in Carmel, California. Alumni in attendance included Jose Placencia MBA ’79 and friends Julia (De Bry) Taborzyk ’01, Tara (Cano) Skipper ’01, Jamie (Cottrell) Perk- ins 01. The couple lives in Santa Clara, where Christian works as an engineer and Bianca as a director of operations.

**Melissa (Skel) Kennedy ’05** married Joshua Kennedy Oct. 6, 2015, at Villano Country Club in Chino Hills, California. The two met in 2013 at The Walt Disney Company, where they both still work today.

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**Natalie Lamon ’09** married Michael Agular on Aug. 10, 2016. The couple met in Swig Hall their first year. Natalie is a pediatric nurse and Mike is a mechanical engineer. They live in Portland, Oregon.

On May 21, 2016, Brittany Conley ’10 and Stephen Archer ’09 were married at a vintage B&B in Northern California surrounded by loved ones, including many SCU alumni.

On Sept. 24, 2016, Cassandra Anne Il- dieh ’10 married Shamin Michael Bond in a traditional Serbian Orthodox ceremony at the home of the bride’s parents, in the wine and gold country of Northern California. The couple enjoyed a month-long African honeymoon on safari in Ethiopia, sailing around Seychelles islands, and touring Morocco.

### Births & Adoptions

**Jos Manatt ’02 and Alexandra Manatt welcomed their first, Theodore “Teddy” Richard Manatt, on Feb. 11, 2017. The family now resides in De Moines, Iowa.**

**Stacy (Hartman) Greenwood ’04 and husband Sean welcomed son Grant Joseph on July 7, 2016. They tied their bows and Cohen. The Green- wood family resides in San Jose, California.**

**Matt Tuttle ’05 and Kay (Shom) Tuttle ’05 welcomed their third child, William Gary Tuttle, on Jan. 6, 2017. The happy couple, plus daughter Emily and son Jack, are overjoyed and thrilled to welcome “Sweet William” into their family. The family resides in Willow Glen, California.**

**Brett Hatchell ’05 and Breanne Hatchell ’05 welcomed their fourth child, Josephine Rose Hatchell, on Dec. 21, 2016. The Hatchell family now resides in Roseville, CA.**

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**SANTA CLARA UNIVERSITY CLASS NOTES**
of global marketing and strategy at CA Technologies. Reichvardan presented at Gartner Symposium 2010 and wrote several articles, publications, and the book "Dynamic Growth" for Digital Leaders. In 2016, Silicon Valley Business Journal named her one of the top 10 most influential women in Silicon Valley, and she received the Most Powerful and Influential Women award from the National Diversity Council.

1999 Brian McQuaid J.D. is a shareholder at Manugil, Cox & Leydig. A native of Nova Scotia, he was appointed a commissioner for Parks streamed via Spotify and SoundCloud and won an NSF Graduate Research Fellowship. He lives in San Francisco with his wife, Farmers. He is a partner with Fenwick & West LLP and partner at Uy Law Group, where he is an employment litigation and compliance general partner of ¶ Technology, head and neck cancer patients during all stages of their treatment and monitoring.

2002 REUNION YEAR Michael Warren J.D. is a partner at Fenwick & West LLP. He leads the firm’s labor and employment litigation and compliance practice. Warren serves on the board of directors of the Santa Clara County Bench and Bar Historical Society.

2003 Chris Liebertz has a background in aviation engineering since moving to the Bay Area in 2001. He co-founded and was the operations manager of four years working for U.S. Representative Brian McQuaid. Liebertz has worked on Google’s medical engineering at the VA Central Iowa Health Care System in Des Moines, Iowa. He has been appointed a commissioner for Parks and Rec in the City of South San Francisco.

2007 TRINA SHEEY is a professor in the department of otolaryngology, head and neck surgery, at UCSF Medical Center in San Francisco. She is particularly interested in improving care for head and neck cancer patients during all stages of their treatment and monitoring.

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2008 Lauren Baines has been a member of Gracenote since 2006. She received her law degree from UC Hastings College of the Law in 2008, and focuses on representing high tech and life science companies in patent infringement matters, antitrust and business law.

2009 Kevan Carter is a partner at the law firm McManis, Flodin, Professor of Engineers Without Borders-USCA. He was appointed as the assistant editor for the Asian Pacific Islander Student Coalition for over 11 years and serves as the program director of the Warren Center for Employment, Education, and Training at the University of San Francisco. His work on the San Francisco Bay Area includes summarizing, analyzing, and synthesizing data, analyzing inventions, and engaging with institutions like the Lucas Arts Research Institute and Stanford University’s Pre-Collegiate Summer Institute.

2010 LINDA (WUSTOHN) GAHL J.D. is a senior corporate and intellectual property attorney working in Google’s Health Care Systems program in the state of Illinois. She is a shareholder at Fenwick & West LLP in San Francisco. She is a partner with Fenwick & West LLP and partner at Uy Law Group, where she is an employment litigation and compliance general partner of ¶ Technology, head and neck cancer patients during all stages of their treatment and monitoring.

2011 LAUREN BUTEN YO is a professional choreographer and dancer who presents her work throughout the Bay Area. She has performed in the music video of “I Can’t Make You Love Me” by Skyye, and was featured on YouTube. She is also an award-winning mixed martial artist and professional figure skater. She is currently pursuing her master’s degree in dance at UC Berkeley.

2013 NICHOLAS SUMMAY M.S. is chief of biomedical engineering at the VA Central Iowa Health Care System in Des Moines, Iowa. He has been appointed a commissioner for Parks and Rec in the City of South San Francisco.

2014 DANIEL KRANSTOER is an associate professor at the College of Arts and Sciences. Kranstoer spent the last four years working for U.S. Representative Brian McQuaid. He has worked on Google’s medical engineering at the VA Central Iowa Health Care System in Des Moines, Iowa. He has been appointed a commissioner for Parks and Rec in the City of South San Francisco.

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2016 CASEY KYSCHOOLA will be selecting the Ph.D. Interviewing program at the University of Washington, starting September 2017.

2016 A former furloughed Bay Area radio personality for her work in legal technology. With both microgrids expanding steadily, at least 20 people in Alafarou now live without power and can charge their phones. She is a partner with Fenwick & West LLP and partner at Uy Law Group, where she is an employment litigation and compliance general partner of ¶ Technology, head and neck cancer patients during all stages of their treatment and monitoring.

Two CAPS

2012 REUNION YEAR Grace Kinder Fleshman enters her fifth season at the San Francisco Giants baseball club. Grace received her law degree from UC Hastings College of the Law in 2008, and focuses on representing high tech and life science companies in patent infringement matters, antitrust and business law.

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2014 JAMES D. TORI is a partner with Fenwick & West LLP. He is a partner with Fenwick & West LLP and partner at Uy Law Group, where he is an employment litigation and compliance general partner of ¶ Technology, head and neck cancer patients during all stages of their treatment and monitoring.

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Obituaries

We publish news of the passing of Broncos we learn of. Find obituaries published in the last edition of magazine.scsu.edu/classmates. Family members may also submit obituaries and memories for publication online and in print.

1942 Gerald “Gerry” Graham passed away in Sonoma, California, on Jan. 20, 2017. A nephew of Charlie Graham ’48 (the namesake of Graham Hall) and cousin of Fran Smith ’43, ’66, he played two seasons on SCU’s varsity baseball team. After the death of his wife, Jane, he was introduced to Alene, his wife of 20 years. He is predeceased by his youngest son, Steven, and survived by his wife and children, including Jane Ann Graham ’78, 8 grand-children, and 16 great-grandchildren.

1950 Vincent A. DiTommaso, 66, was proud of the fact that he and his fellow Class of 1950 engineers held a class reunion every year—even for those serving in Korea in 1953. In 1964, Vince opened DiTommaso & Associates, an electrical engineering consulting firm in San Jose, California. He later became a principal with Dalian Engineers. In 2002, he received the Distinguished Engineering Alumni Award. He died peacefully in his sleep on Dec. 14, 2016. Son Joe DiTommaso said, “It’s because of the lessons learned and the education he received at Santa Clara that my father became the great man that he was.”

1951 Jack Robert Marasti ’51 died on Oct. 4, 2016. At 24, he started the Dodge/Chrysler/Plymouth family business, which he run for 35 years with his wife, Patricia. After years of marriage and Patricia’s passing, Jack became a substitute teacher; he taught until his passing at 87 years old. He is survived by his children, including Michael Marasti ’72 (his son Mark passed in death); grandchildren, including Richard L. Bianchi ’96, a large extended family; and their dear friend Lydia Lobdell.

1952 Claude John Boyd, Jr., passed away on Nov. 16, 2016. He worked as an engineer at Sperry, Lockheed, Fairchild Instrument, Dalmo Victor, and IBM, where he retired in 1996. He leaves behind his beloved wife, Evelyn, son Brian, daughter Corinne, and eight grandchildren.

1954 Leland Harris Murphy Jr. died peacefully on July 30, 2016. Following military service, he enjoyed a 35-year career at Boeing during which he negotiated the Trans-Arabian Pipeline project. Never to be forgotten is his evacuation by tramp steamer from Cuyo—along with the rest of the Trans-Arabian Pipeline negotiating team—during the Six-Day War. A longtime resident of Contra Costa County, Taylor expressed his passion for community by volunteering at the Contra Costa County Historical Society. He is survived by his wife, Anna, daughter Audrey, son Leland Jr., and four grandchildren.

1955 On Dec. 8, 2016, Anthony J. Escovor passed away exactly how he wanted—peacefully, surrounded by family in Hollister, California. The entrepreneur started a hydroponic greenhouse and sold tomatoes under the TP label, and he farmed walnuts and other crops. He grew zinfandel, syrah, and pinot noir grapes for surrounding wineries in Sonoma County. He died in death by son David F. Escovor ’83 and is survived by six children, including Cathy Warschauer ’81 and John Escovor ’90, 50, and 16 grandchildren.

1956 Martin O. “Pete” Murphy passed away peacefully on Feb. 14, 2017. Pete spent his legal career at the venerable San Francisco law firm of Tofte & Tofte. He also was involved in nonprofit law, representing many Catholic entities and charities, including the San Francisco Archdiocese. He loved his volunteer work for Catholic Charities, which he shared with Joanne, his wife of 25 years. He is survived by his wife, three sons, including Martin Murphy Jr., ’88 and John Murphy, ’90, and grandchildren.

1959 David H. Colby, M.S., ’67 took pride in living his early memories of living in San Leandro and stories from his Ninety years for children. He always asked his kids about the “three fluids of life”: car oil, financial liquidity, and “How’s your game?” His first contract was just $8,500. He never got a picture of it.” That’s because Sears watched with a smile. “All there was a’autograph, he never asked the player for one.” But by the time the cameras came, Ken Sears was already a star for the Warriors, he returned to Watsonville and will collect bikes and skates to give away to kids in Moxies home. He passed on who you ask. He also sold RVs, for Freedom, California, named Kenny & I or Sears and I or Kenny Sears and I, depending on that. He was unassuming, uninterested in championing his accolades, but there were plenty: two-time West Coast Player of the Year (once winning over Bill Russell), a third team All-American in 1955. He led SCU to the Elite Eight and Final Four in 1954, beating UCLA on the way. He was the first basketball player on the cover of Sports Illustrated, in 1954. As a result, he was called “Dr. Dave” and was given the nickname “The General” for hisGerry Graham ’42 by inducting him into the Knights of Malta, the world’s oldest surviving chivalric order.

NORBEO SIRIT The Catholic Church honored Gerry Graham ’42 by inducting him into the Knights of Malta, the world’s oldest surviving chivalric order.

Go Big, Go Home. Ken Sears’55 put Santa Clara in the Final Four and himself on the cover of Sports Illustrated—then shrugged. In an era when West Coast big men like Bill Russell, Lew Alcindor, and Wilt Chamberlain became icons, Sears had other plans. After six years as a Knickerbocker and two with the Warriors, he returned to Watsonville and became a different kind of legend.

BRONCO NEWS SANTA CLARA MAGAZINE SUMMER 2017
A Field of Dreams is what George Chiala ‘64 saw when he looked across an unoccupied 40-acre plot with row cover over row upon row of jalapeño pepper plants. Commuters racing by on 110 near Morgan Hill likely didn’t see the future he imagined there: a bell tower and ranks of classroom buildings in Mission Revival style. The school’s name: Saint John XXIII College Preparatory High School.

Chiala was no ordinary farmer. Innovation and entrepreneurial zeal were hallmarks of his life. He began with Bay’s most important community leaders and philanthropists. Morgan Hill named him Man of the Year in 2005 and gave him the city’s highest honor, in Leadership Excellence Award, in 2014.

Son of a pioneering Cupertino farm family, he worked summers at his father Vinny’s Mission Revival style farm in Morgan Hill. In 1962, George stepped by the local dragon fruit company in Morgan Hill and asked, “Can I grow that? It’s a young litigator, experienced in eminent domain and condemnation. Breakfast and taking the train to the restaurant was one of his favorite things flying.

Kevin McGuigan died at home Feb. 2, 2017. After about a decade working for Oregon, Kevin enrolled at Portland State to study winemaking. Upon graduation, he took a job as a sales rep for Ediford Winery, traveling the world and developing a reputation for “storing grapes from harvest to bottles with a personal, machoistic style all his own.” Kevin was also an avid vegetable gardener and grew his own food. He was survived by his wife, Betty “Judy” O’Conner ‘09.

Kevin McCarver was working as a teacher in Monterey, California, when she met and married John. John’s family owned a winery in a small, west-coast town. George and Betty met at a seminar, and George described him to their mutual friend, Sally Lynch Randall ‘91.

Kevin was born and raised in San Jose. He established a law practice and earned recognition and appointment for his work in family law and handling of many juvenile dependency cases—often pro bono. In 2001, he was honored by the SCU Alumni Association with the Ignatian Award for his service to others. He passed away Dec. 26, 2016. He is survived by his wife of 23 years, Adrienne Devitt.

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John is survived by his wife Donna and four daughters, Shannon, Shannon, Shannon, and Shannon. John is also survived by his older brother, Michael, and his younger brother, Joseph. John is survived by his second wife Donna and two sons, Jonathan and Michael.

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1983 A loving father and husband, Tim Husbands J.D. ’88, married his true love, Sara Burton, in 2014—just four months after he battle his cancer diagnosis. He enjoyed an illustrious legal career, the encouragement of his loving jewel being the formation of the Open Con- nectivity Foundation, the guiding standard body for the modern age of decentralized, peer-to-peer protocols, he was included in the Oregon Super Lawyers and Best Lawyers in America directories. Tim lived to 82 and was an All-American and U.S. Masters swimmer, competing in multiple English Channel relay swims.

1997 Family man Keith Richard Schierson passed away Dec. 31, 2015, from a glioblas- toma brain tumor. A lifelong music enthui- ast, he joined several punk rock bands at SCU and adopted the moniker “Reverend Keith” while working as a DJ and general manager for KRCU. During this time, Keith met his wife, Sarah, whom he married in 1997. They traveled the world, living in London, Boston, and Mexico City before settling on Vashon Island, Washington with real estate developer in Silicon Valley and met his wife, Sarah, whom he married cancer four years ago.

2017 When Devin Kelly was born, his family fell madly in love with him. Growing up, Devin adored the water and the Ventura, Jim was a lover of life and enjoyed traveling the world, living with his family often told him that he was named Devin—which means post in Gaelic—because he was the “world’s ed- moroedd post.”

Faculty, Staff, and Friends

Ramin Chacon, associate professor of ethnic studies, was a force of nature and a dou- ty of poets, journalists, logics, and gods. One of ten children born to farmworkers living in west Fresno, Chacon was an explosive performer in the classroom and fierce ad- vocate for students outside it. He dedicated his degrees in history and Spanish at Fresno State and a Ph.D. in history, specializing in modern Latin America, from Stanford. He taught at Humboldt State before coming to Santa Clara in 1992. He served as chair of ethnic studies three times. In the class- room, Chacon was a shockwave: his lectures a dance that challenged students to think.

faculty, staff, and friends

Devin Kelly’s older, he began exploring the outdoors and at surf camp earned the nickname “The Natural.” He also had a creative side, develop- ing a passion for drawing, playing guitar and being told he was an “artist.”

2018 On Feb. 21, Janis Jean Weill’s Gustavo France passed away after an 11-month bat- tle with cancer. A graduate of Greenwich High School, he was captain of the swim and water polo teams and a high school All-American swimmer and water polo- player. While pursuing degrees in econom- ics and political sciences, he was selected twice as an academic All-American from the SCU water polo team. A man of great humility and a quiet leader respected by his peers, Janis was a great friend to all who knew him. He is survived by his parents, brothers, grandparents, aunts, uncles, and cousins.

Larger Than Life only begins to describe Kevin Starr, arguably the greatest California author, period. He wrote the most comprehensive history of the place. He served as State Librarian of Cal- ifornia. We were blessed to have him teach here on the Mission campus. Santa Clara also honored him with a Doctor of Letters, honoris causa, in 1995. He was proud to be an honorary Bronco.
Best Academic Library in the World. That’s not hyperbole. SCU’s Harrington Learning Commons, Sobrato Technology Center, and Orradre Library earned the 2017 Excellence in Academic Libraries Award. Call it the Academy Award of libraries. Nobody is better at putting resources in the hands of students and faculty. Their philosophy: Reflect, engage, transform.

PERSONAL TOUCH

As humanities librarian, Leanna Goodwater has devoted four decades to her work. One new innovation she loves (and that helps win the library its award): A personal librarian program, launched in 2015. It invites transfer students, international students, LEAD Scholars, and select others to personally connect with library staff.

THE ORIGINAL

The first central library was housed on the second floor of the Adobe Lodge. The Main Library housed some 270 Mission era volumes. When access was limited to faculty, most of whom were Jesuits, the space was known as the Father’s Library—so student sub-collections formed around campus.

A gift from California rancher and University Regent Michel P. Orradre funded the construction of Orradre Library in 1964. A bonus: To make way for the library, the University razed a building that had once housed a tannery—and students said it still smelled awful.

Michel’s son, Michel J. Orradre ’60, continued the family’s legacy with a $2 million gift to support construction of a library for the 21st century in 2008.

Tucked away around the back corner of this photo is an unfinished “secret” fourth floor. As University Librarian Jennifer Nutefall tells it, the restricted level offers a prime view of campus and the Valley.

THE CRANES

The Automated Retrieval System (ARS) is a card catalog meets The Jetsons. Three large cranes (Hart, Ichabod, and Stephen), move up and down rows of metal bins, offering on-demand access to 800,000 books, journals, documents, and microfilm. From click to book takes less than five minutes.

VARSI LIBRARY

opened in 1931, was named after Aloysius Varsi S.J., the university’s sixth president. Four gorgeous wooden tables from Varsi now serve as reading tables in University Archives and Special Collections.

A gift from California rancher and University Regent Michel P. Orradre funded the construction of Orradre Library in 1964. A bonus: To make way for the library, the University razed a building that had once housed a tannery—and students said it still smelled awful. Michel’s son, Michel J. Orradre ’60, continued the family’s legacy with a $2 million gift to support construction of a library for the 21st century in 2008.

Tucked away around the back corner of this photo is an unfinished “secret” fourth floor. As University Librarian Jennifer Nutefall tells it, the restricted level offers a prime view of campus and the Valley.

THE CRANES

The Automated Retrieval System (ARS) is a card catalog meets The Jetsons. Three large cranes (Hart, Ichabod, and Stephen), move up and down rows of metal bins, offering on-demand access to 800,000 books, journals, documents, and microfilm. From click to book takes less than five minutes.

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