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In the wake of trauma, THEMABRYANT-DAVIS and her research students offer new paths to healing.
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INTRODUCING PEPPERDINE MAGAZINE

At this time of year, you hear a lot of talk about spring cleaning—letting go of what you don’t need to make room for what you do. But in Southern California we don’t know much about seasons, so we adopt a slightly different approach. At Pepperdine we like to take a close look at what we do well, and envision ways to do it better.

We surveyed you, our readers, in our periodicals last year to see what you liked and wanted to see in Pepperdine magazines. We conducted research to find out what we could learn from our friends. And we convened an advisory board with representatives from across the University to help us learn more about the amazing stories of Pepperdine University.

After lots of hard thinking, creative brainstorming, and a fair amount of caffeine, we’re proud to introduce Pepperdine Magazine. We’ve brought together the best features of Pepperdine Voice and Pepperdine People to create a new magazine that tells the story of Pepperdine University, its community, and the issues of relevance to you.

We set some rules for ourselves. In each issue we commit to providing fresh and honest reporting from a variety of voices and perspectives. We aim to give you the opportunity to learn something new, feel moved by something special, and have a little fun along the way. (Read our mission statement on the next page for more of what we have in mind.)

We know that the magic of Pepperdine lies in its community—multifaceted people of spiritual, intellectual, and expressive depth. So in each issue we’ll take time to honor the believers, scholars, athletes, and artists among us.

You’ll get to hear from them in their own voices, as guest contributors impart wisdom, guidance, or humor while “In Focus,” and address topical issues through a unique lens in “Perspectives.”

You’ll also read the opinions of your fellow readers in our new “Letters to the Editor” section. To see your thoughts in print, go to magazine.pepperdine.edu and write us a note. Comment on individual stories, different approaches, or our new look. Love it or hate it, we want to know what you think.

While you’re on the Web site, log in to PAN Online to change your address, submit a class note, and read updates from old friends and classmates. Check out our Web exclusives as well as podcasts and videos.

We think you deserve the very best we have to offer you. And heeding the advice of our mothers, we promise to call more often. Keep an eye out for multiple issues of Pepperdine Magazine each year, and visit the Web site between issues to see what’s new.

While putting the finishing touches on this inaugural issue we realized a theme had emerged, one we hadn’t intentionally pursued. That theme is freedom: academic, emotional, religious, creative, and intellectual. All of us involved in Pepperdine Magazine are experiencing the thrill of freedom as well, charting a new course in sharing the very best of Pepperdine with you.

Spring cleaning feels pretty liberating.

MEGAN HUARD
editor
Our Mission

Pepperdine Magazine is the feature magazine for Pepperdine University and its growing community of alumni, students, faculty, and friends. The magazine showcases individuals, news, achievements, and challenges across the entire University, while engaging in an open dialogue about relevant and topical issues pertaining to the University and its mission.

With bold, compelling, and lively storytelling, Pepperdine Magazine aims to tackle complex and pertinent subjects, embrace a multitude of perspectives, and convey an honest portrayal of Pepperdine today. The magazine features content that is intellectually stimulating, socially conscious, infused with Christian values, and full of personality.

The magazine serves as a central communication channel with the University’s vibrant alumni community, demonstrating the growing value of their degree, education, and place in the Pepperdine family. As a tool to inform, inspire, and connect, it also aims to reach and impress readers unfamiliar with Pepperdine University.

Published three times a year by the University’s Public Affairs division, Pepperdine Magazine features a robust Web site and online community with exclusive Web articles and interactive opportunities.

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

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Abbreviations—GPC: George Pepperdine College; SC: Seaver College; SOL: School of Law; SPP: School of Public Policy; GSBM: Graziadio School of Business and Management; GSEP: Graduate School of Education and Psychology.
In November 2008 the battle over California’s Proposition 8, which defines marriage as a union solely between one man and one woman, raged on television, on the radio, and in the minds and hearts not only of Californians, but of citizens across the country. A School of Law professor appeared in advertisements for the Yes on 8 campaign, inflaming opponents even as it inspired supporters. The University was praised and blamed with equal gusto. Meanwhile, a less visible storm brewed at the University, as faculty debated among themselves: Does “academic freedom” apply here? As a nonprofit institution, Pepperdine is legally forbidden to advocate for political candidates and ballot propositions. So, is it permissible for a faculty member to voice his or her opinion in a way that might appear to implicate the University in the position?

Provost Darryl Tippens makes the case that academic freedom exists for such difficult moments as these, though it is also necessary to clarify what academic freedom is and is not.

Academic freedom is a noble concept that enjoys widespread acceptance. The U.S. boasts the most respected system of higher education in the world, and academic freedom is one of the reasons for our international success. Yet the principle is often misunderstood—even in a university setting. It’s not the same thing as “free speech,” for example, which is every American’s civil right to express oneself in the public square. Nor is it a very old idea. Current ideas about academic freedom are less than a hundred years old—first defined by the American Association of University Professors (AAUP) in 1915.

The goal of academic freedom is to create a free and friendly space where ideas, large and small, can be examined, tested, and disseminated. For a university to be a fertile place of learning, open deliberation and debate are essential, without ideas being stifled by the “pall of orthodoxy” (in Supreme Court justice William J. Brennan's words). Such noble principles have guided Pepperdine over many decades. Disputes about academic freedom are rare, though certain situations can raise eyebrows from time to time, for example, when a faculty member appears to speak for the University. New guidelines to clarify this particularly delicate circumstance are currently under review.

Some people believe that a Christian university is, by definition, trapped in a dilemma as it seeks to maintain particular ethical and religious principles on the one hand and support freedom of inquiry on the other. “Can you have it both ways?” some wonder. In fact, all universities face variations of this apparent dilemma because all are governed by unstated assumptions, implicit givens, and presuppositions with which someone will disagree. Every university, whether secular or religious, is governed by certain foundational beliefs (some explicit, many tacit). Respect for minorities, human dignity, service to humanity, and democratic processes, for example, are a few of the givens in the academy today.

Some misconstrue the principle, thinking that it amounts to an “anything goes” mentality; yet that has
never been the intention. As numerous court cases attest, academic freedom, like all expressions of liberty, is not absolute. There is no inherent “right” to spout obscenity in the classroom, demean students, harass, or plagiarize, for example. Scientists have no “right” to discard the scientific method and replace it with phrenology, astrology, or some other pseudo-science. Ethical standards and established protocols of research provide the necessary conditions of faculty research. In other words, although professors are free to speak and write, they are also constrained by ethical convictions, the rules of scholarship, and the demands of excellence.

Academic freedom “imposes special obligations” upon the scholar—to be accurate and restrained, to “show respect for the opinions of others,” and to “make every effort to indicate that [teachers] are not speaking for the institution” (AAUP Statement). At its core academic freedom entails a reverent commitment to truth, fairness, and service to the common good.

All institutions, not just faith-based ones, must guard against the chilling effects of a rigid ideological orthodoxy of whatever persuasion. Today, beliefs about politics, gender, or sexuality are so established in universities that a cold wind can descend on the research enterprise. Not just faith-based but secular institutions equally face challenges to protect the space for dialogue, discovery, and dissemination.

These days a university like Pepperdine is a particularly good place to practice scholarly inquiry. Pepperdine is transparent about the moral and spiritual framework that enables its enterprise. With great energy our faculty wrestle with the challenge to be both seriously Christian and intellectually honest. Sometimes that’s a challenge; more often, these are harmonious, mutually supportive commitments. A Christian worldview, which assumes the orderliness of creation and the dignity of human beings made in the image of God, provides fertile soil for scholarly endeavors. Our institution proudly continues the tradition of Christian higher education, which for a thousand years has been the engine both of faith formation and intellectual discovery.

While some institutions are reluctant to name the presuppositions that frame their work, Pepperdine freely articulates its organizing framework. In its mission and affirmation statements, the University declares its commitment “to the highest standards of academic excellence and Christian values, believing that “truth, having nothing to fear from investigation, should be pursued relentlessly in every discipline.”

Academic freedom will doubtless remain a contested term and practice in the years ahead. Like other great principles, the application to individual cases requires careful discernment. But “academic freedom” remains a vital principle, signifying a rich network of privileges and responsibilities.

When one considers the extraordinary array of research being carried out today at Pepperdine in the sciences, political theory, ethics, psychology, public policy, business ethics, philosophy, law, and many other disciplines—greater than at any time in our University’s history—one sees ample evidence that Pepperdine’s commitment to academic freedom is genuine. Given our non-creedal heritage, ecumenical spirit, commitment to diversity, and tradition of hospitality, creative discovery is alive and well at Pepperdine.
ANTONIN SCALIA, associate justice of the United States, spoke to a packed audience of more than 625 people on March 9 in the Caruso Auditorium at the School of Law. The acclaimed Supreme Court justice spoke with School of Law dean Ken Starr on a variety of legal topics, including how the Court has changed over the years.

When asked why there have been many dissenting opinions in recent years, Scalia said, “I don’t mind there being dissents. On an issue of law, let’s say an issue of statutory construction, where we all agree on what the principles are, you can disagree on how much weight to give each aspect of one canon of interpretation versus another canon. But what is different about what has been happening for the last 30 years or so is that we disagree on the fundamentals. We disagree on what we think we’re doing when we interpret the Constitution. There are only two of us for sure on the Court who are originalists, who think the object of the exercise is to figure out what it was the American people agreed to as an exception from the principle of rights when they adopted the First Amendment or Fifth Amendment.”

Scalia continued the discussion about originalists versus “consequentialists,” who believe that the Constitution is a living, ever-changing document. He answered questions from the audience, discussed his own written opinions, and spoke on who he considers the greatest justices (Marshall, Brandeis, and Jackson).

Scalia was born in Trenton, New Jersey, March 11, 1936. He received his bachelor’s degree from Georgetown University and the University of Fribourg, Switzerland, and his LLB from Harvard Law School. President Reagan nominated him as an associate justice of the Supreme Court, and he took his seat September 26, 1986.
PARKENING INTERNATIONAL GUITAR COMPETITION RETURNS THIS SPRING

Musicians and fans from around the world will come to Pepperdine’s Malibu campus May 28 through May 30 for the Parkening International guitar Competition, the preeminent classical guitar competition in the world.

The three-day event honors Christopher Parkening, Distinguished Professor of Music at Seaver College, for his lifetime commitment to fostering musical excellence in young artists as demonstrated by his mentor, the great Spanish guitarist Andrés Segovia. Cash prizes in excess of US$65,000 will be awarded; this is the largest prize purse of any classical guitar competition worldwide.

The five judges, representing different areas of the classical music world, are Nancy Allen, principal harpist with the New York Philharmonic; Manuel Barrueco, world-famous guitar virtuoso; Stephanie L. Challener, publisher of Musical America Worldwide; Thomas Frost, Grammy Award-winning record producer; and Costa Pilavachi, former president of EMI Classics.

The first Parkening International Guitar Competition was held at Pepperdine in 2006. Since then Gold Medalist Pablo Sáinz Villegas has emerged as one of the world’s leading classical guitarists. With grants from Howard and Roberta Ahmanson and Manny and Juanita Del Arroz, the Parkening International Guitar Competition is held every three years, and coincides with the Parkening Young Guitarists Competition. It helps to identify outstanding young guitarists and encourages them to continue their performance careers and study.

arts.pepperdine.edu/parkening/

GENOCIDE SURVIVOR IMMACULÉE ILIBAGIZA SHARES HER STORY OF FAITH

Hundreds stood in applause as survivor and bestselling author Immaculée Ilibagiza took to the podium during a Wednesday morning Chapel last fall. The Rwandan expat traveled from her home in New York to present her story of survival, hope, prayer, faith, and, above all, forgiveness.

In 1994, while nearly one million Rwandan Tutsis died at the hands of Hutus, Ilibagiza spent three months cramped in the bathroom of a merciful Hutu pastor with seven other terrified women. Her parents, brothers, friends, neighbors had all been killed. “It is amazing to me to be sharing my story with the world,” she told the crowd of Pepperdine students, faculty, and staff. “There was a time when I thought I wouldn’t see another face outside the bathroom I was living in for 91 days.”

Despite the horror she endured, Ilibagiza’s message to the Pepperdine audience was clear: her faith in God and constant prayer during those terrible days kept her alive. “The biggest wish in my heart is that people will grow closer to God after reading my book,” she said of her New York Times best-selling book, Left to Tell: Discovering God Amidst the Rwandan Holocaust, and new follow-up memoir, Led By Faith: Rising From the Ashes of the Rwandan Genocide. She added that overcoming her very understandable anger was an integral part of learning to trust God. “I want people to know that God is real, even in the darkest hours.”

“Her attitude to God makes me more passionate to speak about my faith and involve God in my life,” said freshman Linda Nyandamu after Ilibagiza’s talk. Summing up her response to the courageous speaker, she added, “She inspires me.”

Visit magazine.pepperdine.edu/ilibagiza/ to listen to a podcast with Ilibagiza.
Linda A. Livingstone, dean of the Graziadio School of Business and Management, has been elected to the board of directors of AACSB International, the premier association that accredits business schools. Livingstone will serve a three-year term, effective July 1, 2009, and be among 10 prominent management education and business professionals appointed to the board for 2009-10.

“I am honored to contribute to AACSB’s policy governance as a board member and to have been chosen to serve our peers, our students, and our community in a role that helps us all advance quality management education worldwide through accreditation and thought leadership,” Livingstone says.

AACSB International is an association of more than 1,100 educational institutions, businesses and other organizations in 70 countries. It serves as the premier accrediting body for institutions offering undergraduate, master’s, and doctoral degrees in business and accounting.

Livingstone has served as the first woman dean of Pepperdine University Graziadio School of Business and Management since 2002. She oversaw a $200 million expansion of the business school’s regional campuses, increased the school’s international partnerships to 30 business schools around the world, and led the school to membership in the Globally Responsible Leadership Initiative and as a signatory to the Principles for Responsible Management Education.

She serves on the board of directors of the Graduate Management Admission Council (GMAC), is a member of the Impact of Business Schools Task Force for AACSB International, and is a member of Young President’s Organization (YPO). She received her BS, MBA, and PhD from Oklahoma State University.

The Pepperdine community lost a dear friend with the sudden passing of longtime housing administrator Jim “JB” Brock on January 15. JB first began his career at Pepperdine in 1984 in the Seaver College Career Development Center. He went on to serve as director of residential life, associate dean of students in student affairs, and director of housing.

TABATHA JONES (’97, MS ’03), associate dean of students, shares her memories of JB:

“In the weeks since we lost our friend, I’ve recalled him seated at a round table in the Waves Café, always surrounded by people, as one to whom his employees, coworkers, and others were drawn everyday to share a meal, not out of compulsion but love. JB embodied the call to a compassionate ministry of presence, especially to the vulnerable among us who sensed God’s nearness because of his concern and care. I remember other proud moments, like the time when as president of WACUHO, a professional housing organization, JB convened the annual meeting and was met with the thunderous applause due only to an icon. JB was the remarkable, uncommonly gifted one who lived God’s presence among us—often heard before seen because of a hearty, hardly indistinguishable laugh that could win over even the cynics, lifting them up for no good reason at all or simply because they needed it.”

To share your memories of JB with his family and friends, e-mail housing@pepperdine.edu or post your reflection on the Facebook page created in his memory: “Preserving Our Memories of Jim Brock.”

Ed. note: At press time, we were saddened to learn of the sudden passing of Roy Adler, another beloved and longtime member of the Pepperdine community. Adler was a professor of marketing at Seaver College. Visit “Dr. Roy Adler – In Memoriam” on Facebook to learn more.
SCHOOL OF PUBLIC POLICY WELCOMES
HISTORIAN VICTOR DAVIS HANSON

Acclaimed author and historian Victor Davis Hanson joined the faculty at the School of Public Policy as the Spring 2009 William E. Simon Distinguished Visiting Professor. His class, “Global Rule of Western Civilization?” explores Western exceptionalism and its sustainability: “It is the age old dilemma of the West: will the free, affluent citizen possess enough restraint to control his appetites and not do what he is otherwise in theory legally and economically free and empowered to do?” he asks.

Hanson gave his first public lecture as the William E. Simon Professor on March 4. In the lecture, titled “Political Challenges Facing the Obama Administration,” he addressed policy changes wrought by the new administration before explaining that the perception of Obama as a “moralist” might make it difficult for the media to criticize the president.

Raised as a fifth-generation orchard and vineyard grower in Fresno, California, Hanson began writing about issues of farming, immigration, and education until 9/11, when he began writing about terrorism, radical Islam, and international affairs. He is a nationally syndicated columnist for Tribune Media Services, and the best-selling author of hundreds of articles, book reviews, scholarly papers, and newspaper editorials. He has authored or contributed to over a dozen nonfiction books, including *Mexifornia* (2003) and *Bonfire of the Humanities* (2001).

In 1984 he established the classical languages program at California State University (CSU), Fresno, and is currently the Martin and Illie Anderson Senior Fellow in Residence in Classics and Military History at the Hoover Institution, Stanford University.

DOING OUR PART: SUSTAINABILITY EFFORTS AT PEPPERDINE

Although the “green revolution” has gained momentum in recent years, Pepperdine’s commitment to creating a sustainable campus began in 1972 when a water reclamation program was implemented for irrigation. Since then, Pepperdine has engaged in and created numerous other practices to minimize environmental impact and to instill in students an eco-minded awareness. Those efforts are coordinated through the University’s Center for Sustainability.

The water reclamation program has continued for 37 years, keeping recycled water from entering the Pacific Ocean. Through this program, the University has saved a total of 3.5 billion gallons of water since construction of the Malibu campus. “We are currently working to increase our use of reclaimed water from 95 percent to 99 percent campus-wide,” says Rhiannon Pregitzer (JD ’06), director of the Center for Sustainability.

As well as water recycling, Pepperdine also operates a waste recycling program through its partnership with trash vendor Crown Disposal. Trash is separated off-site and every single recyclable item disposed of at Pepperdine is recycled, with a resulting diversion rate of 78 percent of the overall campus waste stream. During campus construction activity this year, an average of 80 percent of all construction waste has been recycled.

Driving cars is an essential part of Southern California living, so the Center for Sustainability promotes to the Pepperdine community alternate forms of commuting. Carpooling, vanpooling, mass transit, and walking are encouraged and subsidized through the Rideshare program, and employees are helped in finding carpool matches through a Web site.

In addition, a campus car carpool-share program was launched in Spring 2009, providing Hertz rental cars to students to encourage them not to bring cars to campus. Keeping student cars at home helps reduce air emissions and alleviate parking problems.

For more information about environmental initiatives at Pepperdine, visit the brand new Center for Sustainability Web site at www.pepperdine.edu/sustainability/.
PEPPERDINE LAUNCHES iTUNES U

Pepperdine has joined the multimedia pioneers of higher education by launching its own version of iTunes U, a service platform provided by Apple Inc. that enables the University community to distribute digital videos and audio recordings in “podcast” form over the Internet. With lectures, interviews, seminars, performances, sermons, and more, all available for download at no charge, iTunes U will dramatically extend the reach of the University learning community. The platform provides an easy link to content 24 hours a day, seven days a week and is accessible to anyone with a Mac or PC.

“For centuries, libraries have facilitated the distribution of information and knowledge. Pepperdine iTunes U provides a new avenue for continuing this time-honored tradition,” says Mark Roosa, dean of the University Libraries, which launched the new platform. “It will significantly enhance the University to share with the world some of the wonderful aspects of Pepperdine life, including our academic programs, our faith-based orientation, and the ways in which students are preparing to make a difference in the world.”

Now users can explore areas of the “Pepperdine Life” such as the Graziadio School’s Deans Executive Leadership series, commencement addresses, and the Stotsenberg Recital series. Check out these top downloads and much more on Pepperdine iTunes U:

- Christian scholar John Stackhouse on “Faith and the Challenge of Evil”
- Pulitzer Prize-winner Ed Larson on “Lincoln vs. Darwin”
- Biologist Douglas Swartzendruber on “Understanding Cancer”
- Public policy professor Michael Shires on “California Budget Crisis”
- Classical guitarist Christopher Parkening on “The Creative Process”
- Author Emerson Eggerichs on “Principles of Love and Respect”

Former two-time All-American Doug Christie represented Pepperdine as the West Coast Conference inducted its inaugural class into the WCC Hall of Honor at the conference’s basketball tournament in March.

In addition to Christie, the other inductees are Hank Gathers (Loyola Marymount), Frank Burgess (Gonzaga), Clive Charles (Portland), Carroll Williams (Santa Clara), Tom Meschery (Saint Mary’s), Bernie Bickerstaff (San Diego) and Joe Ellis (San Francisco).

“We are very proud of the inaugural Hall of Honor class,” said WCC commissioner Jamie Zaninovich. “The list of inductees represents the West Coast Conference’s strong tradition of athletic excellence.”

Christie played three seasons for the Waves (1990-92) and was the WCC’s Most Valuable Player his final two seasons. He led the team in scoring, assists, and steals each of those years. He still ranks 15th on Pepperdine’s all-time scoring list (1,392 points), is third in both assists (395) and steals (168) and 10th in blocked shots (86).

During Christie’s three seasons playing for Tom Asbury, the Waves went 63-27, won two WCC regular-season titles and conference tournament championships and advanced to the NCAA Tournament twice.

He attracted dozens of NBA scouts to Firestone Fieldhouse and was later selected 17th overall in the 1992 NBA draft by the Seattle SuperSonics. Christie had a 15-year professional career and played with the Los Angeles Lakers, New York Knicks, Toronto Raptors, Sacramento Kings, Orlando Magic, Dallas Mavericks and Los Angeles Clippers. He was known as one of the league’s best defenders and earned multiple selections to the NBA All-Defensive Team.
LADY MARGARET THATCHER VISITS PEPPERDINE LONDON HOUSE FOR HISTORIC REOPENING

After months of renovation, Pepperdine’s property in Knightsbridge, London, has officially reopened. This marked the first renovation of the 123-year-old building since Pepperdine purchased it 20 years ago. The $5 million project refurbished infrastructure, electrics, plumbing, and heating, as well as redecorating the facility with new furniture provided by Pepperdine parent Jean Tong.

Special guest Margaret Thatcher, former prime minister of the United Kingdom, was presented with an honorary doctorate at the event. “Lady Thatcher has been front and center in the making of history and, in many respects, in shaping the free world,” says President Benton. “To honor her was a rare and memorable opportunity to bring her into the Pepperdine community and to say ‘thank you’ to her. What a privilege.”

The London House is used by students of both the School of Law and Seaver College. Since 1981 the School of Law has offered its second- and third-year students a summer session or full fall semester program in London, fully approved by the American Bar Association. The program for Seaver College students includes visits to museums, art galleries, libraries, houses of Parliament, and other historical and cultural sites. The central location of the London House allows students to reach London’s theatres, concert halls, and shopping areas in a matter of minutes.

“This house embodies precious memories,” notes Seaver College dean Rick Marrs. “It is in the London House that the students create community. They make deep friendships that will last a lifetime.”

“I am so pleased to say that it was done just right. We have preserved a place of many memories and we have prepared this special residence for her next 20 years of service,” Benton adds. “Our alumni and students will be proud.”

PSYCHOLOGY PROFESSOR LOU COZOLINO AUTHORS NEW BOOK ON THE AGING BRAIN

Lou Cozolino, professor of psychology at the Graduate School of Education and Psychology, has authored a new book exploring the science behind maintaining a healthy brain. The Healthy Aging Brain is based on Cozolino’s research into childhood brain development and the physiology of adult minds, particularly looking at ways in which optimal brain capacity can be maintained in later adulthood. The book is designed for the lay reader looking to keep an active and healthy mind as much as it is for doctors and psychologists.

Cozolino has maintained an academic interest in neuroscience throughout his career, having conducted empirical research in schizophrenia, child abuse, and the long-term impact of stress. He received his doctoral in clinical psychology from the University of California, Los Angeles, after earning degrees in philosophy and theology from Harvard University and the State University of New York, Stony Brook. He previously authored The Neuroscience of Psychotherapy, and maintains a clinical and consulting practice in Los Angeles.

For more faculty books in print, please visit www.pepperdine.edu/academics/research/.
IN SEARCH OF A FEW BUCKS
Art lovers sought refuge from the troubled economy this winter at Pepperdine's Frederick R. Weisman Museum of Art, where a new exhibit put currency on the canvas. “Robert Dowd: Pop Art Money,” on display January 17 to April 5, is the first posthumous museum exhibition devoted to the American artist best known for his imaginative, whimsical paintings of money and stamps. Dowd freely interpreted his subject, enlarging his images to monumental size and making alterations, such as substituting portraits of modern artists for the presidents. His money paintings are celebrated for capturing the essence of the Pop Art movement, and he is considered one of the original Los Angeles Pop artists.

Visit magazine.pepperdine.edu/zakian/ to listen to a discussion with Weisman Museum director Michael Zakian about the exhibit.
The world was watching on January 20 as “Hail to the Chief” played for the last time for former president George W. Bush, and Barack Obama made the two-mile walk through the capitol building in Washington, D.C., to be sworn in as the new president of the United States. They were the last steps he would take as a senator, marking the home stretch of a long, arduous, and historic campaign.

The event brought approximately 2 million people to the National Mall in Washington, D.C., where the freezing temperatures hardly chilled the passion of a record number of attendees. Several of Pepperdine’s own were among them, including Douglas Kmiec, the School of Law’s Caruso Family Chair in Constitutional Law, who, along with his wife Carol attended a private worship service with Obama that morning. Seaver College student Ashlyee Hickman was there as a correspondent for the Graphic student newspaper, sharing her experience in D.C. via blog. Daryl Rowe, professor of psychology at the Graduate School of Education and Psychology, traveled with his children and his two best college friends. “To be here to witness this historic transfer of power really will be something that my children and I will never forget,” Rowe reported from the crowds.

TUESDAY, JANUARY 20

8 a.m. Waves Café

Back in Malibu, enthusiasm swelled as students, faculty, staff, and community members gathered to watch history in the making on a movie-screen size television in the cafeteria. “My dad called me this morning to make sure I was up,” laughed junior Kendria Smith, copresident of the Black Student Association. Smith and fellow copresident, senior Carmelle Nesbitt, helped coordinate the campus event. “We started planning back in November when Obama won, and we spoke with the administration and asked professors to cancel class or bring their students down here. It’s really a great turnout,” Nesbitt said.

Though she was present in Waves Café, Smith said her mind was with her family back in Houston, Texas. “My grandmother and my great aunt, they are in their 70s and 80s, so they’ve lived through segregation, integration... everything. I’m thinking about how amazing this moment is that everyone can come together and see the first African American president. It’s breathtaking.”

On any normal day, the chatter and clatter of...
hundreds in the Waves Café would be clamorous. But on inauguration day, the crowd was nearly silent as Obama stepped up to the podium and uttered his first words as president: “My fellow citizens, I stand here today humbled by the task before us, grateful for the trust you have bestowed, mindful of the sacrifices borne by our ancestors.”

Don Lawrence, director of intercultural affairs at Pepperdine, says he hopes the magnitude of Obama’s inauguration is not lost on younger generations. “I hope that we don’t forget how significant this is historically because we may never be on this road again,” he said. “I’m just proud to be an American; I’m proud to be an African American; I’m proud to be a staff member at Pepperdine today. Everything is good in my world today.”

12 noon School of Law

Later that day, the Black Law Student Association (BLSA) rebroadcast the ceremony at the School of Law. Attendees listened intently as David Holmes, Blanche E. Seaver Professor in Humanities at Seaver College, channeled Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., giving a dramatic reading of the “I Have A Dream” speech. The timing of the inauguration falling the day after Martin Luther King, Jr. Day was especially poignant to Holmes.

“Because of my interest in civil rights and background as a person of color, a lot of thoughts were going through my head during my reading—some intellectual, some visceral and emotional,” Holmes explained. “I remembered that the first time I saw my father cry was when we were watching Martin Luther King, Jr’s funeral; I was 6 years old and my father was shedding tears. I thought of my experience, being born in 1962, which was a decidedly different variety than that of my father who was born in the South in 1923. And then, I thought of my son, who is in his first year of college at Xavier in New Orleans, a historically black college, and what it was like to be on his campus when they announced the inauguration of America’s first black president. My father would’ve been so overjoyed and thought he was in a surreal world if he had lived to see Obama elected.”

2 p.m. West Los Angeles, Drescher, and Encino Graduate Campuses

Daryl Rowe reported live via conference call from the inauguration in Washington, D.C., as the inauguration ceremony aired for the Pepperdine graduate campuses.

“The energy in the crowd was the most amazing thing. The energy was as if we were literally in a sea of change, and we were simply ripples, human ripples moving through that change.”

Upon his return, Rowe reflected on his experience. “My parents grew up in the era of strict segregation and withering racism—my mother in central Alabama and my father in southern Ohio. I was born the year
after the passage of the Brown decision, desegregating schools; I have my own clear remembrances of oppression and discrimination. Thus I took my sons to witness the inauguration of President Barack Hussein Obama. I went for my children, my sisters and brothers, my nieces and nephews, aunts and uncles, my mother and father, my wife, her parents and our collective extended family. I was our family’s representative witness to a remarkable, peaceful transfer of power—a transfer that none of us believed possible.”

3 p.m.  
Hahn Fireside Room

Holmes joined Seaver communications professor Gary Selby, director of the Center for Faith and Learning, for “Community Dialogues,” sponsored by BLSA and the Office of Intercultural Affairs.

 English professor Holmes described how his love of literature was shaped by African American music and poetry, which historically has reflected the turmoil and struggle of slavery and apartheid.

 Selby candidly discussed his upbringing in the “ whitest of white middle-class suburbs” in Washington, D.C., where he was given advantages in life denied to other kids his age living on “the other side” of the city divide. Now a professor of civil rights and racial conflict rhetoric, he recalled shame at his own racist reactions during childhood, but shared his optimism for this nation.

“In 50 years we have gone from a nation in which if you were black trying to register to vote could get you killed, to a nation that has elected a black man to the highest office in the land—that has to mark a dramatic, historical, cultural shift. We have a way to go on the path toward racial reconciliation and healing, but by the grace of God, look how far we’ve come.”

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 21

10 a.m. Firestone Fieldhouse

“I woke up this morning with my mind set on justice,” Seaver College students sang along with Thema Bryant-Davis, assistant professor of psychology at GSEP. Although inauguration day had officially passed, the enthusiasm of students, faculty, and staff overflowed into chapel.

“The world is hungry for visionaries,” said Bryant-Davis, also a minister in the African Methodist Episcopal Church. “We begin this year, this semester, this week reminded of the life of one of our country’s greatest visionaries, Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. This visionary saw beyond the hollow echoes of his day, and instead he risked living on tiptoe for tomorrow.”

Bringing in pop culture references from Tracy Chapman and Queen Latifah, to The Lion King and even Nike, Davis engaged students with her call-and-response preaching style as she offered her reflections on the historic inauguration.
“The morning after President Barack Obama raised his hand and shattered stereotypes, raised his hand and caused the exhale of elders and ancestors, raised his hand and silenced those who said America could not do it, the question is, how do each of you turn your vision into reality?” she asked.

12 noon School of Law

To end more than 24 hours of celebration and reflection at Pepperdine University, BLSA invited civic leaders to join in a powerful panel discussion about the Civil Rights movement in light of President Obama’s inauguration. Law professor Christine Chambers Goodman moderated the discussion of race, inclusion, equality, and freedom.

Judith HaLevy, rabbi of the Malibu Jewish Center & Synagogue, compared the struggles of the Jewish and African American communities with their similar history of slavery, injustice, and triumph. She also shared the sad news that her synagogue had been vandalized with swastika symbols just days earlier. “I was reminded that we still have to work for the privilege of the rule of law in America and the Constitution,” she noted.

Brenda Lamothe, associate minister at the First African Methodist Episcopal Church in Los Angeles, the oldest African American church in the city, presented a deeply personal portrait of life growing up in Watts, Los Angeles, with the 1965 race riots on her doorstep. Every household on the block displayed pictures of the three great men of the time—Martin Luther King, Jr., and John and Robert Kennedy. She remembered the gradual chipping away of hope that came with the assassination of each leader.

As a young Mexican growing up during the height of the Civil Rights Movement in East Los Angeles, public defender Raul Ayala remembered the social change on a personal level. He called the election and inauguration of President Obama an important step in achieving Martin Luther King, Jr’s dream. Appealing to the students at the School of Law, Ayala credited the law as being a tool for change. “The dreams continue to progress,” he said.

Visit magazine.pepperdine.edu/inauguration/ for extended coverage of the inauguration at Pepperdine and reflections from members of the University community.
Doug Kmiec shocked the conservative political world when he publicly endorsed the presidential aspirations of Senator Barack Obama.

What followed was an intense test of faith and friendship.
The former constitutional legal counsel to two Republican presidents published the surprise endorsement in Slate magazine on Easter Sunday, 2008. Just three months later, Obama greeted Kmiec in a face-to-face meeting, saying, "I was sorry to learn that you were persecuted for my sake. I will try now especially to merit your confidence."

Obama was referring to an incident on April 18 when Kmiec, Pepperdine’s Caruso Family Chair in Constitutional Law, was denied communion at a Catholic Mass in Southern California. The lifelong Catholic, near 20-year faculty member at Notre Dame, and former dean of Catholic University was rejected for endorsing Obama, a pro-choice candidate.

The incident was met with public outcry. Some were furious with the Catholic Church and others blamed Kmiec. Last fall Kmiec published the book Can a Catholic Support Him? Asking the Big Question About Barack Obama, in which he offers a thoughtful explanation of why he endorsed the candidate. He also recounts the events of that fateful day—April 18, 2008.
A litany of saints, these splendid women and men of the cloth. Some better teachers than others, but each reaffirming of the faith with insight borne of age, of study, of practical wisdom, of a love of the Scriptures, of a love of God’s Creation. Some more outgoing than others, but each in his own way welcoming, abundantly supplying the unconditional love of the God-man for whom they stand witness.

Until that evening, when all was revoked. Suddenly the life-long chain of liturgy was broken into pieces. The priest—the priest who had just joined with us in the prayer of the Rosary was now red-faced, shouting, I thought. Talking about me. I had cooperated with evil. I had? I had killed babies? My heart was black. I was giving scandal to the entire church. I had once been a leader but now I had forfeited any semblance of respectability or leadership. The good father grasped tightly the edges of the ambo, the unusual name given to a lectern in the Catholic Church. No faithful Catholic would ever contemplate doing what I had done. I was dead to the Holy Mother Church.

My wife held my hand tightly. We looked at each other in disbelief. Here was someone in the vestments of the priesthood who had called us to have our prayers be heard, who recited the Kyrie with us, asking the Lord’s mercy upon us, now seemingly merciless, telling me and the many there assembled that I was unworthy. I was to be publicly shunned and humiliated. My offense? Endorsing Senator Barack Obama for President of the United States.

The irony of ironies was that my motivation for the endorsement was entirely Catholic. No, Obama doesn’t share the Catholic faith, but he certainly campaigns like he does. The Senator is focused on the human person, on the common good, on the social justice of economic arrangement. All is so very Catholic.

It was time for Communion. Notwithstanding the indictment of the homily, I did not think of myself as unworthy of receipt of the sacrament—at least no more so than pre-Obama endorsement. Communion in the Catholic tradition is indeed sacred. We believe the bread and the wine is transformed—transubstantiated—into the body and blood of Christ. I have often watched my parish priest focus his gaze with reverence upon the bread and the wine during the offertory to gain some appreciation for the significance of the divine person whose presence one can scarcely grasp.

But I was not to receive the Eucharist that evening. The couples who stood in line before my wife and myself received the body of Christ in their hands or on their tongues and returned to their seats. My wife received. My hand outstretched, the priest shook his head from side to side. Was that a no? It was Judgment Day, and I hadn’t made it. LSAT Insufficient. Inadequate GPA. Do not pass Go . . . go directly to Hell.

Right there I was letting down every priest that had shared the faith tradition with me. I imagined my late mother, who seldom returned home from the factory until well after midnight so that we could afford the tuition at the Catholic school, hanging her head in shame. All the traditions—prayers before meals, May altars and rosaries, novenas and indulgences, the pilgrimages to ten churches on Good Friday—all had somehow been zeroed out. Catholic identity theft, stolen right there by our Lord’s faithful servant, Father ______. I won’t tell
you his name because he doesn’t represent the Church’s thinking. Indeed, Cardinal Mahony of Los Angeles, who a month or so later investigated the incident “for the good of the Church,” said it was important to call what happened “shameful and indefensible.”

Right there in that moment every Catholic good deed and good thought and good wish of love of neighbor that I once had seemed inconsequential and insufficient. Like a child feeling unfairly disciplined, but disciplined nonetheless, I pleaded with empty hand outstretched: “I think you’re making a mistake, Father.” His red complexion redder now, betraying righteous anger. His stretched hand over the top of the Ciborium, the container for the consecrated bread, as if I was going to grab a handful and make a run for it, and then the pronouncement: “No, you are the one who made the mistake.”

With no further appeal possible and with my wife exiting in confusion, tears, and offended embarrassment, I returned to my place alone. My place? Did I have a place any longer? Was I expected to leave? The double significance of losing the body of Christ—of not having ingested and no longer standing among “the body”—was suddenly all I could think of. Condemned for announcing to the world that I intended to vote for a man whom I thought lived the Beatitudes. A black man; a caring man; a talented man. A man different from my conservative self and yet calling me to find the best of that self. A man who in so many ways asks to care for the least advantaged as he seeks the public responsibility to carry with him, as if it was his own burden, the plight of the marginalized and unemployed worker, the uninsured, the widowed mother grieving over a son lost in Iraq. Their hurts far worse than mine.

It was wrong to be damned; to be excluded from the grace of the sacrament of the Lord Jesus Christ, and all I could think of was the old Tolstoy folk wisdom: “God knows the truth, but waits.”


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The sad event was kept confidential for a month until a Republican faith-partisan group—which supports the view that belonging to the Catholic Church categorically precludes voting for Barack Obama—published information on its Web site. News spread across the Internet within minutes. “I very much regret that,” says Kmiec, noting that he has, however, successfully kept the name of the priest and his religious order out of the public record. Experts determined that under Canon 915, the denial of Communion was unauthorized and inappropriate. Cardinal Roger Mahoney became involved, and the priest sent Kmiec and his wife a letter of apology. “The letter is thoughtfully written and the apology accepted,” he comments.

In weeks following the incident, Kmiec joined national religious leaders in posing tough faith questions to the future president. Obama then worked to change the Democratic platform to include greater economic support to reduce abortion and to promote adoption, outlined a faith-initiative, and emphasized a father’s responsibility to his family. Kmiec spent his non-teaching hours campaigning in the tough, battleground states of Pennsylvania, Ohio, Michigan, and Indiana.

Kmiec invited those he could not personally reach to join the discussion through his new book, excerpted above. The book sold out in bookstores nationwide and hit #1 in Amazon.com’s religion and politics categories during the campaign. Then Obama won the presidency, sweeping those battleground states and winning an unprecedented 54 percent of the national Catholic vote—in some places, 10 percent more than John Kerry, a Catholic, had mustered in 2004.

Along the way, Kmiec lost friends and suffered from exaggerated and hateful comments in the media. Happily, some new friends came along, like actor Martin Sheen, who agreed to write the foreword to Kmiec’s book. Most importantly, says the professor, was the constant support from his family, the Pepperdine community, his parish, and Monsignor John V. Sheridan at Our Lady of Malibu.

That dark day, however, “will live in my memory until the end times,” says Kmiec. “At every Mass I attend now, I am reminded of the moment when the sacramental door to Communion was slammed in my face. My antagonists say I should be quiet about this. I am playing the martyr, they say. The truth is,” he observes, “there is no need for false histrionics here. If you believe in the sacramental presence, as I do, deprivation, even if only in a single instance, is a long-lasting wound. As in so many things, one must trust in Jesus to believe that he loved me so much that he would give me a glimpse here on earth of how frighteningly terrible it would be to lose him for eternity.”

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In the wake of trauma, THEMAY BRYANT-DAVIS and her research students offer new paths to healing.

By Megan Huard

from left: Shaquita Tillman, Thema Bryant-Davis, Kimberly Smith, Alison Marks
It happens in faraway countries, nearby towns, and even our own homes. Those who suffer these traumas describe them in whispers and hushed tones, while others forge on in silence.

Dr. Thema Bryant-Davis, however, is speaking up. Through GSEP's Culture and Trauma Research Lab, the psychology professor and her team of graduate research assistants are exploring how an individual's cultural identity impacts how he or she recovers from trauma.

Consider Karen, one of Bryant-Davis' clients (whose identity has been protected for this article). While her parents spent most of her childhood in prison, Karen grew up in poverty under her grandmother’s firm and faithful care. When her grandmother passed, teenage Karen became homeless, developed a drug problem, and gave birth to a son. A man invited Karen and her son into his home, but the relationship quickly became abusive. “She felt she deserved it because of the bad life choices she had made,” Bryant-Davis explains.

Eventually Karen admitted that she needed help. “She began to seek out the one source of strength she remembered from her grandmother: the church. Attending church and seeing the condition she and her son were living in—one of constant fear—led to her decision to change her life.” Encouraged by fellow worshippers, Karen got sober and soon took her son to live in a shelter, where they benefited from family and individual counseling. Two years after this decision, Karen is both sober and employed, while her son attends school and is enjoying his childhood.

Through the Culture and Trauma Research Lab, Bryant-Davis and her team—clinical psychology doctoral students Alison Marks, Kimberly Smith (MS '08), and Shaquita Tillman (MA '07)—examine multiple cases like Karen’s. They look at not only what led Karen to this abusive relationship, but also what factors trapped her in it, like substance abuse and poverty, and those that empowered her to leave, particularly social and spiritual support.

Their research considers the multiple components of a person's identity—including race, gender, migration status, economics, disability, sexual orientation, religion, and age—as essential and defining elements in how he or she makes sense of tragedy. Bryant-Davis' book, *Thriving in the Wake of Trauma: A Multicultural Guide* (Praeger 2005, 2008), was one of the first studies on trauma to consider all these facets of identities on the road to recovery.

The team meets weekly to conduct qualitative and quantitative research for books, articles, and conference presentations. “We’re collecting narratives, having people share their stories, and analyzing those experiences,” Bryant-Davis explains. “We’re also completing critical reviews of literature to see what’s out there about trauma in a particular community.”
The reviews provide health professionals with a snapshot of the client’s cultural context. Marks recently completed a review of Jewish partner abuse, revealing the harsh, cultural stigma a Jewish woman may endure if she speaks out against partner abuse, as well as the uniquely complex nature of securing a divorce.

“Clinicians working with women from intricate or complicated cultures struggle to know what their clients experience,” Marks says. “Understanding the culture comes only from reading the research and learning more about the populations you work with. It’s a disservice not to keep your thumb on the pulse of this information.”

Tillman analyzed literature concerning the barriers faced by African American victims of sexual assault, such as economic dependence on the abuser, shame, self-blame, and distrust of formal agencies caused by past experiences of racial discrimination.

Smith conducted a similar review of sexual assault against girls in South Africa, a nation reported to have one of the world’s highest incidences of rape. She investigated the cultural tradition of female subjugation, corrupt or absent enforcement agencies, and the prevalence of poverty as inhibiting factors for trauma recovery. “The review will be useful for health professionals here in the States who treat a woman from South Africa,” she observes, “as well as for clinicians in South Africa who could benefit from an outside perspective on their culture.” The group also completed a review of rape as a war crime in Africa, an issue that traces back to Bryant-Davis’ earliest scholarly interest in trauma.

With clients and research participants I look at stopping negative symptoms, but also getting people to a place where they can welcome their potential, their purpose. Too often in recovery people go merely from being a victim to surviving. Our research helps them go one step further: thriving.

As a teenager Bryant-Davis moved across the world from Baltimore, Maryland, to Liberia, Africa. When the country descended into civil war, her family was evacuated. Bryant-Davis witnessed as tragedy struck friends and neighbors, and noticed how few therapists were there to help. It caused her to think about how few people had utilized therapy during her childhood in Baltimore, where individuals faced community and family violence. “The experience of growing up in an inner-city community and living in pre-war Liberia got me thinking about trauma. If we’re not using therapy, what are people doing to heal?”

Some people, research shows, use religious coping strategies: they read holy or inspirational texts, or undergo faith-based counseling with their ministers. Others rely on family and friends, or utilize safe means to express themselves. The Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, which supports the lab along with the Pepperdine University Faculty Scholars Grant, recently funded Bryant-Davis’ pilot study to examine the effectiveness of expressive arts as an alternative healing strategy for ethnically diverse children who have been exposed to partner abuse through their parents. Music, drama, dance, poetry, and visual arts all provide a comforting outlet for pent-up emotions, especially among young ones who may lack the vocabulary and maturity to release their pain through words.

Through the nationwide Fragile Family and Child Well-being Study, Bryant-Davis looks particularly at partner violence in the African American community and strategies for prevention. “Violence is higher in the African American community than most others, but when you control for poverty, that distinction disappears,” Bryant-Davis explains. “Race and income are very much linked. African Americans are more likely to live in persistent poverty, and African American women are at increased risk for homicide by their current or former dating partner. It’s a dangerous situation, and we have to address it with culturally-informed intervention.”
Central to that intervention is the study of “protective factors”—components of a person’s cultural makeup that make them less vulnerable to suffering interpersonal violence. Research shows that educated women, and those who generate and control their own income stream, are less likely to experience partner abuse, as are women who report living in a safe neighborhood. Social support is a protective factor, since abused people are often isolated from others who could help them.

Bryant-Davis also describes the importance of “instrumental social support: having someone in your network who not only supports you emotionally, but can support you with resources. This can be someone who will watch your children or offer you a place to stay for awhile.”

While Karen’s faith and relationship with the church helped her escape an abusive relationship, religiosity does not always protect potential victims. “Church attendance isn’t necessarily going to shield someone from abuse,” Bryant-Davis says. “Religious coping strategies may help to affirm people, but we have to be careful not to promote the idea that if you have enough faith the abusive partner will change. The victim is not responsible for the abuser’s behavior.”

Better understanding of the factors that typically do or do not protect individuals from trauma gives mental health counselors a more effective toolbox for helping them recover. “Prior research had largely assumed that factors in recovery were universal, without taking diversity into account. We’re looking to disseminate information to the scientific community that emphasizes these cultural factors for victims of violence.”

They’ve been successful so far. Findings from the Culture and Trauma Lab have been presented at the annual conventions of the American Psychological Association, International Society for Traumatic Stress Studies, Association of Women in Psychology, the National Summit on Interpersonal Violence, the National Scientific Meeting on Sexual Assault, and the Multicultural Summit.

Armed with research on cultural context, professionals are beginning to provide more useful treatment and guidance. For example, women in a physically or emotionally abusive relationship are more likely to report heavy drinking or substance abuse. “It’s interesting to think through policy for a hospital,” Bryant-Davis says. “It’s easy to say ‘stop using drugs,’ but if you just focus on that, you may miss what’s making them use this coping mechanism in the first place. Excessive behavior is a sign of a bigger problem; it’s self-medicating.”

The team’s ultimate goal is to give health professionals the proper information and skills to help their clients not just recover, but thrive. “The concept of ‘thriving’ is a step beyond survival,” Bryant-Davis notes. “With clients and research participants I look at stopping negative symptoms, but also getting people to a place where they can welcome their potential, their purpose. Too often in recovery people go merely from being a victim to surviving. Our research helps them go one step further.”
When three law students spent their summer internships in Sofia, Bulgaria, they encountered a country in transition seeking new paths to progress.
Meet Ajmal, a teenager from a war-torn Afghan village who sought security and the promise of a good education in Europe. He walked and hitchhiked thousands of miles to the outer borders of the European Union to achieve that dream. Once there, a border guard put him in detention, where he stayed for the remainder of his teenage years. His refugee status application was repeatedly ignored or simply thrown away, only to be rejected when it was finally filed properly.

Meet Irfan, a middle-aged Pakistani national who lived for years— with valid documentation—in Europe, running a small, legitimate family business with his European wife. One day, government authorities labeled him a national security threat and placed him in detention. He was separated from his wife for three years, each day fearing deportation back to the dangerous home he fled in the first place.

These are but two (identity-protected) examples of a typical asylum-seeker’s life in Bulgaria. With minimal government transparency, a new and increasingly tenuous EU membership, and a location on the Middle-Eastern border of Europe, Bulgaria is home to an important yet problematic refugee system. Bulgarian headlines of organized crime and government corruption unfortunately result in this tumultuous nation paying little mind to the state of its refugee law.

Once inside a Bulgarian detention center, civil rights seem an antiquated notion. Unsanitary conditions are rampant, and many regulations that apply to criminal prisons are absent. This is why, for example, one “guest” was kept in solitary confinement for several months, when prison regulations dictate a maximum of two weeks.

My 2008 summer internship was at the Legal Clinic for Refugees and Immigrants, located in Sofia, Bulgaria’s capital. This nonprofit legal team assists asylum-seekers by petitioning the Bulgarian courts for various remedies, such as release from detention. One of my assignments was to draft a client application to the European Court of Human Rights, a common means of last resort when all domestic avenues have been exhausted. Another was to create a briefing document on the state of refugee law in Bulgaria. The latter proved especially difficult, with refugee data commonly unverified, unavailable, and outdated.

My 10 weeks at the clinic included a vast array of legal challenges for our often desperate clients, and, thankfully, some rays of hope: both Ajmal and Irfan were released from detention as a result of the clinic’s efforts. In turn, to paint a grim picture of Bulgaria would be decidedly unfair and inaccurate. The friends I made through work were immensely hospitable and eager to share the nation’s rich heritage and natural splendor, be it a traditional meal, the sound of Bulgarian folk music, or an arduous trek into rugged mountains containing crystal clear lakes. Unlike many European nations, Bulgaria’s past speaks of a land of cultural diversity and historical racial tolerance. I hope to return one day, and when I do, I hope to encounter new paths to progress.
I was literally catapulted from my bed the morning of July 3, 2008. My wakeup call was a series of explosions so powerful that my apartment building was swaying and nearby windows had shattered. Out of my bedroom window I could see a mushroom cloud rocketing skyward. I had been living in Bulgaria long enough to realize that anything was possible and was relieved when the authorities announced that there had not been a nuclear explosion.

A fire at a munitions storage facility caused 1,500 tons of Soviet-era munitions to detonate that morning. When I arrived at work my Bulgarian colleagues were going about their jobs like every other day. When I mentioned the massive cloud still visible out of our office windows, they dismissed it saying that a politician probably planned “the fire” in order to steal the money that had been earmarked to properly disarm the munitions.

I chose to spend the summer between my first and second years of law school working at Gruikin, Tanchovski, and Velichkov, a small Bulgarian law firm in the heart of Sofia. My daily work at the firm was split between drafting documents for the firms’ European and American business clients and drafting documents for NGOs working in Bulgaria. The NGOs help the severely impoverished Roma (Gypsy) population. Often my work included writing memos, informing our clients that their land, business, or investment interest had been fraudulently taken from them. The Bulgarian government often “loses documents” and “requires more documents” to stop the NGOs from helping the Romas.

Bulgaria is a former Eastern Bloc country still struggling to be a democracy run by the rule of law. When the Soviet Union disintegrated in 1991, the mafia stepped in to run Bulgarian government and businesses. The mafia has no plans to give up their control without a fight. There have been more than 150 contract killings of Bulgarian politicians and businessmen in the last seven years. Out of the 150 killings there has not been a single arrest, let alone a conviction. Recent headlines in Bulgaria read: “Mob Muscles Its Way into Politics in Bulgaria,” “Inside Europe’s Corruption Capital: How Bulgaria’s Crime Mafia Plunders EU Grant Money,” and “Mafia Still Has the Word in Bulgaria.” The Bulgarian judiciary is fraught with corruption from the highest judicial body in the country to solo-practicing attorneys and small-town judges.

Although it is easy to dwell on the corruption in Bulgaria, there is much to be said for the country’s culture, natural beauty, and future. I made friends in Bulgaria that I expect to last a lifetime and I look forward to many return trips. My Bulgarian friends were proud to take me on road trips to show off their country, so that I could see such things as the beautiful Rila Mountains and Black Sea coast. I worked at a young firm, run by three young partners who strongly believe in a Bulgaria free from corruption. What I look forward to most are headlines that will read: “Bulgaria, a Beacon of Hope for Countries Struggling with Corruption” and “Bulgarian Judiciary Has No Mercy on the Mafia.”
Judicial Systems and Legal Philosophy
by Brad Alexander

On my first day of work, my boss introduced me to his friend, a judge, who asked why I was interested in Bulgaria. I replied that I liked the culture, history, and people of Eastern Europe, and wanted to travel there more. “You are not in Eastern Europe,” the judge responded. “You are in the Balkans.” Though I was geographically correct, the Balkans are clearly a place of their own.

I arrived in Bulgaria just in time for the annual meeting of the Rule of Law Institute. I was the fourth and final speaker, and I had exactly one week to prepare. I spent five hectic days of researching and meeting government officials, lawyers, and businesspeople. But each day began with a slow cup of coffee and chat with another lawyer, Vili, who before 1989 (the fall of communism) was a lawyer for a big insurance defense firm.

I learned enough about the Bulgarian judicial system to put together an hour-long presentation comparing it to that of the United States. As a new member of the European Union, the Bulgarian government is undergoing much change—making an effort to Westernize many of its practices and bring them in line with EU requirements. My presentation analyzed treatment of two general areas: discrimination and human rights violations.

A largely conservative country, Bulgaria has resisted Western European approaches to controversial issues like the disbursement of birth control pills and sexual orientation discrimination in employment. In fact, I witnessed the first march for gay equality in Bulgarian history, which was met with resistance, protests, and even violence.

In the area of human rights, I focused on trafficking, a relatively new area in U.S. law and a particularly relevant one in Bulgaria, where geography makes the country especially vulnerable. Bulgaria’s laws focus significantly on preventative, national education about the problems and dangers of trafficking, an approach that has many advantages. I was later able to use this research at the Legal Clinic for Refugees, both in my own case research and in presenting the head of the clinic with options for clients.

Another critical need is increased transparency in government decision making. Corruption persists in the country due to insufficient oversight by government officials. Just this past year Bulgaria had to return millions of Euros given by the EU to assist in development because public officials had improperly used the money. This marked the first time any EU aid money had to be returned.

What I remember most from the meeting was not the (translated) speech I gave, but the discussion that ensued. I had been in the country only a week, and had been in law school only a year, but at that meeting I was able to discuss judicial systems and legal philosophy with lawyers, judges, leaders of industry, and members of the government. It was evident that while the country has made great strides, it still has far to go. Those in the room believed that the rule of law is an essential principle on which government changes should always be focused.
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As a finale to Pepperdine’s annual Chapter Leadership Conference, the Colorado “Mile High” Waves chapter was selected by peers to receive the highest award bestowed upon chapters.

Over the past year, a diverse lineup of events in the region attracted hundreds of alumni, parents, and students, including a mile-high hike, Step Forward Day with World Vision, student send-off, and mother’s tea.

“We have so many members of our chapter that have given freely of themselves. It is an honor to receive this prestigious award on their behalf,” said Colorado chapter president Michelle Lydin (’04) during the annual Waves Fifth Quarter event following the Homecoming game.

The Colorado chapter will receive a cash prize to support future events aimed at engaging members of the Pepperdine community.

Waves of Excellence Awards

Amy Clark ▶ An exceptionally organized and effective event planner, Amy was honored as one of the most committed and active volunteers in the nation and for her contributions as one of a few Pepperdine parents to serve as a regional leader.

Sandra Davidson (BSM ’82, MS ’93) ▶ An Orange County chapter board member for 13 years, Sandra was honored for her long-term commitment to recruiting alumni leaders and orchestrating unique cultural opportunities on behalf of the alumni region.

Cathryn Kingsbury (’97, MPP ’99) ▶ Honored for her role in building a strong bicoastal alumni network as president of the D.C. Waves chapter, Cathryn’s most recent accomplishment includes a bipartisan debate on the presidential election by two former members of Congress.

Pepperdine University seeks to strengthen students’ lives for purpose, service, and leadership. Chapters around the world embody this principle and better the global community. Special thanks to all chapter presidents and regional leaders for their hours of service and their role in reaching out to fellow members of the Pepperdine community.

Meet all chapter presidents and learn how you can get involved by visiting the Chapters Web site at www.pepperdine.edu/alumni/chapters/ or call us at 310.506.6190.
Once upon a time, in an oceanside kingdom called Malibu, there lived a fair maiden named Caitlin Lawrence ('08). By day she pursued her bachelor's degree in communications at Seaver College, but at night her mind would wander, pondering the similarities between her Christian faith and the themes of her favorite fairy tales.

By Sarah Fisher
“There are so many parallels between fairy tales and aspects of Christianity,” Lawrence explains. “For example, there are elements of pursuit, disguised identities, and revealed truths. There are tales about death and resurrection, and there’s a focus on redemption. A lot of the central themes have very spiritual messages.”

Now Lawrence is bringing her two passions together as a graduate student in organizational communications at Seaver College. Her thesis explores the themes that persist in both Christianity and fairy tales, a connection she first began noticing as a teenager in Seattle, Washington.

“I was leading a Bible study for young women, studying female characters in the Bible,” she says. “The first day we were studying Eve, and every time I read about Eve biting the fruit I had a mental picture of Snow White biting into the apple. After that, when we studied a different woman in the Bible I would think of what fairy tale she related to.”

In her thesis, Lawrence critically examines Cinderella as the ultimate fairy tale of hope and virtue triumphing over evil and adversity. “I explore the concept of how Cinderella always runs from the prince. I look to that as a parallel in my life of how I run from God in my relationship with him. Part of me still won’t believe that God will accept me as I am—in my rags, so to speak,” she says.

Steven Lemley (’66, MA ’70), an associate professor of communication at Seaver College, is overseeing Lawrence’s creative choice of thesis topic. “Caitlin is examining the way in which great truths are communicated in fantasy literature through an empirical survey methodology,” he says. “She will contribute to our understanding of great fantasy writers like C. S. Lewis and J. R. R. Tolkien who, among others, did their work from a Christian perspective, and how they affected imagination and values.”

Lawrence’s “empirical survey methodology” has included a three-part convocation series at Pepperdine for female students. The sessions attracted over 150 young women who studied a devotional written by Lawrence, watched film clips of Disney’s Cinderella, and took part in a data survey analyzing students’ openness to religion, self-esteem levels, and the fairy tale theme. “I’m trying to test if women internalize spiritual messages about God more after they read a fairy tale,” she explains.

Seaver College junior Laura Fehlbaum attended the series. “I am discovering more and more that Christ woo us through many means, even through stories which don’t explicitly talk about God;’ she says. “Even though I grew up with Disney movies and fairy tales, I had never considered them from a Christian standpoint. Caitlin’s convocation revealed that Christ’s love for us emerges, even through the seemingly secular fairy tales that most of us know and love.”

As Lawrence delves into new scholastic territory, she, like Fehlbaum, is viewing her spiritual life with a changed perspective. Lawrence agrees with C. S. Lewis’ view that Christ fulfilling prophecy marks the Gospel stories as fairy tales in the truest form. “For me personally, I know that I’m never going to find a guy that matches the ideals I might have about Prince Charming, but I do believe that Christ fulfills all of those ideals.”

A personal tragedy inspired Lawrence to write her own fairy tale, using the story to express a faithful core. She was enjoying her final, carefree years as an undergraduate when she received word that a young girl named Jenna from her home church had been diagnosed with an aggressive cancer.

Lawrence crafted the tale of Princess Jenna, a young lady pursued by a black cloud of smoke until rescued by a dashing prince. Lawrence was able to read her story to Princess Jenna to the real Jenna over the phone, shortly before the brave five-year-old passed away. Lawrence will never forget the pleasure her story gave Jenna in her final days.

“In the end, the prince saves her by sacrificing himself into the darkness which pursues her,” she says, noting the parallel with Christ sacrificing himself for the sins of the believer. In Jenna’s final days, Lawrence gave her a fairy tale ending. And because of her profound faith, Lawrence finds comfort in knowing her young friend is with God, saying, “Jenna got her happily ever after in the end.”
What we don’t see are public policy pros like School of Public Policy alumna Kimberlee LaGree Ross (MPP ’01) who diligently work in the literary chambers and back offices of conscience. They navigate guidelines and provide regulatory assistance, allowing Americans of all persuasions to equally participate in the nation’s liberal democracy.

As the daughter of a L.A. County fireman and a mother active in nonprofit work, Ross grew up highly sensitized to the public and social services sector in which she has made her career. She further honed her expertise on the interactions of federal agencies and religious charities as a regulatory and contractual policy advisor at World Vision, a Christian international relief organization which receives grants from agencies such as USAID and the USDA.

In 2007 Ross was appointed by President George W. Bush to the Department of Labor as special assistant to the secretary, working on special projects for the White House Office of Faith-Based and Community Initiatives, which sought to improve participation of faith- and community-based organizations in providing needed federally-funded social services. “We advised and assisted in managing 100 grants to such organizations,” she recalls.

The results of her work and that of others like her are more efficient and compassionate delivery of services. “Faith-based organizations (FBOs) employ local people, they are located in the communities in which they serve, and they are more approachable than government agencies,” Ross explains. “Immigrants especially tend to seek services at religious institutions because they’re in the vicinity and have bilingual speakers.”

Such programs include provisions for substance abuse recovery, workforce reentry for prisoners, community health and family planning, and international relief aid, to name only a few. “FBOs tend to have their hand on the pulse of the needs in the region. The goal is to provide more culturally competent, accessible service options to make beneficiaries’ lives easier.”

Ross also acted as a liaison helping the government and these groups work together. “I was gratified,” she says,
“to see officials enthusiastically work for changes that improve services by more effectively partnering with community and faith groups.” She saw her role of coordinating the public coffers and private charity as that of an educator but remarks, “I did see incomprehension by the public and officials about why working with FBOs was good public policy and good constitutional practice. I have also seen FBOs who lost who they were,” noting institutions that secularized under the regulations that came with federal participation.

Today Ross continues her work as a specialist ensuring FBO access to participation in the serving the American public. She is currently at work forming a new nonprofit, the Institutional Religious Freedom Alliance. There she assesses and consults with her FBO clients not just on whether and how to be successful federal grant recipients, but also how to navigate the issues of religious freedom that they may confront in employment, public accommodation, and licensing.

“Consider that Catholic health professionals and facilities are worried that they will be required to offer and participate in abortion practices,” she explains, “if the current administration rescinds or amends regulations protecting freedom of conscience.” Some FBOs are likewise concerned about employment law legislation regarding marriage.

“It’s an irony and a shame that in this nation of religious freedom, so many officials interpret the First Amendment in a way that squelches rather than protects religious freedom,” Ross says.

Reflecting on her work in the Bush administration, she adds: “The Faith-Based Initiative found a way to honor both the people of faith and those of secular views—we worked out rules that were fair to those providing and seeking help. So one big question remains: Will our new president maintain a strong focus on equal opportunity for faith-based groups?” If permitted, their voice will continue to shape the future of religious freedom in America.
LITERARY SNOBS BEWARE:
James W. Thomas, has a bone to pick with anyone claiming that J. K. Rowling’s Harry Potter series is not “real” literature. Since discovering the wizarding stories five years ago, the Seaver College professor of English has pioneered a class dedicated to exploring the books, and in January 2009, he published a guide for professors and fans alike, Repotting Harry Potter: A Professor’s Book-by-Book Guide for the Serious Re-Reader.
“The books are very recent, but all classics were recent at one point,” he asserts. “I think the elitist assumption is that something popular cannot also be good. So much detail is encoded in these books.”

Thomas’ book appeals to those wanting to reread the series in search of details and foreshadowing they missed with the first read. It is not for the spoiler-shy (nor is this article). “I wanted to enrich a return to the book,” he says. “My book is about the rewards and joy of reading a text once you already know the outcome.”

The seven books of Rowling’s stories follow orphan Harry Potter as he discovers the magical destiny awaiting him at the enchanted boarding school Hogwarts, where he befriends Ron Weasley and Hermione Granger and learns the sacrificial truth behind the death of his parents. Thomas explores the humor and literary allusions prevalent throughout the books, while delving into the plot clues offered by Rowling as foreshadowing. Destiny is a huge theme throughout, with prophecies fulfilled and fates learned slowly—particularly Harry’s destiny, which is cruelly aligned with that of his enemy, the evil Lord Voldemort.

Thomas notes that even the names of certain characters reveal tremendous forethought from Rowling in crafting her saga. “A 10-year-old reader will just think Draco Malfoy is a funny name. But draco means dragon or beast in Latin, and Malfoy is French for ‘bad faith,’” Thomas explains about Harry’s nemesis at Hogwarts. “She has hundreds of names in the books, most of which have something going for them. Think of the incredible coincidence if she just stumbled on Draco Malfoy as a name and it had all that going for it.”

The Seaver professor’s academic approach to Harry Potter has already garnered him media attention. He was approached as a Potter expert by TIME magazine when Rowling was named the runner-up Person of the Year 2007 the year her seventh and final Potter book, The Deathly Hallows, was released. In the interview, he vents his frustration at literary elitism, playing off the title of the last book in citing the series’ three academic “deathly hallows”: “they’re too recent, they’re too popular, and they’re too juvenile.”

“Rowling wasn’t an Inkling,” he continues, referencing the famous 1950s British literary circle populated by authors J. R. R. Tolkien and C. S. Lewis, whose iconic fantasy works are often compared thematically with the Potter series. “She did not attend Oxford or Cambridge, and she is a woman. I think a lot of the early criticisms were just veiled misogyny.”

Thomas’ scholarly interest in the Harry Potter series marks a detour from the rest of his academic career, which has been dominated by American literature. After earning his bachelor’s degree in English from Lipscomb University, and his master’s and PhD in English from the University of Tennessee, he now teaches Edgar Allen Poe, William Faulkner, contemporary American poetry, and American short stories. His own scholarly brand of Potter-mania, however, has led to NPR interviews and presentations at a number of conferences, including a Harry Potter conference in Dallas, Texas, in which he lectured about the literary legitimacy of the series.

Beyond intricate details and an engaging storyline, Thomas notes that what makes the stories so immensely popular and beloved is the vast array of finely tuned characters. He references Severus Snape, Harry’s least favorite teacher at Hogwarts who takes an immediate dislike to our young hero, as more than just a plot-facilitating character. “Maybe more than anything else,” says Thomas, about the reason he became fascinated with the books in an academic sense, “is the creation of an incredible literary character like Snape, who we are so convinced—even sophisticated readers—is a one- or two-dimensional character. His life and story we don’t know until the final few pages, but the characterization of Snape is a magnificent accomplishment, and his death and subsequent memories are, for me, the most moving part of the entire series.”

Thomas is confident that Rowling’s stories will stand the test of time. “I think my grandchildren’s grandchildren will read these books,” he says. And when they reread them, they’ll know exactly where to turn for advice.
Melissa Umbro knows that the best way to understand someone is to walk a mile in their shoes. Through her trip to Indonesia, she’ll learn what it’s like to be Muslim, and what it’s like to be a Fulbright award winner.

While most people play music or talk-radio during their commute, Melissa Umbro (’02) blasts Bahasa Indonesian instructional language CDs. “Hai, apa kabar,” she repeats. “Hello, how are you?”

After months of preparation, Umbro recently embarked on a 10-month journey to Indonesia, where she will complete a project that’s been three years in the making. The trip is made possible by the U.S. government’s prestigious program in international educational exchange: the Fulbright Scholarship.

“Indonesia is the most populous Muslim nation in the world and it doesn’t get a lot of attention for that,” she says, explaining that although Indonesia’s more than 200 million Muslims constitute an overwhelming majority, the country is not an Islamic state. “Because it’s a secular state, it’s fairly moderate. There are obviously extreme groups, but there are millions of people who are moderate.”

Currently, the number of Muslims in the world is estimated to be between 1.25 and 1.84 billion, making it the second largest religion in the world. Terrorism and the media’s focus on the condition of women in the Muslim world have cast a dark shadow upon the religion, but Umbro believes there is more to Islam than the actions of its extremists. “My goal for the project is to really understand, communicate, and disseminate information about the actual reality that Islam is very peaceful,” she says.
After graduating from Pepperdine in 2002, Umbro completed a master of divinity at Fuller Theological Seminary. She first became interested in Southeast Asia in 2005, when she and her husband took a trip to Cambodia and hosted a retreat for relief workers. “It was then that I became really intrigued by the role that women play in community development.”

She saw firsthand the power of collaboration among women in rural areas. “The relief organization had trained women in this village to teach other villagers basic life skills related to health. In one year, they had seen the infant mortality rate decrease by a substantial amount.”

The emotional support system also became evident when she visited an AIDS relief program. “There was a group of infected women in varying stages of the disease,” she recalls. “There’s an obvious stigma for those who have tested positive for HIV/AIDS and I remember being so touched by the hope that they had collectively, and by the stories they shared.”

The following year, she returned to Pepperdine, not as a student, but as a staff member, taking on the new role of coordinator of national scholarships and awards. “My role is to recruit students to apply for awards, help them put together the application, edit their documents, and provide mock interviews where applicable in the hopes of having more and stronger applications,” she says.

Since her arrival, more than 30 Seaver College students have won major academic awards. In 2008 a record five students won Fulbright scholarships, the most Pepperdine has ever seen in one year.

So Umbro decided to put her knack for cracking the Fulbright code to the final test: submitting an application herself. “I realized how much I was drawn to the Fulbright program, and because there’s no age limit, I thought, this is one that I actually could try for and it would even help me do my job better here.”

Now she’s undertaking a journey to explore faith in a contemporary Muslim nation, and specifically the role that women play in its evolution. “I’m really interested in how they read religious texts, and how Muslim women there are shaping Islam and reading the Qur’an.”

She hopes to empower women to become activists in peace building and to promote interfaith dialogue. “I hope to have a Web site for the project connecting people from different countries who have fairly different religious traditions.”

Much of the project will be determined as the trip unfolds, and in these early days of her journey, Umbro is full of anticipation. Most exciting, she says, is the opportunity to join the cadre of men and women who are shaping the world through their Fulbright awards. “I like Fulbright’s overarching goal, which is to increase mutual understanding between people of the U.S. and people of other countries. Eight years after 9/11, the time has come to see what really is true about Islam.”

I like Fulbright’s overarching goal: to increase mutual understanding between people of the U.S. and people of other countries. Eight years after 9/11, the time has come to see what really is true about Islam.
On a cold, gray February day in Detroit, Scott Tynan ('89) boarded a plane and traveled more than 2,000 miles to Southern California, anxious not only for the sunshine, but to get back on the lacrosse field with some of his best college buddies from Pepperdine.

By Audra Quinn
This year's alumni game marked the 25th anniversary of the team's conception, and the flurry of e-mails, phone calls, flight itineraries, and old war stories being passed around before the February 7 game promised a record turnout in Malibu. “We have guys coming from California, Arizona, Texas, Colorado, Michigan, Kentucky, Missouri, and Indiana,” noted Ravi Desarazu (’90), who helped coordinate the event.

Unfortunately, the weatherman also promised record rains in Malibu, leaving the field in soggy disrepair. But these stalwarts faced bigger challenges in the past—like getting the team off the ground, for instance.

In 1984, there was no lacrosse program to speak of at Pepperdine, so a few dedicated players got together to establish lacrosse as a club sport, meaning that funding had to come from the players themselves. Yancey Rushton (’87) was one of the founding fathers. “We probably raised $30,000 a year,” he said. “At the time, we were the only team with matching uniforms.”

Byron Hemingway, a coach from that pioneer team, also made the trip to Malibu for the game. “I haven’t seen these guys in 23 or 24 years,” said the strength and conditioning coach, for whom the lacrosse team’s wind sprints have been named. “It’s inspiring to see them back here getting together.”

Members of that inaugural team have remained in close contact through the years, organizing alumni events and supporting the current team. “Even though it’s a club sport, we treated it as a varsity sport and we all feel like we’re part of a team,” explains Rushton.

Alex Diener (’91), now an associate professor of geography at Seaver College, played lacrosse in 1989 and 1990. “When someone asks me who I keep in touch with, it’s really the guys from that team,” he says. “Club sports provide students an outlet to be on a team, wear the jersey, don the school colors, and go out and compete.”

On game day, 34 alumni players arrived with sticks, families, smiles, and stories in tow. Despite the forecast, the sun peeked through at tip-off. Detroit-native Tynan got his dose of sunshine, but just minutes into the game, something happened that he hadn’t hoped for at all. “The very first time I touched the ball, I got checked by two guys and threw my back out,” he lamented, sidelined by the injury. “I asked him to ref,” griped his wife Irene, tending to him worriedly.

Tynan was the first inductee into the Pepperdine Lacrosse Hall of Fame in 2001 as the team’s highest scorer. His spine crunching injury opened up the conversation to the team’s history of bodily havoc. “I tore my Achilles in this game five or six years ago,” said Paul Mellinger (’92). “I broke my septum once. Before the game even started,” laughed Steve Gandee (‘94).

While historically, alumni tend to prevail in these games, this year’s current team dominated. “We cannot lose to our alumni!” student coach Max Biedermann (’12) barked during a timeout. “They have a lot of pride in this program, and if we let them walk all over us, it shows that we don’t take it the same way.”

Four years ago the team actually had to end their season early due to low turnout, but the 2008-09 team has 26 active players on the roster. The team leaders also found a sponsor in Harrow Sports, a two-year deal and the first sponsorship the program has ever signed.

With the clock running down, the current Waves scored twice to seal the 9-5 victory, a symbolic one for Waves lacrosse. “It shows us that we’ve gotten better as a program, that we’ve progressed,” said Biedermann. “Besides, you never want people older than you to beat you. I’m sorry; it’s true.”

Despite their loss, the alumni were in high spirits as they lined up to shake hands with their younger brethren. “I would rather lose to tell you the truth,” Tynan said from the sidelines. “I get more joy knowing that the team is better than to have the alumni win every year.”

The rain soaked his alumni jersey as he lay in anguish on the wet ground, but Tynan insisted he wouldn’t want to be anywhere else. “I didn’t join a fraternity at Pepperdine, and the lacrosse team was my fraternity, so I feel as close to these guys as anyone. A lot of the guys I haven’t seen in 20 years and it feels like I just saw them last week, it’s so natural. They’re my best friends.”
Five years ago, the Seattle Seahawks football team was suffering the longest drought of playoff victories of any NFL team. As the team grappled with its image, fans were losing interest.

Bill Chapin (MBA ’02) couldn’t fathom a time when he could ever lose interest in sports. “I grew up following the San Francisco 49ers and the Oakland Raiders,” says the northern California native and four-sport athlete. “The dream of playing in sports college died shortly after I realized everybody was better than me, but the dream of being with a sports team remained.”

In 2004, after serving management roles with the Mighty Ducks of Anaheim, San Diego Padres, Los Angeles Clippers, and Los Angeles Kings, Chapin was hired as the new director of marketing for the Seahawks. Who better to rekindle the passion of Seattle fans than a sports fanatic himself?

“We wanted to make fans feel proud, passionate, and connected,” he says. “In football, there are 11 men on the field at any given time, but in Seattle, we have a 12th man. The 12th man is the crowd.”

Years ago, the Seahawks retired the number 12 jersey as a tribute to their fans, but “that got away from us a little bit,” Chapin reflects. “When our new leadership came on board, we really took a look at some of the rituals in the past and reignited this concept.”

The 12th man became the crux of a new brand strategy for the Seahawks. Since then, the Seahawks’ home turf, Qwest Field, has become known as the loudest stadium in the NFL. In 2005 alone, crowd noise contributed to a league-high 24 false-start penalties; the Seahawks were falsely accused of pumping in artificial noise to distract the visiting offense.

Lo and behold, the Seahawks’ playoff slump ended in 2005 with a 20-10 NFC championship win over the Washington Redskins—a victory that paved the Hawks’ passage to the Super Bowl.

Thinking about that moment still sends shivers down Chapin’s spine. “The intensity and the noise from the fans was the loudest I’ve ever experienced. To be a part of that was very special.”

In 2009, the Seahawks organization welcome a brand new professional team to its family, the Seattle Sounders Football Club (soccer), and a whole new way to empower fans: “Democracy in Sports.”

“Democracy in Sports’ is the ability for season ticket holders and Sounders supporters to literally effect change within the organization,” says Chapin. “Every four years, all members of the Sounders Alliance can vote on our general manager. If they give him a vote of no confidence, he loses his job.”

Chapin has orchestrated the team’s launch, from the people’s vote on the team name, to the logo and brand new Sounders FC Web site. The site is the first in Major League Soccer history on which fans can voice their concerns, ideas, and suggestions directly to ownership and the general manager.

As marketing director for both teams, Chapin says the biggest reward comes from getting people excited about sports again. “I firmly believe that sports are part of the social fabric of our society,” he says. “Those guys sitting in seats 101 and 102 see a great play; next thing you know, they’re high-fiving each other, they’re hugging each other, yet they don’t even know each other’s names. Name one other place where that happens?”

By Audra Quinn

BILL CHAPIN
Charts a Pro Sports Revolution in Seattle
College sports fans get the fun part. They celebrate winning seasons, cheer on underdogs, and break losing streaks through will power alone, while rarely glimpsing what happens off the court.

Today these little-known issues are reshaping the purview of collegiate athletes, for whom “play well and study hard” used to cover it all. Throughout the United States student-athletes grapple with commercialism, sportsmanship, finances, administrative diversity, and governance structure, all of which impact the players’ daily lives.

To better address these topics, the National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA) leads a Student-Athlete Advisory Committee (SAAC) aimed at amplifying the voice of student-athletes across the country. Among only 31 members is Waves volleyball player Julie Rubenstein (’09), the first representative from Pepperdine to earn a spot on this committee. As the sole representative from the West Coast Conference (WCC), she speaks for all student-athletes competing in 12 sports across the conference’s eight schools.

“I’m responsible for taking the voice of student-athletes to the national level, and bringing the national perspective back to our conference,” Rubenstein explains. During her two-year term, she’s spent countless hours speaking with fellow players, learning the ins and outs of sports other than her own, while engaging new issues as they emerge. In recent months the committee successfully lobbied against legislation permitting unfettered text-messaging from coaches to athletes. “We look out for student-athlete well-being, and have the opportunity to speak out against anything that impedes that,” Rubenstein says of the intrusive messaging. “This was a victory for us all.”

As vice chair of Pepperdine’s own SAAC, Rubenstein also joins her peers in tackling pressing issues for Waves athletes: building a sense of community among student-athletes, increasing school spirit by engaging fans, and involving players in community service projects. “It’s important for us to get involved outside of school, to take the time to give back,” she notes.

Rubenstein is expected to graduate cum laude from Seaver College this spring, and the 2008-09 All-American plans to pursue volleyball professionally. Though a decorated Waves athlete, Rubenstein lists her designation as Pepperdine’s 2007-08 Student-Athlete of the Year among her proudest achievements. “It shows that I’ve worked hard in the classroom and on the court. To be recognized for that,” she says, “is an honor.”
A young woman contemplates the empty wall of her new condo, wishing the Audrey Hepburn poster from college would still suffice. Her neighbor roams the echoing rooms of a city gallery, disheartened by price tags affixed to the paintings. Parvez Taj (MBA '05) feels their frustration.

**Parvez Taj Makes Accessible Art for Contemporary Customers**

By Sarah Fisher
The lifelong artist has often considered how difficult it is for ordinary people to decorate their homes with interesting and affordable art. “The problem is that there is cool art but it’s crazy expensive; the alternative is just cheap paper or posters,” he says.

Now the young entrepreneur combines his astute business mind with a passion for creating dynamic art. His self-titled art company produces his own designs for major furniture stores, setting him apart from artists displaying individual works in a gallery to be sold to the highest bidder. “I’m trying to fill the gap by providing high-end design and cool art, but making the art accessible to people who wouldn’t normally be able to afford hip art,” he adds. In his Beverly Hills studio Taj creates art that is sold to furniture outlets, including Crate & Barrel, EQ3, and Z Gallerie. He conceived the business while an MBA student at the Graziadio School of Business and Management. The idea won him First Place in the first annual Pepperdine Business Plan Competition in 2005. “I won $20,000 and was able to raise the first round of investments for my business,” he says. “I started going to trade shows to pick up clients. Crate & Barrel said they loved my designs, but they couldn’t meet the production price point, as I was producing domestically.”

Not to be discouraged, Taj established a line of production in Malaysia, followed by a second line in China, which have both been so successful that he is now producing the work of other artists exclusively for major retailers like Crate & Barrel. Taj’s work is contemporary and edgy, eschewing standard motifs to create a visual concept of his take on the world. A photographer, he captures images of people, places, and objects, and then uses software to manipulate the picture. He calls it “a reinterpretation of how I’m feeling about society and myself.”

His 2008 work featured a series of urban-inspired visuals. “I was looking at London, Paris, New York, Miami, and Los Angeles,” he says. For the 2009 collection, he is changing direction. “Now I’ve made a push into nature, looking at trees, flowers, dirt, grass, water. Dandelions have been my motif of choice right now, too.”

Taj hails from Canada, where he graduated from the University of Western Ontario in 2000 with a degree in finance. He jumped headfirst into the New York fashion world while producing runway shows, but the business-minded graduate became restless. “I felt it was a saturated market, that it had already had its day and was just sustaining. I wanted to be in a revolutionized business.” After 9/11, he left New York City to reconsider his future. Taj began to tap into the rise of interior design on television and in magazines, and realized there was a corner of the market not yet covered. “There had been a big growth in the furniture business—people using furniture to express themselves and to create living environment that they were happy with. It was an interesting trend, and I wanted my art to have that appeal.”

He mulled over his burgeoning idea as he embarked on an extended trip to India, where he filmed and edited a charity documentary. As a child of professionals, not entrepreneurs, Taj was unsure of the next step, and at some point during his year in India he struck upon the idea of attending business school. So the young artist began painting a fresh canvas for his life. He enrolled as a full-time MBA student at the Graziadio School, arriving in Fall 2003 with his business idea formed. “From day one, I told everyone exactly what I wanted to do and how,” Taj affirms. “This was my goal since I stepped on campus.”

Today Taj hopes to expand the business further, gaining more clients and taking on individual art projects at hotels and offices. But of one thing he is certain: he is forging a new path for artists and for the business of art. “The future is to reach more people,” he envisions. “I want to do for art what Calvin Klein and Ralph Lauren did for fashion—make it accessible. I’d like to be known as one of the first artists who made this possible.”
CENTER STAGE

IT’S THE AGE-OLD STORY...

Kid with a voice packs his bags and moves to New York, armed only with talent and a dream of making it big. This story, however, is set to the music of ABBA.

By Audra Quinn

Corey Greenan sends his regards from Broadway
In 2004, Corey Greenan (BA ’02) was that kid, and the Big Apple didn’t really agree with the native Californian right away. "Life is very different out here. Everything is so fast and loud. The cost of living is so high, and the winter is freezing. Those first eight months were pretty tough," he remembers. Though Greenan had been involved in choirs since the fourth grade, he didn’t perform in a musical until his senior year of high school. "They were doing Once on This Island and they needed a tenor, so I did it. It combined everything I loved about singing in choir with this whole new aspect—acting and dancing. It was one of the most incredible things I've ever done."

As they say in the business, Greenan was show-buzzed. "That year I decided to major in theatre," he laughs. It wasn’t long before he made a name for himself as a performer as an undergraduate at Seaver College. "He was bright," explains Cathy Thomas-Grant, chair of the Fine Arts Division. "He had a spark in his eyes, and a spark in his physical presence."

As a freshman, Greenan was an ensemble dancer in Guys and Dolls, and scored his first big role as a sophomore in the musical Evita as the character Che. "It was a huge vocal role," he says. "Che is sort of a biased narrator—an antagonist, but really passionate. Based on the response I got, I realized that this was something I could do really well."

Greenan continued to knock out crowds during his career at Pepperdine, playing Honza in I Never Saw Another Butterfly, Claudio in Much Ado About Nothing, and Tony in A Westside Story. As a senior, he studied abroad in Edinburgh, Scotland, where he played Lang in The Water Engine.

After graduation, Greenan lived in Santa Monica, California, for two years, building up his professional chops in the civic light operas around Southern California and earning his equity card. "Los Angeles doesn’t have a whole lot of equity contracts to go around, so I decided to pick up and go to New York." He and a buddy drove cross-country and landed in the big city. It was eight long months before Greenan got his big break. He was working as a busboy when he auditioned to be a part of the national tour of Mamma Mia!, the blockbuster musical based on the songs of ABBA. "Some auditions you go in and you get to sing 16 bars of one song, if that, and there’s one person behind the desk, and it’s probably a casting intern. For this audition, I walked into the room and there was this big, long table and 12 people staring at me. The windows behind them were looking down on Times Square. I thought wow, this is a different world here."

Despite his nerves, Greenan must have done something right in that audition, because the next day, he received a phone call asking him to "come and play."

For six months, Greenan traveled the country as part of the Mamma Mia! ensemble before moving up to the role of Sky, the lead female role’s fiancé, which he played for another year. "It was so much fun," he says of the show. "Every night you have an audience, no matter what city, even New York."

I walked into the room and there was this BIG, LONG TABLE and 12 PEOPLE STARING AT ME. The windows behind them were looking down on TIMES SQUARE. I thought wow, THIS IS A DIFFERENT WORLD HERE.

People are up on their feet, dancing and clapping and singing along. It’s just a wonderful energy to end the day with."

In March 2007, Greenan was offered to renew his contract, but, having tired of life on the road, he declined. "It’s a really good gig, but I wanted to leave while I still wanted to stay," he says, and with much hesitation, he walked away from the tour.

He returned to New York City to pursue his dream of performing on Broadway, but once again, he struggled to find regular work. After a year, and just when he was starting to really regret leaving Mamma Mia!, he got a life-changing call from them once again. "Mamma Mia! called out of the blue, and they said they have an ensemble spot opening up on Broadway, and if I was interested and available..."

Two weeks later, in June 2008, he was back onstage in his original role in the ensemble, but this time, on Broadway. "It’s surreal and wonderful and new and familiar," he says. "I’m in New York, walking to work and going in and out of that stage door in Times Square. My dream has come true."
Whether reading the morning newspaper, listening to the radio, or watching the evening news, it’s easy to be flooded with gloomy financial news. It’s also normal to feel some anxiety, depression, anger, or helplessness about real losses you or your loved ones may have suffered. But the thoughts or conclusions you draw about the current economic situation can make an important difference between keeping the negative feelings in check and letting them spiral out of control.

First, avoid catastrophizing (thinking in extreme terms like “always” and “never”). Take a deep breath, step back, and make an objective appraisal about your situation—are there opportunities to make changes, go in different directions, or be grateful for things that are going well? Considering these potential positives doesn’t signal a neglect of real concerns, but instead indicates more balanced thinking, which can improve your mood and coping ability.

When feeling overwhelmed, recall a time when you dealt with adversity successfully and remind yourself of the thoughts and behaviors that got you through those challenges. Avoid the trap of believing that constantly turning things over in your mind keeps you on top of a difficult situation; this can easily lead to unproductive, anxious rumination.

Although it sounds unusual, set aside a limited amount of time each day for worrying. Then you can go on with other activities without apprehension permeating the day. During this focused worry time make a distinction between realistic concerns you can actively address and worries about low-probability events. It can help to recall the serenity prayer: “God grant me the serenity to accept the things I cannot change; courage to change the things I can; and wisdom to know the difference.”

Of course, it’s important to recognize when depression or anxiety have escalated to the point where additional help is needed. If feelings of sadness occur most of the day for two weeks or more and are accompanied by a number of difficulties such as sleeping or eating problems, excessive fatigue, lack of interest in usual activities, problems concentrating, and extremely self-critical thoughts, and these symptoms are causing difficulties at work or in your personal life, this could signal a more serious depression warranting consultation with a mental health professional. If anxiety is causing an inability to focus at work, avoidance of people or situations, or increased conflict with family, friends, or coworkers, it may also help to talk with someone.

During stressful economic times, therapy can seem like an unnecessary luxury. But if emotional difficulties are significantly interfering with one’s quality of life and ability to function, this resource can be vital.

Dr. Woo is an associate professor of psychology at GSEP. She also serves as the Malibu program director for the master of arts in clinical psychology.

Counseling is one way to enhance your coping skills. GSEP manages three counseling clinics at which members of the Pepperdine community can receive low-fee counseling services. The clinics are open to the public, and provide affordable, high-quality, individualized counseling within a supportive and accepting environment. To make an appointment call the clinics toll-free at 866.396.8970, or for more information visit gsep.pepperdine.edu/clinics/.
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THE TRADITION CONTINUES

Many great Pepperdine stories have been told over the years in the University’s memorable publications. With this debut issue of Pepperdine Magazine, we begin a new chapter in communicating what Pepperdine is and aspires to be. Join us for a walk down memory lane as we embark on this exciting journey.