MEET THE NEWEST PEPPERDINE FULBRIGHT SCHOLARS

Last year Seaver College saw a record number of Fulbright winners, with five receiving the coveted scholarship. Pepperdine hit the mark again this year with another five students earning passage into the prestigious program. This year’s winners are all women, and 2009 graduates of Seaver College. Four will be completing English Teaching Assistantships in various countries: (from left) liberal arts and education major Julie Presant will be teaching in South Korea; Spanish and German major Leslie Reed will teach in Germany, along with English writing and rhetoric major Lindsey Banister; and English literature major Lillian Kwok will be in Taiwan. Anjel Helms, a dual major in biology and biochemistry and German minor, will be conducting a research project titled, “Effect of Plant Water Stress on Resin Terpene Composition in Norway Spruce (Picea abies)” at the Max Planck Institute for Chemical Ecology in Jena, Germany.
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<th>Yearly return based on a $100,000 investment</th>
<th>Money Market*</th>
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For example: If you are 75 and transfer $100,000 for a CGA, Pepperdine will pay you $6,300/year for the rest of your life.

*SINGLE MARRIED
Age Rate Age Rate
65 5.3% 65/65 4.9%
70 5.7% 70/70 5.2%
75 6.3% 75/75 5.6%
80 7.1% 80/80 6.1%
85 8.1% 85/85 7.0%
90 9.5% 90/90 8.3%
95 9.5% 95/95 9.3%

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FEATURES

DIAGRAM OF AN ENTREPRENEUR
The Graziadio School brings entrepreneurship into the classroom.

EVERYONE DESERVES AN ADVOCATE
The Union Rescue Mission gives a home to the homeless, while Pepperdine law students offer a hand up.

BUEN SALUD
From air quality to water conservation, preserving Machu Picchu begins with the health of its neighbors.

THE SCARS OF HEROES
Psychologists explore the enduring wounds and courage of our nation’s veterans.

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Breathing life into *The Shack*
Faithful in Hollywood

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A rare frog gets its day in the sun
On trial with Phil Spector

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Dr. Douglas Swartzendruber addresses scientific knowledge and belief in God.

NEWS

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ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

IN FOCUS

University chaplain Dave Lemley describes why we pray.
Just a few short months ago we launched the new Pepperdine Magazine. Since then e-mails, letters, and comments have poured into our offices and onto the Web. Some of you offered words of praise, while others voiced criticism. We welcome both kinds of feedback, and hope you’ll keep the notes coming. (Check out the next page to see what some of your fellow readers had to say.)

Throughout the varied and passionate responses we received, we noticed words of congratulations for our willingness to try something new. So in this issue we celebrate members of the Pepperdine community willing to take a risk, those who inspire us to keep doing the same.

We honor those who open their minds to different and sometimes difficult ways of thinking about topics like prayer, evolution, great books, and even the Los Angeles Lakers. We recognize those who take a chance on others—law students serving the homeless, psychologists easing the burdens of war veterans, and a piano teacher devoted to her disadvantaged student.

You’ll meet a former nun who prioritizes her faith amidst the pressures of Hollywood, a publisher who put his all into a book no one else would support, students who explore the Santa Monica Mountains in pursuit of a frog, and an attorney who persevered after a highly publicized setback. Each of these individuals demonstrates the willingness to risk success, money, time, or their reputation to support and defend what’s important to them.

In all of these stories you’ll encounter behaviors and ideas that are challenging, touching, and audacious. You’ll also see rare glimpses of courage. I hope you’ll let us know what you think.

Megan Huard
editor
Introducing Pepperdine Magazine

I just wanted to take a moment and let you know how much I enjoyed the new Pepperdine Magazine. I am an alumnus who has not been responsive to the alumni correspondence over the years for various reasons. This new version of the magazine is very fresh, updated, creative, diverse, and multicultural. This magazine is reflective of me, the people I know, and the things for which we care. I think I'm ready to possibly reconnect!

—Roberta Leek ('76)

Just a note to say I thoroughly enjoyed the inaugural issue of the Pepperdine Magazine. Very interesting articles and stories. The overall quality of the publication was high and I was impressed with the exceptional graphics. As both a faculty member and a parent of two Seaver students I appreciate even more being a part of the Pepperdine community after reading the magazine.

—Robert Lloyd
Associate Professor of International Relations

Sharing the Moment

A truly historic moment, whatever your politics. Thanks for sharing Pepperdine’s many different experiences.

—Alec McNayr ('00)

Politics of Faith

I was inspired by Doug Kmiec’s deep faith and courage to act upon his convictions in the face of public humiliation, shame, and deep personal hurt. His story brought vivid clarity to the power of Christian fellowship and the supper of our Lord. I thank Doug for giving us this insight and thus calling us to live our faith more courageously in the world, knowing that while in the world we have tribulation, in Jesus we have peace.

—D’Esta Love (MDiv ’03)

Why are you airing a Catholic Church issue in the alumni magazine for a school affiliated with the Church of Christ? The communion issue should never have been given space in this article.

—Stephen Rogers (MBA ’94)

As the school’s official magazine, you should have at least made an effort to interview pro-life and pro-family leaders about the damage Kmiec did by misleading thousands of voters about Obama’s real anti-life and anti-Christian agenda.

—Steve Baldwin ('79)

Faithfully Ever After

What a great research project. I would love to hear more about it. One of God’s greatest gifts was human imagination.

—Ron Rose

Breaking Free

As an organization dealing with traumatized victims of crime and crisis for 35 years, we can validate through observation and experience what your research is affirming. Thank you!

—Will Marling
National Organization for Victim Assistance

Center Stage

Corey sang at my wedding and did an amazing job. I am so happy for him. Can’t wait to see him on Broadway!

—Emily Bost-Baxter ('98)
In the premiere issue of Pepperdine Magazine, Provost Darryl Tippens offered a cogent and compelling case for academic freedom in a Christian university. He rightly noted that universities are most true to their calling when they engage issues that matter with respectful dialogue and measured reason.

For the past several years, scientists at Seaver College have been at the forefront of undergraduate research, helping students explore the mysteries of our glorious universe, participating in much of this work through generous support from agencies such as the Templeton Foundation, an organization dedicated to integrating the disciplines of science and religion. We also have been blessed to have outstanding scientific thinkers, such as John Polkinghorne and Kenneth Miller, visit our campus to speak about their faith and how it integrates with their research.

This fall Seaver College will host an international symposium titled “Why Darwin Still Matters.” The symposium will bring leading scientific minds to our campus to address key issues surfacing at the intersection of science and faith. In the following essay, Dr. Douglas Swartzendruber, professor of biology and interim associate dean at Seaver College, sensitively presents several of the salient issues involved in a discussion that continues to intrigue people of faith—the integration of faith and scientific (in this case evolutionary) theory.

Rick Marrs
Dean of Seaver College

“DO YOU BELIEVE IN EVOLUTION?”
This question arises in educational institutions, churches, presidential debates, the media, and around the kitchen table. Most often “the question” comes not in the context of science, but rather as a prelude to a discussion of matters of faith. It is asked by students, parents of potential students, alumni, and friends. Similarly, colleagues at secular institutions have asked, “Can evolution be taught at Pepperdine?”

Embedded in both of those questions is the presumption that one cannot accept both evolution and faith in God the Creator. To me and many of my colleagues who are both scientists and followers of Jesus, this is a false dichotomy that forces individuals to the misconceived notion that one must choose either science or faith. For many young people, a cognitive dissonance develops while they try to integrate their faith and their growing understanding of the natural world. Too often, they reach a crisis point in their faith because of the seemingly contradictory truths of their faith and of their understanding of science. We are most fortunate that one of Pepperdine’s affirmations is “that truth, having nothing to fear from investigation, should be pursued relentlessly in every discipline.” This is a profound encouragement for us to decipher the myriad truths that are found in the sciences, theology, humanities—indeed in all disciplines.

I welcome “the question” because it presents an opportunity to engage discussion of science and faith and to highlight two critical points.
First, the question itself is misdirected, because evolution is not a belief system. Although some philosophers would argue that scientific knowledge is one type of belief system, it is pragmatically different from other belief systems that are not based on independent verification or falsification. Like gravity, atoms, plate tectonics, and all fundamental scientific paradigms and theories, evolutionary theory is about observable knowledge of the world of biology, and it is the unifying concept for all of the biological sciences. Asking about belief in evolution is akin to asking about belief in light. Light has paradoxical characteristics of particles and of waves, and thus any theory of light must explain all of the observed characteristics of light. Likewise, evolutionary theory is currently the best explanation that unifies and makes sense of all of the knowledge we have about the living world, present and past.

Second, we must recognize that science is one of several ways of knowing—scientific knowledge is based on observation, postulation, experimentation, peer review, independent verification, and progressively deeper understanding. At one time many scientists, and thus many others, understood that the earth was the center of the solar system. However, as observations and experimentation progressed, the earth-centered paradigm yielded to the sun-centered paradigm. In Darwin's era, the paradigm for explaining biological diversity was based more on theology than on scientific observation and research. It is unfortunate that Darwin's opus, titled On the Origin of Species by Means of Natural Selection, or the Preservation of Favoured Races in the Struggle for Life is usually shortened to simply The Origin of Species. This has led many people to incorrectly conclude that Darwin's theory addresses ultimate biological origins, which would thus conflict with a belief that God is the originator of all life. Thus, when polls ask the improper question “Do you believe in evolution?” only 39 percent say yes, and 51 percent say that God created humans in their present form within the past 10,000 years. The poll responses reflect the false dichotomy of having to choose between science and faith and also indicate that there is an inappropriate influence of religious understanding on scientific understanding. Paraphrasing Saint Augustine, who warned against such confusion more than 1,500 years ago:

“It often happens that something about the earth, about the sky, about other elements of this world, about the motion and rotation or even the magnitude and distances of the stars, about eclipses of the sun and moon, about the nature of animals, of fruits, of stones, and of other such things, may be known with the greatest certainty by reasoning or by experience, even by one who is not a Christian. It can be ruinous for our community if the non-Christian should hear a Christian speaking in error on these matters.” —After De Genesi ad literam [AD 408].

Augustine argued that if our Biblical interpretations conflict with established science and our God-given intellectual capabilities, we should re-examine our interpretations. If we ignore the truths of science, how can we possibly convince anyone of the truths of scripture and of our faith in God?

I have the great privilege of working with Pepperdine colleagues who accept and teach that God created a universe that is knowable, and that our increased knowledge of the natural world does not decrease one iota of our faith in Creator, Redeemer, and Guide. Likewise, I have prominent colleagues such as Darrel Falk, Karl Giberson, and Francis Collins who are leading the proclamation that one can be a scientist and an evangelical Christian. Each has written a book describing his journey toward integrating his faith with his science, accepting that God is present in all of creation, and incorporating a theistic understanding of evolutionary biology. At Pepperdine, we are fortunate to be able to pursue truths in all disciplines and to have the intellectual freedom to pursue the goal of integrating our scientific knowledge with our faith in God.
PROFESSORS ED LARSON AND RODNEY HONEYCUTT RECEIVE THE UNIVERSITY’S HIGHEST DISTINCTION

The administration and faculty of Pepperdine University have officially selected two deserving professors, Ed Larson and Rodney Honeycutt, for the newly established distinction of University Professor.

“The rank of University Professor is a rare honor and is not to be found at many colleges and universities,” says provost Darryl Tippens, who notes that Pepperdine has granted the title on rare occasions in the past, but it was not attached to specific criteria or a formalized selection process.

This inaugural selection process, which was developed over three years by a committee of faculty and administrators, included nomination by faculty and an extensive approval process. Candidates for the award must have achieved national and/or international distinction; demonstrated excellence in scholarship and in teaching; preeminence in a field of study or excellence in two or more disciplines; and support for the University mission, among other qualifications.

Larson will add University Professor to his title of Hugh and Hazel Darling Chair in Law at the Pepperdine School of Law. He also teaches history courses at Seaver College. The acclaimed author has published more than 60 articles and seven books, including Summer for the Gods, for which he received the 1998 Pulitzer Prize in History.

Honeycutt, a professor of biology at Seaver College, teaches courses related to genetics and scientific decision making. According to Jay Brewster, chair of the Seaver College Rank, Tenure, and Promotion Committee, “Honeycutt is a recognized leader in his field of study and has trained numerous other accomplished scientists.”

“Professors Larson and Honeycutt almost perfectly fit the criteria established for the award,” Tippens adds. “Their scholarship brings renown to our University. They are master teachers who love students and who make themselves available to students. They are outstanding scholars with extraordinary publication records, and they love the mission of the University.”

BOONE CENTER HOSTS FIRST FAMILY OF FAITH NETWORK CONFERENCE

The Boone Center for the Family (BCFF) at the Pepperdine University Graduate School of Education and Psychology hosted its first Family of Faith Network Conference from June 18 to 20. The conference provided an opportunity to share ideas, applications, and strategies conducive to promoting healthy family relationships.

“Our goal was to help both church leaders and community leaders think about a process by which churches can provide services and help to meet the growing needs of families,” says Ken Canfield, executive director of BCFF, of the inaugural event.

The Boone Center was established in 1996 through the inspiration and foundation of M. Norvel and Helen Young and endowed by Pat and Shirley Boone in 2006. Under the direction of Canfield, the center has expanded its reach as an active, vital extension of Pepperdine’s Christian mission.

All of the sessions in the conference integrated biblically-based teaching, weaving together the themes of ministry common to households, families, and the church in order to strengthen each of those entities. Mark A. Holmen, author of Faith Begins at Home—The Family Makeover with Christ at the Center, served as keynote speaker. Holmen is the senior pastor of Ventura Missionary Church in Ventura, California, and has developed and implemented a model for becoming a Faith at Home-focused church, which is gaining national and international acclaim through the Willow Creek Association, The Barna Group, and Focus on the Family.

Marvin Charles, cofounder of Divine Alternatives for Dads Service in Seattle, Washington, delivered his speech, “Strengthening the Low-Income Family from the Urban Perspective.” Charles, along with his wife Jeanette, created the organization to help men who are disconnected from their children discover the gift of fathering.

Another notable speaker was Emerson Eggerichs, who gave his talk, “God’s Work to the Church on Marriage: Love and Respect.” Eggerichs launched Love and Respect Ministries in August 1999 to serve husbands and wives.

ON THE WEB  family.pepperdine.edu
From 1981 to 2006 the Honorable Sandra Day O'Connor served as the nation's first female Supreme Court justice and was the tiebreaker in over three-quarters of the Court's 5–4 decisions. On March 27 she gave the third annual William French Smith Memorial Lecture to an audience of more than 800 at Pepperdine University School of Law. When asked about her life since retirement, O'Connor said, "I have been busier since I left the Court." The justice said she still has an office and one clerk at the Court, and she sits on a lower federal court, as required by Congress. She continues her involvement in guiding judicial reform overseas, and she teaches middle school students civics through an interactive, Web-based program called Our Courts.

O'Connor answered questions from the conversationalists and the audience throughout the lecture. She told about growing up on a cattle ranch in Texas. "My parents were my mentors. My companions were my parents and the cowboys," she said. She talked about earning her bachelor's and law degrees from Stanford University and the adversity she faced upon graduation. Through she graduated in the top three of her law school class and worked on the Stanford Law Review, no firm would hire her because she was a woman.

Instead she became involved in public service, working her way up from deputy county attorney of San Mateo County, California, to assistant attorney general of Arizona. "I realized that I had to take a job and make something of it," she said. "It took a long time before people realized that women could be lawyers and judges."

She was appointed to the Arizona State Senate in 1969 and was subsequently reelected twice to two-year terms. In 1975 she was elected judge of the Maricopa County Superior Court and served until 1979, when she was appointed to the Arizona Court of Appeals. President Reagan nominated her as an associate justice of the Supreme Court, and she took her seat September 25, 1981.

When asked about her advice to young people entering the legal profession, she said, "You may have to take a job that isn't your first choice, especially in this economy, but you have to make something of it.

ON THE WEB Watch a video of the conversation: law.pepperdine.edu/williamfrenchsmithlectures
Pepperdine dedicates new Program Facility in the heart of Washington, D.C.

Pepperdine president Andrew Benton and many friends of the University made a historic trip to the nation’s capital on May 14 to celebrate the official opening of Pepperdine’s newest piece of property: 2011 Pennsylvania Avenue. The brand new facility, which is located four blocks west of the White House, now serves as the permanent home for the Washington, D.C. Internship Program.

“Now the program’s name fits the address,” said Khalil Jahshan, executive director of the Washington, D.C. Internship Program, explaining that for more than 16 years the program has operated out of rental facilities on the Virginia side of the Potomac River.

The dedication, Jahshan said, not only brought a great turnout of University dignitaries, alumni, and guests, it also brought a lot of dropped jaws. “They were delighted to see the high-tech, modern classrooms, the quality of the facility, and of course, the location in the heart of the nation’s capital,” he reports, noting that Pepperdine friends Russell and Audrey Ray stepped forward as the first benefactors of the new facility, endowing the president’s office.

The Washington, D.C. Internship Program is open to Seaver College students of all majors. Participants have the opportunity to intern full-time for an organization of their choice. Past placements include the White House, nongovernmental organizations, think tanks, and many federal agencies.

“This residence will allow our students even greater exposure to the multiple resources available only in our wonderful capital city,” says Seaver College dean Rick Marrs. “The dedication allowed us to showcase the truly unique Pepperdine educational experience on the East Coast.”

ON THE WEB seaver.pepperdine.edu/washingtondc
PEPPERDINE MOURNS THE PASSING OF JACK F. KEMP

Jack F. Kemp, Jr., the namesake of the Jack F. Kemp Institute for Political Economy at the Pepperdine School of Public Policy, passed away on May 2 at his home in Bethesda, Maryland. He was 73.

Kemp was a much respected, nine-term member of the U.S. House of Representatives. He served as secretary of housing and urban development and was the Republican Party’s candidate for vice president. Prior to his distinguished political career, Kemp was a celebrated professional football quarterback who led the Buffalo Bills to two league championships.

In 2007 Kemp and the School of Public Policy established the Jack F. Kemp Institute for Political Economy to honor his life of public service, perpetuate his contribution to American political thought, and help educate the next generation of political leadership.

Kemp’s legacy lives on through the institute, a key component of which will be a Jack F. Kemp Distinguished Professorship, to be held by individuals who espouse the principles for which Kemp was so broadly respected. The institute’s inaugural conference, originally planned for May 13 in Washington, D.C., has been rescheduled for October.

“Believing that the ideas and ideals that have characterized Kemp’s life are needed by the nation now more than ever,” said Jim Wilburn, dean of the Pepperdine School of Public Policy, “the University looks forward to presenting a comprehensive Kemp Institute conference and dinner next fall as a fitting tribute to his life and influence.”

ON THE WEB publicpolicy.pepperdine.edu/kemp-institute

DISTINGUISHED ALUMNI RETURN TO ADDRESS GRADUATES

After a student walks across the graduation stage at Pepperdine University, no matter where their path may take them, the hope is that they will continue to carry the University’s ideal of leading a life of purpose, service, and leadership. At each graduation ceremony, Pepperdine honors an alumnus who has exemplified that mission, and achieved extraordinary success in his or her chosen discipline. This year’s Distinguished Alumni addressed their respective school’s graduating class with words of encouragement and wisdom.

This year’s Distinguished Alumni are:

ALAN BEARD (’94, MPP ’99), founder of Wave Strategies, Inc., a new media marketing firm
NEVA CHAUPPETTE (PsyD ’92), project director of a mobile medical unit that provides free HIV, hepatitis, and STD services
JOHN FIGUEROA (MBA ’97), president of McKesson Corporation, U.S. Pharmaceuticals
BARBARA JONES (JD ’89), an attorney specializing in corporate law at McDermott Will & Emory in Boston, Massachusetts
FIONA MA (MBA ’04), California assemblyperson representing the 12th Assembly District
SAM SCHMIDT (’86, MBA ’87), former Indy Racing League driver, and founder of Sam Schmidt Paralysis Foundation and Sam Schmidt Motorsports
JENNIFER TRUBENBACH (MA ’04), executive director of Operation of Hope, an organization that provides free facial reconstruction surgeries for needy children

ON THE WEB Learn about this year’s Honorary Doctorate recipients: magazine.pepperdine.edu/honorarydoctorates

publicpolicy.pepperdine.edu/kemp-institute
GENERAL MOTORS EXECUTIVE HEADLINES DEAN’S EXECUTIVE LEADERSHIP SERIES

The Graziadio School of Business and Management hosted an array of talented business minds in the 2008-09 Dean’s Executive Leadership Series, culminating on May 12 with speaker Elizabeth Lowry. Lowry shared her experiences in the struggling automotive industry as vice president of environment, energy, and safety policy at General Motors (GM).

Speaking to a packed audience at the Drescher Graduate Campus auditorium in Malibu, Lowry described working at the cutting edge of industry change. Lowry’s career with GM began 20 years ago when she joined the company as an environmental lawyer. Since that time she has worked to ensure that GM remains an industry leader in environmental research and implementation; the company currently has 20 models in the United States that each get 30 miles to the gallon.

Lowry played a video clip of an upcoming Chevy electric vehicle; cited various projects being carried out by GM to test and improve fuel-efficient technology (including an 18-month fuel test program and a lithium battery initiative), and openly hoped for a future in which alternative fuel vehicles would be catered to by all gas stations.

She also stated that when she accepted the invitation last summer to speak at Pepperdine, she could not have predicted how different her industry would be by May 2009 (and the state of GM itself by June). Speaking candidly about the economic challenges faced by GM and the automotive industry during the nation’s ongoing financial crisis, she cited opportunities to respond with innovation and creativity. In particular, she stressed the urgency for businesses in crisis to focus on the “core of the business,” by developing top-quality, innovative products while building a strong relationship with both customers and stakeholders.

ON THE WEB Watch Lowry’s presentation, as well as those of each speaker in the 2008-09 series: bschool.pepperdine.edu/dels/podcast Audio interviews are also available.

STRAUS INSTITUTE CELEBRATES NUMBER ONE RANKING AND NEW ENDOWED CHAIR

The School of Law’s Straus Institute for Dispute Resolution was recently ranked the Number One program by U.S. News and World Report for the fifth consecutive year. In the last 13 years, the Straus Institute has never been lower than third and has achieved the Number One position eight times.

In addition, the institute’s academic director, Thomas J. Stipanowich, was named the William H. Webster Chair in Dispute Resolution in March. Stipanowich joined Pepperdine in 2006 with a distinguished career in conflict resolution. He is an award-winning author and much-cited authority on arbitration, mediation, and other subjects; the former chief executive of the New York-based International Institute for Conflict Prevention and Resolution (CPR Institute); a respected and widely experienced arbitrator and mediator; and the winner of several of the dispute resolution field's highest honors, including the American Bar Association’s prestigious D’Alemberte/Raven Award.

The chair is named for the Honorable William Webster, the only person to have been the director of the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) and the Central Intelligence Agency (CIA). “This chair adds new luster to the Straus Institute and to Pepperdine University,” said Stipanowich. “Judge Webster is a personal friend, mentor, and hero. It is an extraordinary honor to hold the William H. Webster Chair in Dispute Resolution.”

School of Law dean Ken Starr praises the Straus Institute’s achievements. “Year after year, Straus continues to be recognized as the premier dispute resolution program in the nation,” he says. “Around the globe, and right here at home, Straus admirably embodies Pepperdine University’s enduring commitment to the profound values of peacemaking in a hurting world.”

ON THE WEB straus.pepperdine.edu
PEPPERDINE ATHLETES MAKE WAVES ACROSS COUNTRY AND CONFERENCE

The 2009 spring semester brought many great moments in Pepperdine University sports, including NCAA championship appearances and national recognition for some of the school’s most valuable athletes and coaches.

The Pepperdine women’s golf team made a late charge to claim the eighth and final qualifying spot at the NCAA West Regional, then rallied to take ninth place at the NCAA Championships. Freshman Lisa McCloskey took 10th place in the final tournament, earning her All-American Honorable Mention honors. She was also named the West Coast Conference’s Freshman of the Year and was an All-WCC First Team honoree.

Senior Paul Carroll was named the American Volleyball Coaches Association (AVCA) National Player of the Year, marking the fifth time in the last eight years and the seventh time in the last 12 years that a Pepperdine men’s volleyball player has won a national player-of-the-year honor. Prior to achieving national commendation, Carroll was named AVCA All-American First Teamer (his third year in a row) and was also named the Mountain Pacific Sports Federation’s Player of the Year and the MPSF Tournament MVP.

In early June Julie Rubenstein, Seaver College senior and four-year standout with the women’s volleyball team, was named the recipient of the 2009 Mike Gilleran Award as the West Coast Conference’s top female scholar-athlete. Men’s golfer Shane Mason was named to the CoSIDA/ESPN The Magazine Academic All-District Second Team, becoming the fifth Pepperdine student-athlete to earn district honors this school year. A junior political science major, Mason boasted a 3.92 GPA at the time of his nomination.

Omar Altmann won All-American honors for NCAA Division I tennis in both singles and doubles thanks to his performances at the NCAA Championships. His partner Bassam Beidas also earned All-American honors in doubles.

Several Waves will be part of U.S. National Teams this summer: Lilla Frederick of women’s volleyball (U.S. Junior National Team), Tyler Jaynes of men’s volleyball (U.S. Junior National Team), J. P. MacDonell of water polo (U.S. National Team and World University Games Team), and coach Julie Rousseau of women’s basketball (assistant coach for the U.S. at the World University Games).

ON THE WEB pepperdinesports.com

PEPPERDINE UNIVERSITY NAMES THREE NEW REGENTS TO BOARD

In early June Pepperdine announced three new additions to its 40-member Board of Regents, the governing board of the University. Michelle Hiepler, Dennis “Denny” Lewis, and Danny Phillips have accepted the role of helping to shape the direction of the University. “Pepperdine has benefited greatly over the years from the collective wisdom, will, and generosity of our regents,” President Benton said.

Hiepler (JD ’89) is a partner at the Law Offices of Hiepler & Hiepler, a nationally known civil trial firm. Prior to forming the Oxnard-based law practice, she served as associate general counsel at Pepperdine and as an associate attorney at Adams, Duque & Hazeltine.

Lewis (’65) is president and owner of WorldTravelService, a nationwide travel management company specializing in corporate, government, and leisure travel markets with offices located throughout the mid-Atlantic. Lewis’ previous business endeavors include four decades in the travel industry with United Airlines and U.S. Travel. Lewis was honored as a Distinguished Alumnus of Seaver College in 2007.

Phillips is a certified public accountant at Condley and Company in Abilene, Texas. Previously he served in various senior financial roles at Harken Energy Corporation, was chief financial officer for Aloha Petroleum, and executive vice president and chief financial officer for Advance PCS, a pharmaceutical distribution company. Phillips called it an “honor and privilege” to be named a Pepperdine regent.

In addition to announcing the new regents, Pepperdine named legendary entertainer Arthur G. Linkletter and prominent business executive Robert G. Jackson as Life Regents. The honorary title recognizes their long-standing dedication to Pepperdine, a University that has sustained their interest and support for decades.
Emanuele Buono was crowned winner of the prestigious Parkening International Guitar Competition, which takes place every three years thanks to generous grants from Howard and Roberta Ahmanson and Manny and Juanita Del Arroz.
After a stirring final performance with the Los Angeles Chamber Orchestra, Emanuele Buono, 21, of Italy was crowned winner of the prestigious Parkening International Guitar Competition on May 30. Buono received the $30,000 Stotsenberg Prize, the Gold Medal, and a paved path to international renown in the classical guitar world. The second triennial event brought 15 of the world’s preeminent guitarists representing 10 countries to Pepperdine's Smothers Theatre. A sold-out crowd hung on every note as the final three—Ian Watt, 18, of Scotland; Juuso Nieminen, 29, of Finland; and Buono—competed for the largest prize purse of any classical guitar competition.

ON THE WEB

arts.pepperdine.edu/parkening
Bill Gates. Mary Kay. Richard Branson. Thomas Edison. Debbi Fields. None of these successful entrepreneurs ever graduated from college, nor did they pursue formal education in business or entrepreneurship. Yet from Microsoft to Virgin to Mrs. Fields, they redefined what it takes to turn good ideas into lucrative businesses.

During the last 10 years new business incorporations averaged 600,000 per year in the United States, notes entrepreneurship researcher Donald F. Kuratko. "Entrepreneurship," he says, "is arguably the most potent economic force the world has ever experienced."

But building a new business from the ground up is not without risk, and with the explosion in entrepreneurial activity has come a similar increase in the field of entrepreneurship education. The Chronicle of Higher Education and the Ewing Marion Kauffman Foundation report that the number of colleges and universities that offer courses related to entrepreneurship has grown from 250 in 1985 to approximately 2,000 today.

With so many famously successful entrepreneurs being also famously self-taught, the question remains: how do you teach entrepreneurship? Do you start with Ingenuity 101? Follow with Guts Development? Pepper in perseverance workshops? Swedish scholar Bengt Johansson contends, "...to teach individuals to become not only more enterprising but businessmen as well ... is an undertaking that in both time and scope is beyond the capabilities of an academic business school."

Faculty at the Graziadio School of Business and Management disagree. In Fall 2009 MBA students in Pepperdine's full-time and fully employed programs will have the opportunity to avail themselves of a newly designed entrepreneurship concentration, which attempts to cultivate the skills of entrepreneurship—which many insist are inborn, not taught.

Pepperdine University itself was founded by an entrepreneur, George Pepperdine, who began his highly successful company, Western Auto Supply, with an initial investment of $5 in 1909. In 1969 the University established a school of business and management, later endowed by yet another entrepreneur, George L. Graziadio. Prior to cofounding the Imperial Bank, a financial institution that catered to the needs of start-up businesses, he developed more than 100 shopping centers in 21 states.

"Entrepreneurial spirit is the legacy of both University founder George Pepperdine and the business school’s namesake George Graziadio," says Linda Livingstone, dean of the Graziadio School, which celebrates its 40th anniversary this year. "The new entrepreneurship concentration represents an investment in the school’s future in its distinctive leadership."

The program is directed by Larry Cox, associate professor of entrepreneurship, who was hired in August 2008 to help design the program based on his 20 years of professional and personal research. Cox got his first taste of entrepreneurship when he started his own business after attending college at the University of Nebraska. He went on to serve as director of the Nebraska Business Development Center, consulting with hundreds of would-be entrepreneurs while he earned his doctorate. Following his love of research Cox became a director at the Kauffman Foundation in Kansas City, Missouri, before he went on to direct and teach at the Entrepreneurship Center at the University of Wisconsin-Madison and the Top 10-ranked
Entrepreneurship Center
at Ball State University.
When Cox is asked, “Can entrepreneurship be taught?” He answers, “Yes,” but qualifies, “parts of it. I can teach you to be more creative. There are skills, tools, and processes that go along with it.” The ingenuity, he says, comes from the creative process; the perseverance comes from having a passion for the problem; the guts come from knowing that your idea is a good one through market feasibility testing.

“Traditionally, for the last 20 years or so, entrepreneurship education has been built around the business plan,” says Cox, who taught this plan-centric method for 18 years before he formulated what he considers a better way. “What I found was, students were writing really good plans about really bad ideas,” he says.

Pepperdine’s new program is novel in that it centers on the belief that entrepreneurship is about creativity—a person coming up with an innovative idea, frequently for a market that does not exist. “We take students back to the first step,” he pauses, “the genesis of an idea.”

Unlike most programs, students in the new Pepperdine program aren’t expected to come to class with a business venture in mind. “Other business schools start with courses focused on market feasibility or business planning,” explains Livingstone.

“We take students back to the first step, the genesis of an idea.” —Larry Cox

“Often the student’s underlying business idea is not fully examined until late in the curriculum or they settle on a business idea that assumes profitability, but is neither personally meaningful nor well-conceived.”

Using a system of creative problem solving, Cox shows students how to come up with many ideas, then narrow them down, reframe the best idea, test its market feasibility, make modifications, and if necessary, kill the idea. It’s really an idea laboratory designed to catalyze economic opportunity that reflects personal values.

“We’re saying to students, the starting point for any business is just having a good problem to solve, so, got any problems? Then we try to find a creative solution to those problems.”

Students are encouraged to explore causes and problems they’re passionate about. For example, Cox had a student last year with an interest in art therapy, Laurie Lunsford, who wanted to do something to help elderly people. Believe it or not, her idea came out of a class discussion about tap dancing.

“I asked a class of 50 undergraduates, ‘Does anyone have something that they’re really passionate about?’ And a student raised her hand and said, ‘I’m passionate about tap dancing.’”

The problem she posed was that there weren’t enough venues to practice. Cox, determined to show his students that any problem could translate into a business, put it through the system, creating an idea map. One node of the map asked, “How might we change the technology of tap dancing?”

“When we got to that thought, Laurie, who was auditing the class and was sitting in the back row, lit up like a firefly,” recalls Cox. “She said, ‘I’ve got it! Put the taps on your hands.’”

Cox thought it was an unusual idea, but wrote it down and moved on. The following week, Lunsford came into class with a prototype made out of little coasters that go under chairs and bottle caps connected by strips of aluminum. Much to the dismay of the rest of the class, the conversation about tap dancing continued, exploring the potential markets.”
ENTREPRENEURSHIP

“I never perfected an invention that I did not think about in terms of the service it might give others... I find out what the world needs, then I proceed to invent.”—THOMAS EDISON

Early-stage entrepreneurial activity is most prevalent in the age group of individuals 25 to 34 years old.

Thailand has the highest percentage of overall entrepreneurial activity, with 47.4 percent of the population ages 18 to 64 engaged in setting up or running their own businesses. Peru is close behind with 39 percent. The United States has 14.1 percent.

In a study conducted on new businesses with any employees in the United States, two-thirds survived at least two years, and about half survive a minimum of four years.

Source: Global Entrepreneurship Monitor 2007 Executive Report

one that she wanted to pursue was retired people. These are the people who really like tap dancing.”

The business that burgeoned from this discussion is called “Dancing Hands,” and owner Lunsford has fine-tuned the prototype, and created a workbook and CD for use in retirement homes all over the country where senior citizens—many of whom are faced with disabilities and limitations—learn how to tap dance with their hands.

“They are reliving something from the past and they love it,” explains Cox. “Now they have tap-dancing groups. They use them instead of bells in choirs. I don’t know that the company will ever be Google, but she’s just having a great time.”

Lunsford’s product is something she never expected would come out of her participation in the entrepreneurship class. “I’m an art teacher, I write music, I do a lot of creative things, and I went into the class with the idea of wanting to stir some creative juices and find something that would make a good business,” she says. Now, introducing her product to seniors is one of her favorite things to do.

“It’s not work to me; it fires me up,” Lunsford says. “The tapping sessions are like drum circles. The seniors get in a circle, interact, socialize, and just dance from the rhythm within them. I have a saying: ‘Do what’s in you,’ and these came out of me.”

Cox gives examples of business ideas that have sprung out of other passions, like a method to recycle computer and auto plastics, swizzle sticks that detect date rape drugs, and an interactive planning tool for weddings and events.

“It’s impossible without passion,” he explains. “If it’s a problem that you really care about solving, and you think that you have a really good solution that no one else has, then your confidence goes way up. Your willingness to risk goes up.”

Confidence is one thing that Cox has identified in his research as a common trait among successful entrepreneurs. He compares Ross Perot and Bill Gates. “Personality-wise, they’re not the same at all,” he says. “What we’ve seen is, they share a state of mind—there is a level of confidence that has to be there.”

Thus, in terms of “ingredients” of a successful entrepreneur, Cox says, “It’s a combination of things. There’s something about the people themselves and their passion and commitment and ability. And there is something to the process; you do need a plan. But if you really want to start at the beginning, it’s a person who comes up with an idea.”

And it’s the ideas that he loves to nurture. “I’m an idea person and I love it when students begin to use their imaginations as they did when they were children,” he says, noting that Pepperdine’s bold new program is not unlike a new business venture. “This is a unique program, in that I don’t know of anybody else who teaches creativity as part of the curriculum.”

Fortunately for Cox, who is in the business of teaching business, entrepreneurship is not going anywhere. “Globally, about one in every 12 people is starting a business at any point in time,” he says, noting that, while a formal education is not a requirement, it is a great asset in this highly competitive environment. “Almost every seasoned entrepreneur I run into says that they wish a program like ours had been around when they were starting out, the reason being, it cuts down on the learning curve and it greatly enhances the chances of success,” he says. “That’s the whole purpose; to give our students a head start and to reduce the likelihood that they’ll make a fatal mistake.”

ON THE WEB

bschool.pepperdine.edu

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Everyone Deserves an Advocate

The Union Rescue Mission gives a home to the homeless, while Pepperdine law students offer a hand up.

By Audra Quinn

How far away are you from homelessness?

A pink slip? A mortgage payment?
A few burned bridges with family members?

Homelessness is becoming a cruel reality for more and more people in America, a hub of financial hardship amidst the global economic downturn.
The Union Rescue Mission, located in the heart of Skid Row in downtown Los Angeles, is the largest mission of its kind in the United States, dedicated to serving the poor and homeless. Tent-enclosed cots fill every inch of open space in the massive facility. The tiny, temporary homes are called EDARs, which stands for “everyone deserves a roof.” The mission has seen a 400 percent increase in residents since last year—people who have watched their comfortable lives crumble around them and have nowhere else to turn.

“In the first month of winter, the shelter had as many people come as they had in all of 2008,” says Brittany Stringfellow-Otey (JD ’01), poking her head into the mission’s chapel. “They normally sleep 600 in the building. Lately, it’s been more like 1,000.”

Stringfellow-Otey is the director of the Pepperdine Legal Aid Clinic, which the School of Law established at the Union Rescue Mission in 1999 and has since become an essential component of the rehabilitation programs on-site. Stringfellow-Otey and her staff of students believe that, in addition to a roof, everyone deserves an advocate. Homeless men and women often need legal services to overcome their past and reenter their communities as productive, upstanding contributors.

Second-year law student Weston Krider has worked in the Legal Aid Clinic both semesters this year. He describes the work he’s doing as “eye-opening.” “Coming in, I had very little experience with the homeless,” he says. “I had the perception that I think a lot of people have—that they just don’t care about their plight in life and they choose to fly under the radar.”

Krider says he was surprised to find that the people he’s met, for the most part, are not that different from him. “The people that I work with really do care. They’re trying, but sometimes the circumstances are impossible. They got a conviction, or they start racking up debt, and it’s tough to get out. They need help.”

Students who work at the Legal Aid Clinic receive class credit to do legal work that changes people’s lives. They write motions and represent clients in a forum called “homeless court,” a collaboration between the public defender, the city attorney, and social service agencies. They complete expungements, getting clients’ criminal histories dismissed in order to aid them in the job application process. They also assist with parentage, custody, visitation, and child-support matters.
With the influx of residents, providing everyone with an advocate has become an increasing challenge. The clinic has responded by holding monthly expungement workshops on top of their normal caseload to service as many people as possible, all in a one-stop shop. "We've had up to 50 and 60 people come from all over Southern California—as far as Lancaster and the Inland Empire," Stringfellow-Otey says. "Often they are people who still have homes but have recently been laid off. Laws have changed about criminal backgrounds, and so they are trying to get back into the workforce."

In addition to their weekly field work, students undergo seven weeks of training in a classroom course designed to prepare them for the situations and poverty they will face. "I walk them through the things to expect," explains Stringfellow-Otey. "It starts from even just parking in that area—we park below the building, in a secure lot. Then, let's talk about what biases we bring to the table. What's the scariest case that you can imagine coming across your desk? Because it will come."

In addition to financial struggles, some clients have lengthy rap sheets, with everything from attempted murder to pedophilia to prostitution. "I ask, 'What is the thing that's going to make you tighten up in your throat?' Because our goal is to walk you through that," she says.

One of the biggest lessons that the students have to learn is to set boundaries. "When you first come in and have contact with this much need, there's a part of you that just wants to give all of yourself to try to heal it," she says. "That's great, but if you give too much of yourself you'll actually wear out too quickly and then you won't be able to help long-term."

The key, Stringfellow-Otey says, is for students to understand that they can't help people who don't want to help themselves. "I've worked all weekend on a motion to get a woman's children back, cried over it, gotten up at 4 a.m. to work on it, only to come to work on Monday morning and get a voice mail from her that she's decided to go back to prostitution and she doesn't want her kids back," she says. "If I want a particular resolution more than the client does, then I have crossed my own boundary that I have made for myself."

On a practical level, students learn how to deal with a wide variety of personalities, how to manage their time and their caseload, how to appear confident when their mind is racing, and how to communicate complex ideas clearly. "Students have to find a balance between compassion and professionalism here," Stringfellow-Otey says. "They walk alongside the client, helping them to navigate the legal system. They also empower the client to take matters into their own hands, so that they know how to take the next step. The ideal result is growth on the part of both the client and the student."

The Legal Aid Clinic began as the product of several discussions in professor Bob Cochran's "Christ and the Law" class. From that class, a student-led movement grew. As a first-year law student, Stringfellow-Otey got involved. "We would come down to the mission with Pepperdine professors and have them supervise us, and we would interview clients and then go back to school and try to figure out the answers to their problems. Then we'd come back the next week and give them our advice. So, it started out very small and really grassroots," she says.

Arriving at the mission, she says she found her calling. "I felt pretty lost in law school because I just couldn't..."
connect that heart and mind thing. But the first time I walked on this floor—the sights, the smells, the sounds—it all collided and I thought, this is what I was made for.”

Now, she’s the one guiding students down that hall. “I think for a lot of students, it starts with just wanting some hands-on, practical experience,” she says. “My hope is that any student who comes to this clinic is never the same, that they’re changed. And that as they transition to their firm or whatever it is they go to do, they will always be mindful of the poor.”

One client who has left an indelible mark on students is a woman named Guadalupe Cortez, who escaped domestic violence in Mexico to bring her four children to the United States. “I came to this country with the dream of finding a better life for my family,” she says. The only job she could find was in a clothing factory where they paid her 10 cents per piece of clothing she sewed. “I had very hard time finding a babysitter for my children and paying my bills.”

After five years of struggling, she decided that she would try to provide her children a better life by giving them up for adoption. “That was the most difficult decision of my life, but no mother in her right mind would ever want to see her children suffer because life is so demanding and hard. I will give my life for my children; my love goes with them always,” she says.

Cortez hopped from shelter to shelter and devoted herself to learning English, while studying to be a domestic violence counselor and saving money. Eventually one of her daughters was permitted by the adoptive family to return to live with her, if she could do the legal footwork.

“I didn’t know or understand the law and my rights when it comes to my children,” Cortez says, explaining that she heard about the Union Rescue Mission’s Legal Aid Clinic from a case manager. “I knew within my heart that God was with me all the time and had sent me there to find help,” she says.

In order for Cortez to get parental rights, the students had to prove to the judge that she had a safe place for her daughter to live. She found an apartment while the students got to work raising funds to help her furnish it. After a shopping trip to IKEA, the students made their case in court. Now Cortez has not only a home to call her own, she has full custody of her daughter. “I am so thankful to God for their help,” says Cortez, who now works at the Union Rescue Mission as a dorm intake assistant.

For the students experiences like reuniting a mother with her child are not only life-altering, they are career-building.

Second-year law student Molly McKibben, for instance, saw a client several months ago who brought a friend with him to his appointment: a baby pigeon. “He fed the bird, and let the bird waddle around on my desk during the appointment. It was memorable to say the least,” she says.

A week later McKibben was at an interview with a firm in Santa Monica, California. The interviewer asked how her work at the Legal Aid Clinic might prepare her for working at his firm, how the skills might transfer.

Without skipping a beat McKibben replied: “You mentioned that things move at a fast pace here, and that I will need to multitask and take whatever lands on my desk. I wrote a motion with a pigeon hopping around on my desk last week. I can do anything.”

“If I want a particular resolution more than the client does, then I have crossed my own boundary that I have made for myself.”

— Brittany Stringfellow-Otey

“ON THE WEB
law.pepperdine.edu/clinical/family_law_clinic.htm

magazine.pepperdine.edu
Buen Salud

From air quality to water conservation, preserving Machu Picchu begins with the health of its neighbors.

By Sarah Fisher
Residents of rural areas speak fondly of “the simple life.” They praise the bucolic beauty of their homes, the connection they feel to the earth, and the deep sense of community fostered among neighbors. Though not without challenges, it’s a far cry, they say, from the rat race of modern, urban living—the gridlock traffic and neon signs, the perpetual shadow from office buildings, and the feeling of isolation among people who exist in such close proximity.

But School of Public Policy students Claudia Paredes (MPP ’09) and Josef Timchenko (MPP ’09) discovered a surprising commonality between these otherwise disparate ways of life when they traveled recently to the rural Urubamba Valley of Peru. The ancient sites of the Sacred Valley and Machu Picchu rest in fragile relation to the rural town of Urubamba, its surrounding villages, and the nearby city of Cuzco. Alarming pollution levels threaten the environment there, as well as the health and safety of residents. What’s more, local inhabitants often lack information on how they impact the natural resources around them.

“They’ll pour detergent in the river, they’ll bathe themselves or put their trash in the river—all without really realizing this is also the water they are consuming,” explains Paredes.

The pair worked with the nongovernmental organization (NGO) ProPeru, an offshoot of the service corps ProWorld, dedicated to promoting sustainable development in communities around the globe. Paredes helped educate local residents about how they interact with their environment, while Timchenko conducted research about improvements implemented by ProPeru, such as the Cleaner Burning Stove Project. This project swaps traditional stoves for properly ventilated bio-ovens to improve indoor and outdoor air quality.

“They are making stoves that actually have chimneys,” describes Timchenko, whose research focuses on health policy, including HIV/AIDS policy in Russia. “For the majority of communities, the stoves burn with an open flame, and the indoor air quality as a result is really poor. And most people have the stove in the same area where they congregate.”

Based in the midsize town of Urubamba and extending to the more rural areas nearby, the project also aims to reduce smog from the charcoal stoves, which damages the stones of Machu Picchu and the nearby Sacred Valley. The ancient site of the Incan Empire is situated on the mountain range above the Urubamba Valley, and was named a UNESCO World Heritage Site in 1983.

Though culturally important, preserving the historic site is not high on a list of priorities for the locals of the valley.
Even those who understand the ecological impact do not have the resources to do much about it. More than half of Peru’s population is considered impoverished, and the sense of tradition is strong, says Paredes, a native Peruvian from the Urubamba area and a first-generation immigrant raised in Northern California. Like Timchenko, she lived with a local family with the means to support an extra person in their household. “Often we would just sit in the plaza and watch people during the weekends. Thirty-five years ago my mother was there doing the same thing.”

Paredes, who researches immigration policy, used her native Spanish to speak with local governments about some of the changes that should be made. To kick-start the process, she focused on the young, who could in turn teach their parents. “I helped start an environmental education curriculum in the schools and tried to make students more aware of how their behavior has ramifications,” she says. “They would raise their little hands when we would ask, ‘how do you conserve water?’ And they would say, ‘walk instead of take a taxi.’ The kids knew the ideas but not how to apply them.”

She also researched living standards in rural Peru from water pollution to trash collection. Paredes then translated that knowledge into hands-on activities for elementary school-aged children, who jumped at the opportunity to engage with their surroundings. “We coordinated with the five or six schools in the city to do posters and a clean-up day,” she says. “They took the leadership role in cleaning up a two- or three-block area surrounding the school.”

Her goal was to connect in their minds that local action can have global consequences. Cuzco’s water supply comes from a visible glacier that traps the rain and channels it towards the city via a stream. Environmentalists fear that global warming could melt the glacier. Says Paredes, “Once this glacier as their main water supply dries up they will no longer have any water. The projections are that this will happen in the next decade.”

The need for water usage awareness is not limited to the West, she adds. Rural communities may not have access to running water, but they have plenty of access to communal water, which is more likely to spread disease. It is not dissimilar from the direct impact on their community that is made by traditional stoves. Timchenko explains, “A lot of times when indoor air quality is poor there is a lower birth rate among families and a higher rate of miscarriage.”

Less proficient in Spanish than Paredes, Timchenko was more involved in data collection and analysis during their time in Peru. He researched statistics such as height, weight, eye color, and other indicators like breath to determine whether the individual had sustained substantial lung damage from long-term use of traditional stoves. The project is ongoing, and Timchenko is awaiting statistics from current field volunteers to see how the stoves have impacted people one year later. With 2,000 cleaner burning stoves in place...
and more on the way, “I can already see an impact based from anecdotal evidence of people being much happier with their stoves,” he says. For example, “people have talked about how they’ve been less prone to getting an injury because the stove fire was more contained.”

The ability to reach into the hearts and homes of the population plays a significant part in the success of operations like ProPeru. Paredes campaigned for rural communities not only at schools, but also at the local government level, working with the mayor’s office in Cuzco to establish citywide environmental programs. She learned that poor communities have a particular weapon at their disposal in the fight against environmental damage: unity.

“When one person has to harvest their crops everyone in the community will help,” explains Timchenko. “They will switch off to work together. A lot of the people are farming potatoes, and it’s amazing how, on breaks, they hang out eating potatoes together. They are truly ready to give you anything they have, even if it’s just a potato.”

Without the benefits of electric ovens, trash-collecting companies that separate recyclables, and pricey hybrid vehicles—as Paredes points out, “obviously in this area they can’t just go out and buy a Prius”—it’s left to communities to maintain environmental standards, with education and innovative help from NGOs and public policy students. As Paredes and Timchenko learned, in a place where the past and present live side-by-side, it really does take a village to preserve the ancient and protect the future.
THE SCARS OF HEROES

Psychologists Explore the Enduring Wounds and Courage of Our Nation’s Veterans

By Megan Huard
“Even though it was another lifetime, I distinctly recall the feeling of taking the flight back from Vietnam in December 1969,” says Marv Dunphy (’74). “My thoughts were on the people who were still there, my fellow soldiers and the South Vietnamese who worked on our base. And what I remember vividly is the color. Everything had been olive drab, devoid of colors, and when we landed at the Oakland Army Terminal, everything was in Technicolor."

Throughout history veterans like Dunphy, now head coach of the Pepperdine volleyball team, have returned from war with a new way of seeing the world. It’s common for families and friends to observe of a veteran, “he came back different,” or “she’s changed, and I don’t understand her anymore.” Psychological wounds persist long after vets return from combat, but stigmas surrounding therapy and cultural notions of strength and weakness often inhibit them from seeking help.

Fortunately recent studies have shown that psychological struggles among veterans are a direct consequence of the rigors of war, and do not demonstrate the quality of the soldier. “Serving in life-threatening situations changes people in ways they cannot always control,” explains David Foy, professor of psychology at the Pepperdine Graduate School of Education and Psychology. “It’s important to note that the primary contributing factor is not the character of the individual; it’s the severity of the combat exposure.”

To care for the scars of those who have served the country in combat, the federal government established the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) in 1930 (see page 29 for more on the VA system). When the VA began, it operated 54 hospitals nationwide. Now the department’s health care system includes 153 medical centers, at which nearly 5.5 million people received care last year.

Services of this scope require a huge support staff. The VA manages the largest medical education and health professions training program in the United States; it trains and employs more psychologists than any other organization in the country. Among the many psychologists training and working in VA medical centers across the country are students and alumni of Pepperdine’s PsyD in clinical psychology program.

Practicum placements, externships, and internships expose them to a variety of clients and experiences, and hone their skills in dealing with recurring issues. “We see a wide range of ages and wars,” explains PsyD candidate Terri Mansour Moriarty, “but the common denominator among vets is the struggle to fit back into society, going from being in war to being back where it’s normal. There’s a different mindset in the military. You obey. You do what’s asked. Here you lose all that structure.”

Psychologists in the VA system frequently see vets coping with unemployment, fragmented family relationships, chemical dependence, or instances of violence, all of which typically result from some level of psychological turmoil.

Nina Grayson, PsyD candidate and a pre-intern with the VA Greater Los Angeles Healthcare System, remembers a young soldier in his 20s who served as a sniper in Iraq. During his first week back home, an official came to repossess his car. The veteran thought he was stealing it, and immediately reached for his gun. He shot the man three times and went to jail. “He was in a trance-like state during the whole experience,” Grayson explains. “The only thing that woke him was the sprinklers in his face after the shooting.”

The man was exhibiting symptoms of post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD). When PTSD was first recognized as a formal diagnosis in 1980, it changed the entire...
framework for addressing the mental health of veterans, who finally had a name to describe what they experienced.

Foy is an expert on factors contributing to the development of PTSD among combat veterans. He spent five years in the navy during Vietnam before attending graduate school on the GI bill. His first job was at the VA in Jackson, Mississippi, where he served as director of an alcoholic treatment program for returning vets. “We knew we needed to treat more than just their alcohol problems, but at that time, the VA wasn’t really aware of the ramifications of combat stress,” Foy explains. “People who provided services didn’t have the benefit of studies that we do now, especially about PTSD.”

Individuals struggling with the anxiety disorder—previously known as “soldier’s heart,” “combat fatigue,” or “shell shock”—are known to vividly relive the traumatic event in their minds, avoid situations that trigger memories of it, feel numb, or feel “keyed up” (a condition known as hyperarousal). They often experience nightmares, flashbacks, anger management issues, insomnia, guilt, and fear. It’s alarmingly common among combat veterans.

“Veterans can feel like they’re in a completely different realm,” says PsyD candidate Pernilla Nathan (MA ’06), who completed her practicum at a VA in Los Angeles. “They have a sense of aloneness and loss of hope. They struggle to grasp the intensity of what they’ve gone through, and to accept what they’ve done or seen. They can remember any detail; they can smell the smoke, and tell you exactly what the blood smells like. It’s like it all happened yesterday.”

Though all returning veterans are affected in some way by their military experiences, studies indicate that the process of recovery follows one of six different trajectories. Some vets cope with the disorder for the rest of their lives without healing, while others take a delayed course on which problems develop six months to a year after returning. Some vets are destabilized by their combat experiences but make a quick recovery, while others demonstrate resilience. Some seem to be inoculated by their early combat training, and veterans who experience post-traumatic growth actually look better after the trauma than before.

Since 1985 Foy has served as a consultant and collaborative researcher with the veteran PTSD treatment center in Menlo Park, California. More than 20 dissertation topics among Pepperdine PsyD students have emerged from data gathered through his assessment programs there. Students in Foy’s research lab study health risk behaviors, such as substance abuse, firearm ownership, aggression, and obesity among vets with PTSD; preventative and/or coping strategies, like spirituality, that alleviate PTSD symptoms; and factors that either contribute to or result from PTSD, like depression, suicidality, and family abuse.

“The general philosophy of this line of research is that we’d like to see the course of chronic stress-related problems among veterans of the current wars, Operation Iraqi Freedom (OIF) and Operation Enduring Freedom (OEF), to be different and better than those for previous war fighters.” Multiple studies have been conducted on vets from previous wars, especially Vietnam, to examine what happens to returning soldiers. In addition to chronic PTSD, Foy and the researchers wonder, do vets live as long as civilians? Are they more likely to be successful and competitive in employment? Are they likely to develop substance-abuse problems? “These questions have not been answered yet for OIF/OEF veterans,” Foy says. “We want to learn as much as we can from the perspective of prevention, intervention, and improving the quality of life for returning vets.”
For decades the word “soldier” has conjured the image of a young male, barely out of his teenage years, with cropped hair and a uniform. Through OIF/OEF that image is changing, as more women and older individuals engage in active military duty. As the type of soldier evolves, so do the many facets of both combat and veteran experiences.

“These days you see people at war with three children at home,” Grayson explains. “These aren’t just 18-year-olds anymore. And more often Mom is serving, too. That means bigger—and simply more—families are affected.” Rather than serve a single tour of duty, more soldiers are being redeployed and often don’t know when they will return. Psychologists also see differences between veterans who were drafted and those who enlisted. “Vietnam was a draft; they had no choice,” says Moriarty. “It’s a different mental experience for people who choose.”

The very nature of warfare is constantly changing as well. Just as Vietnam vets grappled with Agent Orange, “the signature injury of our most recent wars is TBI—traumatic brain injury caused by a concussion wave from a roadside bomb or IED,” says David Schafer (MA ’04, PsyD ’08) of Sepulveda Ambulatory Health Care. “The presentation of that can look like traditional PTSD symptoms.”

As veterans return home with new problems, researchers like Foy are busy gathering data to help psychologists respond with new and improved treatments. “In particular, the VA has made a push to introduce more evidence-based treatment,” Schafer explains. Examples include cognitive processing therapy, acceptance and commitment therapy, and prolonged exposure therapy. Through psychoeducation, adds PsyD candidate Elizabeth Casas (MA ’06), group therapy participants receive information that could inform and empower them to deal with their situation.

While helping veterans on the road to recovery, psychologists can’t help but remark on how the soldiers have impressed and touched them. “What stands out to me if just how resilient they are,” says Michelle Zeller (MA ’00, PsyD ’04), “the perseverance and optimism is incredible.” And so is the feeling of working with them. “When a veteran comes in with real emotional pain, and doesn’t know how to deal with that,” Schafer describes, “and we work through the treatments that we know about now, there’s a moment in which they get a little bit of lightness to them. A moment when it doesn’t carry such deep suffering. To me, that moment is incredibly rewarding. Over time guys have said to me, ‘you’ve given me my life back.’”

The provision of federal benefits to veterans and their families dates back to 1930, when President Herbert Hoover signed Executive Order 5398 to create the Veterans Administration. The office took a variety of forms and names over the years, and was established as the Department of Veterans Affairs in 1989.

As the second largest of the 15 cabinet departments, the VA and its nationwide programs for health care, financial assistance, and burial benefits operate with a spending budget approximated at $93.4 billion in 2009. More than 23 million American veterans are alive today; of those nearly three-quarters served during a war or an official period of conflict. All told, about a quarter of the United States population is potentially eligible for VA benefits and services because they are veterans, family members, or survivors of veterans.

Learn more: www.va.gov

**Pepperdine Joins the Yellow Ribbon Program**

Military veterans will soon have the opportunity to attend Pepperdine at a lower tuition rate thanks to the University’s participation in the new Yellow Ribbon GI Education Enhancement Program, a federal effort to help military veterans attend institutions of higher learning.

Learn more: magazine.pepperdine.edu/veterans
WHAT IS THE VALUE OF A PEPPERDINE DEGREE?

CAREER NETWORKS: James (JD '01) and Charity Azadian ('99, MPP '07) are Pepperdine alumni who exemplify giving back to the University and its community. Each hires Pepperdine graduates because they know the preparation and perseverance that goes into every degree. We asked about the differences that set Pepperdine apart.

"In the seven years since my graduation from Pepperdine, I have had the good fortune of hiring many talented Pepperdine graduates in both government service and private practice. My preference for Pepperdine is born from an understanding of its unique culture combining academia and spirituality to produce not only individuals with purpose and a superior aptitude for academic discipline, but leaders cloaked with the vital qualifications of integrity, good judgment, an unwavering work ethic, and a benevolent temperament. Unquestionably, these are the qualities that set Pepperdine graduates apart for rich lives of service and accomplishment."—James Azadian

QUALITY EDUCATION: As a recipient of the Fulbright Scholarship, Lindsey Banister ('09) has been awarded an English teaching assistantship grant to help teach English in Germany. After she returns, she intends to pursue a master's degree in rhetoric and composition. Lindsey shared with us how Pepperdine has contributed to her success and prepared her for a promising career.

"Pepperdine’s small classes allow the teachers to become more invested in us and, likewise, we as students invest more in the classes and what we are learning. They work hard to give us a realistic view and understanding of what life is like after college. By sharing their own experiences and personally investing in and connecting with us, we know to expect the good, the bad, and the ugly, post-college. We graduate from college feeling prepared, with a sense of what to expect and how to handle whatever situation comes our way."—Lindsey Banister

PREPARATION FOR LIFE: Kristen Robertson ('09) will be working at Raytheon, a company that recruits Pepperdine graduates, as a member of their financial leadership development team. She plans to transfer overseas the following year to London or Singapore and then return to get a graduate degree in economics.

"My experience at Pepperdine has taught me to never look back with regrets. There are so many opportunities and adventures if you are just willing to look. My classes have always pushed me to be a little better than what I am. The faculty has encouraged me and given me opportunities to prove that I could succeed. I think, above anything else, Pepperdine has taught me that life comes at you fast and only the people who are ready for it end up succeeding. If Pepperdine hadn’t been so keen on social science general education, I would have never found my true passion in life and I wouldn’t be near the person I am today."—Kristen Robertson

We encourage alumni everywhere to help build the Pepperdine community. Consider Pepperdine alumni first when hiring, and volunteer for informational interviews to help new graduates transition into the working world.

Volunteer to be a career mentor on PAN Online.
alumni.pepperdine.edu

PAN Online
YOUR CONNECTION TO CAREER RESOURCES
Pepperdine University Alumni Association presents

27th Annual Alumni Dinner and Show

For 27 years serene symphonies and electric entertainment have delighted Pepperdine audiences at the Hollywood Bowl. This year the festivity is being revamped, relocated, and renamed. Join us as the magic and music amplify at September’s Crescendo.

Dine at sunset with fellow alumni, family, and friends, during the ribbon-cutting ceremony for the newly renovated Joslyn Plaza, a beautiful courtyard in the heart of the Malibu campus.

Feel the pulsating modern rhythms of Barrage as Crescendo culminates with a high-octane, exclusive performance from the internationally acclaimed fiddlers in Smothers Theatre. The eclectic mix of instrumentals, song, and dance fuses diverse cultures for a universal appeal.

Saturday, September 12, 2009
Celebrate a night of dinner, music, and tradition as we commemorate the 65th anniversary of the Alumni Association.

Tickets are limited.
Call 310.506.4697 today to reserve your seats.
Tickets are $95 per person. Reserved group tables are available upon purchase.
www.pepperdine.edu/alumni/newsevents/crescendo/2009.htm

STEP FORWARD DAY
PEPPERDINE’S NATIONAL DAY OF SERVICE
Saturday, September 12, 2009
Visit www.pepperdine.edu/alumni/chapters/stepforward to learn about volunteer activities near you.
Preceding the Annual Alumni Dinner and Show
AFTER CELEBRATING A GLORIOUS VICTORY ON THE FIELD WITH HIS TEAMS, BRAZILIAN SOCCER STAR RICHARLYSON BARBOSA FELISBINO WAS CAUGHT ON LIVE TELEVISION SITTING QUIETLY IN THE LOCKER-ROOM CORNER. REPORTERS CLOSED IN TO SEE IF HE WAS INJURED, OR REFLECTING ON THE HARD-WON GAME. AS THE CAMERAS ZEROED IN, THEY DISCOVERED HE WAS ACTUALLY ABSORBED IN A COPY OF A LITTLE-KNOWN BOOK TITLED *LA CABANA*, BY AMERICAN AUTHOR WILLIAM PAUL YOUNG.

"THE BOOK WAS NUMBER ONE IN BRAZIL WITHIN FOUR WEEKS BECAUSE OF ONE Soccer PLAYER" LAUGHS BRAD CUMMINGS (*BRAD* CUMMINGS), FOUNDER AND EDITOR OF INDEPENDENT PUBLISHING COMPANY WINDLLOWN MEDIA, WHICH WAS ESTABLISHED TO PUBLISH YOUNG'S NOVEL AFTER IT WAS REJECTED BY 25 OTHER PUBLISHING COMPANIES.

IN ITS ORIGINAL ENGLISH TRANSLATION, THE NOVEL TITLED *THE LITTLE BOOK THAT COULD* MIGHT BE MORE ACCURATE, BUT WE WOULD LIKE TO PREDICT THE SHACK WOULD GO ON TO HIT THE TOP OF THE BESTSELLER TRADE PAPERBACK BESTSELLER LIST FOR 55 WEEKS. IT'S A TRAGIC STORY ABOUT A BRUTAL MAN MEETING GOD IN THE LITTLE CAFE IN WHICH HIS DAUGHTER WAS MURDERED, AND WITH JUST A CUP OF COFFEE MAYBE HER SORROW HAS BEEN BASED ON LITTLE MORE THAN POSITIVE IMAGINATION, SUCH AS THE UNINTENTIONAL UNDERWEARING OF A BRAZILIAN PROTECTOR.

WINDLLOWN MEDIA WAS FOUNDED ON A MISSION TO CHANGE THE POPULAR PERCEPTION OF WHO GOD IS. FOR THE LAST FIVE YEARS, CUMMINGS AND HIS WINDBLOWN MEDIA PARTNER WYNN JACOBSEN HAVE PRESENTED A RADIO PODCAST SERIES CALLED *LIVING JOURNEYS*, IN WHICH THEY EXPLORE HOW GOD AND RELIGION CHALLENGE, CHANGE, AND OPEN THE MINDS OF LISTENERS AROUND THE WORLD.

"IT'S FUN, AND LARGELY FOR THOSE WHO THINK OUTSIDE THE BOX OF ORGANIZED RELIGION," EXPLAINS CUMMINGS. "WE TALK ABOUT MAKING A FRIENDSHIP WITH GOD. THE PODCAST GIVES LISTENERS A CHANCE TO FIND COMMUNITY OUTSIDE OF A TRADITIONAL CHURCH SETTING." 

YOUNG IS A LISTENER FROM OREGON. THE FIRST TIME HE READ *THE SHACK* AS A STORY TO EXPLAIN HIS RELATIONSHIP WITH GOD TO HIS CHILDREN, AND WHEN HE GOT IN TOUCH WITH THE TWO PODCASTERS, HIS UNPOLISHED NOVEL Struck A chord WITH CUMMINGS AND JACOBSEN. "THE VERSION OF GOD THEY WERE TRYING TO COMMUNICATE IN THE STORY, MACK'S "MACK" PHILLIPS RECEIVES A MESSAGE FROM GOD IN THE WOODS, SIGN THE PAPA, IT Transposes A MAN TO GOD IN THE MIND OF God IN THE BODY OF A MIDDLE-AGED AFRICAN AMERICAN WOMAN. "HE'S AT THE SHACK IN JARM, A MIDDLE-AGED PERSON, AS WELL AS THE HOLY SPIRIT IN THE PHYSICAL FORM OF A YOUNG AFRICAN WOMAN."

"**THE SHACK** TAKES SOME LIBERTIES WITH TRADITIONAL DEPICTIONS OF GOD. "WE'VE BEEN CRITICIZED BY SOME QUERIES WHO THINK GOD IS TOO CHARMING, TOO NICE," SAYS CUMMINGS. "THEY ASK, WHAT'S THE HUMAN JUDGE? But People Have Had So Much Of That."

"WHILE AT THE SHACK, MACK CONFRONTS THE AGONY OF HAVING TO WORK GOD ABOUT THE ABDUCTION AND TRAUMA EXPERIENCED BY HIS DAUGHTER MISEY. WHY ARE CHILDREN WHO DO NOT HAVE PEACE AND CUDDLES ALLOWED TO GROW UP? WHY DO PEOPLE SUFFER? ONE OF THE MOST DIFFICULT QUESTIONS FOR ANY PERSON OF FAITH TO ASK. CUMMINGS BELIEVES THAT QUESTION IS ONE OF THE MOST FUNDAMENTAL REASONS WHY SO MANY ARE DRAWN TO THE SHACK."
“It wrestles with the conundrum of evil, but there is also hope. There are no pat answers to life’s difficulties, but it has struck a deep chord among people hungering for something real.”

Relating God to ordinary people, or vice versa, has been Cummings’ goal throughout his professional life—now with Windblown Media and The God Journey, and as a former pastor. He met his wife Kelly (’89) when he was a film and television major at Pepperdine, and the two helped found the Vineyard Christian Fellowship of Malibu. After 12 years they parted ways with the church, and Cummings began work in a landscape construction company. When Brad decided to take a leap of faith with The Shack and Windblown Media, the Cummings based the operation in the garage of their Newbury Park, California, home.

Cummings and Jacobsen worked with Young for 16 months rewriting the manuscript, which he calls a “great collaborative experience. It will forever be one of the most rewarding seasons spiritually, intellectually, and relationally.” Ready for publication in May 2007, The Shack had an initial print run of just 10,000. In the publishing world, in which a small number of large companies own and produce so much, Cummings likens their success to “a Cinderella story.” The book has now sold over 7 million copies, is in the process of being translated into 30 languages, and looks set to be adapted into a multimillion-dollar Hollywood film.

“We knew nothing about publishing before this,” Cummings says. “Never before has a self-published book become such a big success, which has given us an incredible platform. Wayne and I get interviewed as though we have some elixir in publishing.”

The success of Windblown Media has taken over the Cummings family home, so the couple and their three children have moved into a second property nearby. The company is now partnered with a New York publishing house, and Cummings and Jacobsen are working on new books by new authors, as well as writing projects of their own. Cummings is releasing a series of children’s books later this year.

“If there’s a passion in my heart, it’s that I want people to know God as a person, and to have a relationship with him. We didn’t sugarcoat The Shack, and if anything we tried to remove any agenda. I think the church would have liked us to be far more direct about people’s need for conversion. The preacher in me agrees, but the communicator in me thinks that would turn people off, and we really want to start a dialogue,” he says, reiterating that he is in the business of entertainment as much as spirituality. “If we have a mission statement for Windblown Media,” he adds, “it’s to tell compelling stories that unveil God’s heart to the spiritually curious.”
Screenwriter and Former Nun
BARBARA NICOLOSI Forges New Ground for the Faithful in Hollywood

By Sarah Fisher

If your life story is made into a Hollywood film, cross your fingers that Barbara Nicolosi pens the screenplay. A professional screenwriter and adjunct professor in Pepperdine’s MFA program in writing for film and television, she has been known to gamble a writing job to stand up for her ethics.

“The movie would have taken in more money if I’d trashed the person,” Nicolosi explains, remembering a time she was asked by a studio to weave unsubstantiated, salacious details into a biographical script she had written. “If I’d seen any evidence that the details might be true, that would have been different.”

The decision cost her the job, but she laughs at the absurdity of the incident. “I was told to play down my integrity. I told my agent I don’t actually ‘play’ integrity at all.”

Nicolosi isn’t self-righteous, nor is she trying to fight an uphill battle to get more Christian films made in Hollywood. But as a vocal and active Christian filmmaker, she is proof that people of faith don’t have to compromise their standards to succeed in mainstream entertainment.

While standing up for her values, Nicolosi respects and admires her industry as the business of making what she calls “visual poetry.” And for any Christian pursuing a career in Hollywood, she has this piece of advice: “You can’t have a messiah complex, standing in judgment of the ‘heathens’ around you. That’s not a posture of respect,” she says.

Nicolosi, author of Behind the Screen: Hollywood Insiders on Faith, Film, and Culture, imparts her insider wisdom teaching introduction to film and advanced screenwriting in Pepperdine’s MFA program, a degree that is taught with a special emphasis on faith in filmmaking. Her students have met successful professionals from various creative fields of filmmaking, such as cable movie director Charles Roberts Carner, composer Jim Covell, theatre actor and director Marianne Savell, and Dreamworks animator Mark Matthews.

She is also the founder and president of Act One, a nonprofit organization built to train Christians for careers in mainstream film or television. Accepting only a small number of applicants each year, the program exemplifies Nicolosi’s personal creed that talent is every bit as important as faith; she sees no need for mediocre films, even ones that tell worthy, spiritual stories. “If the writer isn’t a person of real talent, there’s nothing we can do with them,” she explains. Graduates of the program have gone on to write independently, sign with talent agencies, or win screenwriting fellowships. All of their projects are mainstream, and not in the Christian genre.
YOU CAN'T HAVE A MESSIAH COMPLEX, STANDING IN JUDGMENT OF THE "HEATHENS" AROUND YOU. THAT'S NOT A POSTURE OF RESPECT.

Heeding the call of both faith and film has been a personal balancing act for Nicolosi, who was a nun before she began writing professionally. "It's such a cliché—the nun who goes to Hollywood—that I don't even mention it very often. I left right before my final vows."

After leaving the convent, she applied to the film program at Northwestern University, where she earned a master's degree in screenwriting. Like most people who eventually make it in the film industry, she honed her skills for years before being in a position to make a living from writing alone—all while doing her best to avoid the Hollywood cliché of the struggling artist.

"I know myself and I knew I couldn't live in my car," she laughs. "I got a real job as the director of project development for a producer in Malibu. I was always writing intermittently."

Her job required her to read hundreds of scripts a month, giving her plenty of examples of poor writing. One of the most common mistakes for would-be writers, she discovered, is that they invest too little in creating subtle depth and instead go for the easy payoff. "They give the audience an emotional jolt from sappy sentimentality or from violating brutality," she offers as an example. "Writers take the easy emotional step since it's so difficult to come up with a visual metaphor for an unseen reality. They end up making pseudo art instead of doing something clever. A film should be a poem on the screen."

Writing since 1995, she's learned that creating poetry and having it transferred to the screen are two different things altogether; only a small fraction of purchased scripts are ever actually made into films. Her current project, however, looks "set to go all the way." Nicolosi cowrote the screenplay for *Mary Mother of Christ*, and the film is currently in pre-production with an early cast list that includes such Hollywood heavyweights as Al Pacino, Jessica Lange, Peter O'Toole, and Jonathan Rhys Meyers. It is being made in association with Origin Entertainment, a production company Nicolosi cofounded.

Today this former nun—who was recently married—has plenty of reasons to believe God wants her in Hollywood, even if sometimes that means missing out on a job or two because of her integrity. "Many Christians, when they come to Hollywood and encounter difficulties, take it as a sign that God doesn't want them in the business," she says. Christian or not, it's a tough industry to crack for anyone. Her advice is as universal and mainstream as the Christian writers she trains for Hollywood. Simply put: "Don't give up."
Sun-drenched Sleuthing

Lounging in the Southern California sun, soaking up the rays for as many as 14 hours a day: life sounds pretty nice for the California Tree Frog. But frogs have only a very thin layer of skin, so why—and how—are they able to absorb such high levels of UV rays without accruing skin damage? That question has a group of freshman biology students both fascinated and perplexed, and like a band of biology detectives they have been adventuring through the Santa Monica Mountains on a mission to find the answer.

Until now very little research has been done on the *Hyla cadaverina* (the California Tree Frog). If Lee Kats, associate provost for research, hadn’t made a throwaway comment during a biology lecture about newts last fall the species might have had a longer wait for its moment in the spotlight. After class, seven students approached him for further information. “We’re interested in how the frog can sit in the sun for hours and not become a big tumor,” says Tatiana Barrera, who joins fellow students John Buie, Cameron Kruse, Alex Curry, Mason Hankins, Elle Jamison, and Avery Powell in the investigation. “We still don’t know if the sun does it good, or if it just chooses to sit out there.”

The students’ work is done for the love of the research; they receive no class credit and must juggle their busy schedules to meet with Kats and second faculty guide, biology professor Thomas Vandergon, at least once a week.

With virtually no species-specific research available, they started their quest by asking the fundamental question: Is it in fact true that the *Hyla cadaverina* sits in the sun for long periods of time? “We’ve done a lot of preliminary research to prove that it really does sit out in the sunlight,” says Powell. “There’s no other research; everything out there is about other species.” “That’s what’s so exciting though,” Kruse interjects. “Because nothing has been done on them before, everything we do is new. These frogs are so abnormal, there must be something different about them.” Curry notes, “What we’ve taken so far has seemed to fall under our hypothesis that they do sit where the UV is highest, with random exceptions, of course.”

The student sleuths spent hours testing at two areas indentified as the frog’s home turf—a stream in Arroyo Sequit Park in the western Santa Monica Mountains, and Trancas Canyon near Malibu—to conclude that the frogs do indeed while away the hours in areas of high UV and high temperatures. The minimum temperature for spotting them seems to be 65 degrees. The sun shines often in Southern California so the exposed frogs are readily accessible—a great benefit for the students as they venture out in groups of three or four to find the frogs and record their data.

But shouldn’t their exposure also be an open invitation for snakes and hawks to enjoy a mid-afternoon snack? “That’s a good point,” agrees Kats. “Why are they not sitting ducks while out in the sun? There’s no evidence
that they’re toxic to any would-be predators. We assume at this point that it’s because they’re so hard to spot.”

The frogs seem to make up for their open vulnerability by blending in with the rocks on which they sit, since they’re small, bumpy, and gray or brown in color. In addition to being somewhat hard to see with the naked eye, a second challenge is that they bear a striking resemblance to their close relative, the *Hyla regilla*, which is identifiable by the black line across its face.

“We can usually find the right one because the California Tree Frog will sit out in the sun, and the other one usually hides,” says Powell. “But we’ve mistaken the two frogs before,” Curry adds.

“Right, we were collecting data around a *regilla* for hours one day and wondering why the UV was a lot lower around this frog,” Powell explains. “We got frustrated, thinking it was ruining our hypothesis! Until finally one of us said, ‘I don’t think that’s the right frog.’”

Kats observes that the case of mistaken identity was a great experiment in itself, as the doppelganger’s behavior supported their hypothesis by not sitting out in areas of high UV. “I wouldn’t have even thought to collect that data,” he says, complimenting his mentees.

The next step is to test if blocking the UV rays—though not the sunshine—will cause the frogs to move. Ultimately, though, the goal is to discover the reason why UV is so important to this species of frog. Around the world, frogs have been in decline, killed off by a fungus that doesn’t seem to affect the *Hyla cadaverina*. The reasons why could prove revolutionary for worldwide amphibian research, but for now the group is taking it one step at a time.

“This is one of the best examples of learning as a biologist,” says Kats. “I can lecture all day long and it’s not the same as hammering out experiments and trying to find the frog. It’s been very fun for myself and Dr. Vandergon.”

And while they put the clues together to solve the California Tree Frog puzzle, the students and their mentors bond over cutting-edge, grassroots research, Kruse’s fear of snakes, and numerous run-ins with poison oak. Says Kats, “We have fun, they have fun… Maybe too much fun!”

Whoever said biology couldn’t be an adventure?

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**ON THE WEB**

Visit [magazine.pepperdine.edu/frogs](http://magazine.pepperdine.edu/frogs) to learn more about undergraduate research at Pepperdine and meet the Tooma family, one of its most ardent supporters.
PROSECUTOR ALAN JACKSON BRINGS PHIL SPECTOR TO JUSTICE WITH A LONG-AWAITED VERDICT

By Emily DiFrisco

It was the most compelling Hollywood murder case since the O. J. Simpson trial. Legendary music producer Phil Spector, famous for his work for Tina Turner, the Beatles, and the Righteous Brothers, was accused of shooting actress Lana Clarkson to death at his home on February 3, 2003. On May 29, 2009, Spector was sentenced to 19 years to life in prison.
Deputy district attorney Alan Jackson (JD ’94) was on the case from the beginning. The first trial began in March 2007 in Los Angeles, California, and extended over seven months. Throughout the trial, the prosecution showed that Spector had a three decades-long “history of playing Russian roulette with the lives of women.” On September 26, 2007, the trial ended with a hung jury, when the foreperson and another juror entered “not guilty” votes at the last minute.

“My feeling following the mistrial, especially after hearing from the foreperson, who essentially hung the jury, was there wasn’t anything we could do differently to convince him of Spector’s guilt,” explains Jackson. “According to his fellow jurors, the foreperson’s definition of ‘beyond a reasonable doubt’ was unachievable by the prosecution. Thus, I believed we did everything right, other than picking one wrong juror.”

When the second trial began in October 2008, Jackson stayed with the same blueprint that convinced 10 jurors the first time. “Of course there were small changes to make—the order of certain witnesses, for example—but the core of the case was the same,” he says. This time the arguments stuck, and the second trial concluded April 13, 2009, with Spector’s conviction of second-degree murder.

Jackson felt one emotion when the verdict was announced. “I was, quite simply, relieved,” he says. “Relieved for the family of Lana Clarkson; relieved for her mother Donna, her sister Fawn, and her brother Jeff. I was also relieved for the community. The unlawful taking of an innocent life is a crime against the victim and the community. Justice had been delayed for Lana and for the people for far too long.”

Justice in the case against Phil Spector was the culmination of many long hours and years of preparation for the Los Angeles District Attorney’s Office. Fortunately for Jackson, he loves the work. “I cannot imagine a more satisfying career than that of a public prosecutor,” he says. “Our job is to seek justice for those who have been victimized. Those who hire us to do this job—the people of the State of California—expect the very best from us. They demand that we perform our job ethically and honorably, and they expect that we will fight for the rights of those who often cannot or will not fight for themselves.”

Before the Spector trial, Jackson prosecuted and won the murder case of auto-racing legend Mickey Thompson and his wife were both shot and killed in front of their home by two anonymous men who were hired by a bitter former business partner. It was the Spector trial that turned the spotlight on Jackson, as the media, the legal community, and households everywhere watched him work.

Jackson calls his style in the courtroom “sincerely casual.” “A jury is made up of people, and people are good at seeing through a phony. A lawyer can—and should—learn from others. But there is no substitute for being honest and true to yourself.”

He became involved in the school’s moot court and trial teams to hone his skills in the courtroom, and upon graduation, accepted a job at Rosoff, Schiffres & Barta, in Santa Monica, California. The Los Angeles District Attorney’s Office had a hiring freeze in 1994, but Jackson was itching to get into the courtroom. He called the hiring manager frequently and applied immediately when the freeze ended in November. Out of several hundred applicants, Jackson landed the job.

Now 15 years later, there is no denying Jackson’s success. When asked about his next move, Jackson says he has recently been assigned as assistant head deputy of the Major Crimes Division. “For the time being, I will focus on my new managerial responsibilities,” he says. “As far as future cases are concerned, at this point it’s anybody’s guess.”

Though he could be making more money in a big firm, he doesn’t entertain the thought. “I think it is a mistake to pick an area of law because of the money that you’ll make,” he says. “It’s not what makes a good lawyer. Being a lawyer is more than a job, and in a lot of cases, it’s more than a career. The reason that I’ve enjoyed some level of success is because I simply love the work I do.”
“Well, the week before, five or six of our starters were kicked off the team,” Hyduke says, setting the scene. “Now mind you, this Loyola team had 11 guys go into professional football.”

“Still is,” adds Barlow (’08), sitting across from him, hanging on his every word. “I hate Loyola.”

“Going to be wide open. ‘So I said to Terry Bell—he was one of our excellent players from Texas—I said, ‘Terry, go out and break over the middle and I’m going to hit you with a bomb.’ 70-yard pass and run. We kicked the point and we won the game 14-13.”

Hyduke was an All-American quarterback for Pepperdine, back when it was George Pepperdine College, and when Pepperdine not only had a football team, it had just won a national championship. Convinced to come to Pepperdine by Darwin Horn (’49), another former Waves “grid great,” Hyduke walked onto the campus in south Los Angeles in 1947, a handsome young veteran of 21 years with a wife, a son, and two years in World War II under his belt. He’s now a handsome veteran of 82.

Barlow, now 23, came to Pepperdine for a different sport: basketball. The Las Vegas native was in junior college when he first laid eyes on campus. It had long since moved from 79th and Vermont to the beachside bluffs of Malibu. The football team was ancient history, having been eliminated in 1961. The enrollment was five times what it was when Hyduke attended, and the University had grown to include four graduate schools.

“I passed by Pepperdine, and I was like, “Oh man. Look at this!” And I thought to myself, if I ever get a scholarship here, I’m coming. No doubt about it,” Barlow recalls. A year later, the basketball coaches were handing him a scholarship and a Waves uniform. “It was something like a dream come true.”

Hyduke and Barlow attended Pepperdine in two different places, two different eras, and had two very different experiences, yet the unlikely pair has forged a unique friendship rooted in the many things they share in common: a love of competition, pride in their alma mater, and, of course, a distaste for rival team LMU.

“It’s wild to think that Pepperdine wasn’t even here in Malibu just 30 years ago,” Barlow says. “That’s why I love listening to his stories.”

The two met when Barlow was in his third year at Pepperdine, considered a fifth-year senior thanks to his two years in junior college. With four classes
to finish, he had no financial aid left. That’s when he learned about the fifth-year senior scholarship that Hyduke started with his fellow former football players.

“I started this program of giving scholarships to individuals who are in need of a little help, individuals who had a semester or maybe a little more to go to graduate,” Hyduke says, explaining that the committee consists of Horn and fellow Pepperdine football legends Harry Nelson (’50), Rich Raymond (’56), and Gordon Weisenburger (’55). “I wanted to do something so the University never forgets that we had a football program, and it was a good one. And because I know that athletes nowadays put in a lot of time, and sometimes you just can’t take 16 units.”

Barlow is the 19th recipient of the award, and the 19th to successfully graduate. “Growing up, I wanted to go to college and finish it at a major university. And, thanks to Ed, that’s what I did,” he says of his May 2008 graduation.

After flipping his tassel, Barlow became the youth and family director at the YMCA in Pacific Palisades, where he was named Employee of the Year in 2008. He has come to think of Hyduke as a trusted advisor and friend. Get these two in a room together, and they can swap stories for hours.

“Whenever the team traveled, we always would fly,” Hyduke tells his young protégé. “We went up to Brigham Young, to Portland, to Arizona State. That was kind of an impressive thing for a young fella.”

Hyduke was a local hero for his exceptional ability to throw a pass that could find a receiver like a heat-seeking missile. A reporter for the Graphic once wrote, “He loved to pass—to toss the pigskin around until his opponents got dizzy.” During his senior year in 1950 Hyduke was named All-American among the best quarterbacks in the nation. He also represented Pepperdine as a member of the U.S. national team. “It was thrilling,” he says.

Barlow’s dream of playing professional basketball did not end with graduation. “This summer I’m gonna be trying out to play pro ball over in Spain,” he says. “Basketball is what I love to do and it’s something that I’m very good at and passionate about. If I can do it, why not try it?”

Barlow says that Hyduke’s support, both financially and emotionally, has played a big role in his ability to believe in himself. “It’s really special to me. It lets me know that I’m doing something right.”

Hyduke, who was a physical education teacher and football coach for 25 years after he left Pepperdine, has had a similar impact on many of his students and athletes. And when it comes to resurrecting a football program at Pepperdine, Hyduke has that same “never-give-up attitude” that he preaches to his young athletes. “Somebody said to me, ‘They’ll never have football here again,’ and I said, ‘You know something, never is a long time. Never say never, because you never know.’”
ALL IN THE FAMILY

David Levy Turns Family Therapist for the Los Angeles Lakers

By Sarah Fisher

There's a prominent family in Los Angeles, and like most families, they have had their share of dysfunctional moments. This well-known basketball dynasty goes by the name “Lakers,” and by the summer of 2007, sibling rivalry among players threatened their teamwork on the court.

The “golden child” Kobe Bryant publicly battled his ego and burden of responsibilities, while patriarchs of the family struggled to control their charges. It was definitely time for some family therapy. Lucky for the Lakers and all their supporters, in late 2007 the Los Angeles Times featured a public therapy memo directed at the team. And lucky for longtime Lakers fan David Levy, professor of psychology at the Graduate School of Education and Psychology, that columnist Kurt Streeter sought him out to conduct the much-needed psychoanalysis.

Levy is a licensed marriage and family therapist, and he jumped at the chance to call the Lakers out on some of their issues through couch-less therapy. A Los Angeles-area native, Levy sees the Lakers as much more than just a basketball team. They are like his extended family; they’re in his blood. As Levy says, “I’m a Lakers fan by DNA.”

"Back in 2007, the Lakers were chaotic and fighting a lot, with very little respect for each other and a lot of jealousy," he continues. "Kobe’s teammates were looking at him with a mixture of both envy and respect, as often happens in families with an overachieving member."

Instead of acting as a responsible brother, Bryant was complaining about management and publicly pushing for the transfer of youngest player Andrew Bynum, who could have been called the runt of the family at that time. Former player and manager, the legendary Jerry West, symbolized the absent, idealized father, having left the fold in 2002. Current manager Mitch Kupchak was the stepfather who, as Streeter said in his article, “can do no right.”
Levy's family theory is applicable to most any athletic team: a talented individual is inserted into an established group and suddenly they have a dozen siblings vying for stardom; they clamor for attention, seek recognition and approval from family elders, and sulk or act out when they feel mistreated.

"Even young kids, who are by nature selfish, have a sense of fairness that if their brother gets two marbles then they also deserve two," Levy observes, adding, "the idea of fairness is really important in sports."

Levy is as interested in the analysis of sports in culture as he is in Lakers-specific thinking. Just as teams become little families of their own, the fans embrace them as part of a larger family. He says, "We like being a part of something bigger than ourselves. Whether it's live at the venue or on television, sports give us a sense of community which in today's world is something people are missing."

As Levy acknowledges, "If my team wins, I say 'we won,' as if I were on the court with them."

But of course, most people aren't on the court, and therein lies the fundamental reason for the athlete in our cultural psyche: the warrior hero. What makes idolization of athletes unique in the celebrity world is the clarity of outcomes, says Levy. "It's more primal. With a music star, there is no obvious competition, but for a sports star there is a clear victor."

Victory is the ultimate goal, and why Levy calls sports a "metaphor for war." Fans are civilians supporting their troops, coaches and managers are generals and captains, and players are the soldiers.

"The parallels are striking," Levy explains. "There are the opposing sides of the victor and the vanquished, there is physical contact, and it's all governed by rules. It's the human desire for aggression expressed in socially acceptable ways, and the need for superiority, the need to win."

Levy is the author of *Tools of Critical Thinking: Metathoughts for Psychology* (2nd edition, 2009) and *Cross-Cultural Psychology: Critical Thinking and Contemporary Applications* (4th edition, 2009), and has been featured on numerous media outlets such as CBS, CNN, NBC, KABC, PBS, and the E! Channel, commenting on current events and cultural trends; but this was Levy's first time acting as a sports psychologist.

His advice proved so popular that he was interviewed for a further three articles in the 2007-08 season; he doesn't know for sure if the Lakers read his advice, though he heard from Streeter that they did. What he does know is that during the season and sometime between the first and fourth articles in the series, the family dynamics seemed to shift.

"The team as a whole seemed to communicate better," he says, noting that the players became more willing to pass the ball. Though the Boston Celtics beat the Lakers in the tense 2008 NBA finale—a "bitter loss" for Levy and his fellow Angelenos—greater cohesion between the Lakers players took them all the way to the 2009 finals. On June 14, the Lakers beat the Orlando Magic and took home their first NBA championship in seven years.

Levy observed two key changes in the behavior of the "golden child" that helped lead the team to victory. "One was the psychological maturity of Kobe Bryant and his emergence as a true leader; he's now encouraging an atmosphere where his teammates want to follow him. Another factor was that he was willing to be a decoy and pass to another man; it was what we in psychology call the 'super-ordinate goal.' It's seeing what is important to the community as a whole, which in this case was winning as a team. Kobe now sees that it's not all about him."

As a psychologist Levy hopes the Lakers can keep their family issues and "internal chaos" in the past and continue to work as a strengthened unit towards the future. And as a fan, he is personally invested in their continued functionality. Levy thinks back to that thrilling moment on June 14, the culmination of everything he and Streeter hoped to achieve with their therapy series.

"It was absolute, pure joy," he says.
As Rex Lewis-Clack enters Pepperdine’s Smothers Theatre in Malibu, he gropes for the wall, disoriented, and appearing to have no idea where he is. You’d never guess that he comes here every week, and has for the last four years.

With his mom Cathy as his guide, he walks into the piano room, swimming into the darkness. It isn’t until he sits down at the piano next to Sara Banta’s piano that his fingers find familiar territory.

“Hi Sara,” he says. “How are you today?”

Rex was born blind and stricken with brain damage so severe it looked as though he would never be able to walk, talk, or experience much of anything. Now, at age 14, Rex listens to Banta play an unfamiliar, complex piece of music and can replay it note for note. He flings his head back in glee, letting out a spirited laugh as he finishes. Playing music is both his uncommon talent and salvation.

Rex is considered a musical savant—a rare and inexplicable combination of blindness, mental disability, and musical genius. Banta is his teacher.

“I do not know how to explain his special gifts to people, and that is precisely why he is such a study. Nobody quite knows how it happens,” says Banta, who has played the piano since she was very young, and has served as instructor and coordinator of instrumental music at Pepperdine for 10 years. “His insights and progress never cease to amaze us.”

Rex’s star has risen through numerous worldwide documentaries featuring his musical gift, including Britain’s popular series Extraordinary People, a Swedish documentary called Another Kind of Genius, and Musical Savants on the Discovery Health Channel.

Rex has also been featured on CBS’s 60 Minutes three times—an unprecedented amount of coverage by the lauded news magazine. The first segment, “Musically Speaking,” introduced Rex when he was 8 years old. The mystery surrounding Rex’s unique gift led them to film a follow-up segment when Rex turned 10 called simply, “Rex.” The third segment aired in November 2008, catching up with Rex practicing with his trusted instructor, Banta.

Jeff Pippin, senior vice president and chief investment officer at Pepperdine, first introduced Banta to Rex and his mother Cathy. Although Banta is a highly accomplished pianist and teacher, with bachelor’s and master’s degrees in piano performance from Indiana University, she was not sure that she had what it took to be Rex’s teacher.

“I had no experience with his disabilities, and had little experience even observing students such as Rex,” she says.

But Cathy was very perceptive and recognized Banta’s potential. “We
arrived here because his other teachers before her couldn’t keep up with him. She can absolutely sight-read any piece of music and just play it, so she’s brilliant in improvisation, which is really important for Rex,” she explains.

Cathy recalls their initial meeting. “When we first met her, she wasn’t sure whether she could work with a blind child, and wasn’t exactly sure how to approach Rex. He would just sort of play because he loved the instrument, and she didn’t really know what to do with a child who wouldn’t listen to her at first. But then he stopped for a second on the keys and she jumped in on her piano and played a bit of Mozart. He was intrigued by that, and then it was like this immediate communication. She started out the dialogue musically,” Cathy says. “Genius meets genius.”

Banta has since “fine-tuned” her teaching approach with Rex, using certain code words, in addition to music, to communicate with him. He is unlike any student she has ever taught. “He is just like a musical sponge. With Rex I can demonstrate a passage and expect that he can repeat the passage. A typical student could verbalize what we are doing, but not play it as readily.”

In the four years that they have been working together, Rex has been able to not only improve his technique, but also explore improvisation, which he was previously considered incapable of doing because it requires more than just imitation. “We work on good technique, fingering, musical inflections, and overall style,” says Banta. “Our greatest challenge is the incorporation of musical inflections beyond notes and rhythms. He is learning to be an advanced musician through example and imitation, then transferring it to new material.”

As Malibu residents, Rex and Cathy have become part of the Pepperdine community. Rex has performed several times for students, including a special convocation. “Our students were wonderful to Rex when he performed for them, and gave him a warm standing ovation at the end,” Pippin says. “I think he shows us that one or two closed doors, while challenging, can lead to many other open doors that can take us where we never thought we could go.”

In their weekly practice sessions, Rex listens intently as Banta plays him a tune, his eyes cast upward as though he’s seeing the notes appear before him in thin air. And then he begins to play—parroting her keystrokes to perfection, even her mistakes. Though a consummate professional, Banta can’t help but smile when he finishes and happily bounces on the piano bench.

HE IS JUST LIKE A MUSICAL SPONGE.

With Rex I can demonstrate a passage and expect that he can repeat the passage. A typical student could verbalize what we are doing, but not play it as readily.
There’s a reason some books fall under the category “assigned reading:” the pages drag on endlessly, nothing makes sense, and on occasion, they’re just plain boring. As Woody Allen sardonically advises in *Annie Hall*, “Just don’t take any class where you have to read *Beowulf*.”

At Seaver College, however, there are classes in which students have to read *Beowulf*, as well as the works of intimidating authors like Plato, Nietzsche, Homer, Dostoevsky, Augustine, and Freud. Students engage ideas and join in conversation about books that are comic, tragic, profound, challenging, and unsettling. The texts change from assigned to exciting as words stimulate the mind, inflame the heart, and stir the soul.

Read on to see how three professors in Seaver College’s Great Books Colloquium expound on the classics and recommend a few of their favorites.

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**On Great Books:**

**DON MARSHALL, Fletcher Jones Chair of Great Books:**

“How should I live my life?” “What kind of person do I want to become?” “Does the world have some ultimate, spiritual meaning, or is it simply a product of blind, mechanical forces?” “Is there a God who loves and cares for me or are human beings abandoned to their fate?” Asking questions like these and seeking answers is central to what makes us human. What we call “great books” are the records of other human beings posing these questions and responding so richly and thoughtfully that they become our best resources for our own thinking. Such books have proven their value in the ongoing conversation of humankind generation after generation, not because they do our thinking for us, but because they provoke us to the best thinking of which we are capable as we try to make sense out of the most fundamental issues: justice, truth, beauty, love, and faith.

**FRANK NOVAK, professor of English:**

A great book endures. It is transcendent; it can be read and reread, offering new discoveries with each reading; it challenges and questions; it occasions reflection and debate among thinking persons. I tell my students that a great book is like a Mozart opera or a Beethoven symphony: one can experience it repeatedly, almost endlessly, with profit and delight.

**MICHAEL DITMORE, professor of English:**

I tend to adhere to Mortimer Adler’s six criteria, essentially: A great book should be challenging but accessible to anyone willing to put intellectual effort into it. It should be complex and engaging enough to be discussible. It must be re-readable; one of my favorite quotations is from Vladimir Nabokov: “Curiously enough, you cannot read a book; you can only reread it.” I’d add “reread and reread.” It should be popular and influential, and always have a contemporary aspect and edge. And it is most important to stress that a great book is NOT necessarily “literary.” Euclid’s *Elements* is undeniably a great book, although it is not at all pleasurable reading in the way that Homer’s *Iliad* and Tolstoy’s *War and Peace* are. Finally, a great book should touch deeply, but not necessarily comfortably or correctly, on the enduring themes and problems of the human condition.
Reading and creativity:

MARSHALL: The Greeks said that memory is the mother of the muses. Every great writer has been a great reader—sometimes of many books, sometimes of fewer books, but read with great intensity. The creative person is not one who needs no books but one who has the gift of learning from them what most readers miss.

NOVAK: Great literary artists have typically been great readers—from Chaucer and Milton to Joyce and Updike. T. S. Eliot famously described the relationship between “tradition and the individual talent,” and Harold Bloom—in a much different argument—talks about “the anxiety of influence.” In music, could there have been a Mozart without a Haydn? In painting, could there have been a Picasso without a Velázquez?

Falling in love all over again:

MARSHALL: Reading Homer's Odyssey the first time was magical for me.

DITMORE: Dante's Divine Comedy, because it works like a puzzle that makes sense little by little and then really only makes complete sense once you've gotten through it all. But the Inferno is especially surprising and discomfiting on a first reading.

NOVAK: Henry James, The Portrait of a Lady: Without foreknowledge, I could experience again—as I did on that first memorable occasion many years ago—the incredibly dramatic, surprising moment when the Countess Gemini reveals the hidden, hideous truth that Isabel Archer had only vaguely envisioned: the horror and “architectural vastness” of the evil in which she has been trapped.

Recent classics:

NOVAK: W. G. Sebald, Austerlitz

MARSHALL: One of my favorites is Derek Walcott's Omeros. It's a novel in verse and filled with echoes of Homer, Vergil, Dante, and other writers. But it's the story of a group of black fishermeg on the island of St. Lucia in the Caribbean, so it connects the great tradition of Western thought with the experiences of ordinary people in one small corner of our multicultural, multilingual, multiracial, global world. It's comic, tragic, exuberant, lyrical, peaceful, and deeply bound to the island and the sea. That's just one, and I'd have to mention others, like Leslie Silko's Ceremony.

DITMORE: Douglas Hofstadter's Godel, Escher, Bach. Not saying I understood it or can apply it, but it was endlessly eye-opening, stimulating, and instructive in so many ways and on so many levels. Marilynne Robinson's Gilead bowled me over, as have the novels of Cormac McCarthy and Barbara Pym, Joseph Heller's Catch-22, Thomas Pynchon's Gravity's Rainbow, and Márk Helprin's Winter's Tale are all great novels. James Merrill's The Changing Light at Sandover, Paul Ricouer's Time and Narrative.

Must reads:

NOVAK: Homer, Iliad and Odyssey; Plato, Republic; Dante, Divine Comedy (the whole thing, not just Inferno!); Shakespeare, Hamlet and King Lear; Milton, Paradise Lost; Bronte, Jane Eyre; Melville, Moby-Dick; Freud, The Interpretation of Dreams; Mann, The Magic Mountain

DITMORE: The Bible, of course: Genesis, Job, Matthew, Romans. I've loved Montaigne's Essays.

ON THE WEB

Check out the rest of the interview as the professors take on Twitter, pop culture, summer reading, and more at magazine.pepperdine.edu/greatbooks.
A small group of friends, bonded by nearly a year of living, traveling, and studying together in Pepperdine’s Heidelberg program, gathered one night around a campfire. After a deep, honest conversation about faith and doubt, one asked, “What if we prayed? Just to see what it’s like to talk to God?” In the first words of prayer he remembered voicing, “God, if you’re there, give me a sign.”

It’s been my privilege as chaplain to attend a number of services in Stauffer Chapel. The colors of the stained glass, the stillness, the scriptures that line the walls give it the sense of being a holy place. But for all its beauty, what makes God seem near to us in that space are memories of those who have gathered there for prayer.

In prayer we rejoice in God’s goodness and in prayer we invoke God’s help. In prayer we come together in grief or in celebration. Each gathering leaves a unique mark of our community’s encounter with God.

These marks are scattered in many places: in the classroom where I prayed with students on the morning after war began in Iraq; at the patio tables where a student small-group gave thanks for a semester together; in a conference room where a staff Bible study group asked God’s help for a struggling daughter; in a faculty office where we prayed for God’s healing.

I sense God’s presence in each cluttered desk, concrete bench, and conference table. I feel his nearness as if these objects themselves were warmed by the sun through stained glass in the stillness of our chapel—hardly the only holy space on campus.

In his book *Prayer*, author Richard Foster writes of the struggle to feel that his “tangled mass of motives” are just right for prayer. “But what I have come to see,” says Foster, “is that God is big enough to receive us with all our mixture. We do not have to be bright, or pure, or filled with faith, or anything. This is what grace means.”

I think of that student’s honest plea around the campfire, of the reasons we came to God in all those places where embers of God’s presence still glow in my memory. We ask God to show us a sign of his love, and in prayer, we become present to God. For whatever reason we come, we carry the evidence of that encounter into every time and place ahead.

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**ON THE WEB**

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Avoid the downward trend...

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Money Market*</th>
<th>CDA*</th>
<th>CGA with Pepperdine (Single-life, Age 75)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>$0</td>
<td>1.4%</td>
<td>2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
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<td>2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
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<td>2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$3,000</td>
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<tr>
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<tr>
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<tr>
<td>$6,000</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>$7,000</td>
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<td>2%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Yearly return based on a $100,000 investment.

*National average as of March 2009

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**CENTER FOR ESTATE AND GIFT PLANNING**
Pepperdine University
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E-mail: stephanie.buckley@pepperdine.edu

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*National average as of March 2009

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MEET THE NEWEST PEPPERDINE FULBRIGHT SCHOLARS

Last year Seaver College saw a record number of Fulbright winners, with five receiving the coveted scholarship. Pepperdine hit the mark again this year with another five students earning passage into the prestigious program. This year’s winners are all women, and 2009 graduates of Seaver College. Four will be completing English Teaching Assistantships in various countries: (from left) liberal arts and education major Julie Presant will be teaching in South Korea; Spanish and German major Leslie Reed will teach in Germany, along with English writing and rhetoric major Lindsey Banister; and English literature major Lillian Kwok will be in Taiwan. Anjel Helms, a dual major in biology and biochemistry and German minor, will be conducting a research project titled, “Effect of Plant Water Stress on Resin Terpene Composition in Norway Spruce (Picea abies)” at the Max Planck Institute for Chemical Ecology in Jena, Germany.