

OCCIDENTAL

SUMMER 2010

STATE OF PLAY

Ruth (Griswold) Coleman '82
nurtures California's
wonders to beckon
families back to nature



OCCIDENTAL

OCCIDENTAL COLLEGE MAGAZINE

VOLUME 32, NUMBER 3 SUMMER 2010

DEPARTMENTS

2 CORRESPONDENCE

Would David Brooks be just as welcome at Oxy as a pundit from Fox News? (Hmm ...) Plus, a new look at a young Barack Obama. Also: Greg Critser '80 examines the quest to end aging, while Realtor Bruce Wrisley '49 asks, should senior citizens stay or move?



4 FROM THE QUAD

New York Times columnist David Brooks encourages graduating seniors to educate their emotions. Also: Artist in Residence Lawrence Weschler convenes a day of old-fashioned wonder and newfangled cool, professor Daniel Snowden-Ifft leads Oxy's charge toward renewable energy, and more.

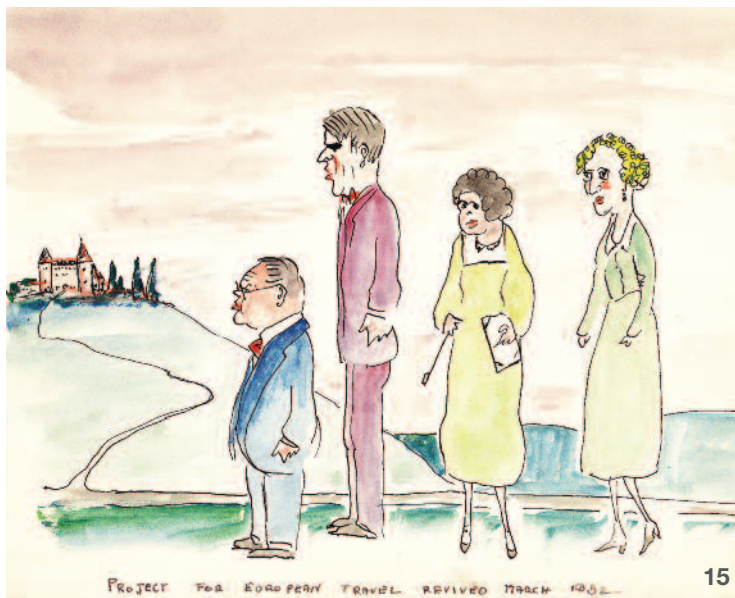
30 TIGERWIRE

Class notes for odd years, and a tribute to Morgan Odell '42's legacy to the California educational system, as well as Occidental.



56 FIRSTHAND

Longing to return to Port-au-Prince after January's earthquake, physician Craig Zebuda '97 seized a second chance to heal.



FEATURES

12 AIR JOHNSON

Twenty years into his second career as a flight attendant—and four decades after alcoholism nearly destroyed him—"Skydood" Joe Johnson '50 soars on the highs of life.

15 SILVER CONVENTION

As Occidental's United Nations program prepares to observe its 25th anniversary, program interns recount lessons in policy, bureaucracy, and YMCA diplomacy. Also: A timeline tracing Oxy's international roots.

20 BACK ON TRACK

In the face of budget shortfalls, political infighting, and sedentary youth, Ruth (Griswold) Coleman '82 aims to rejuvenate California's parks system.

24 KEEPING IT REAL

For 11 seasons, Frank Castle '62 has appraised Japanese art for would-be millionaires on "Antiques Roadshow" on PBS—and he knows a photocopy of an Asian print when he sees one.

27 PAINT LIFE GRAND

Having built the family business into one of the largest paint and painting supplies manufacturers on the West Coast, Dunn-Edwards Corp. chief executive Ken Edwards '54 is ready to go fly a kite. Literally.

Cover photo by Jim Block.

Commencement photo (page 4) by Marc Campos.

Remsen Bird art (page 15) courtesy Occidental College Special Collections.

Photo (page 56) courtesy Craig Zebuda '97.

Oxy Wear photo by Marc Campos.

Photo courtesy Occidental College Special Collections



Does the guy on the right look familiar? Thanks to rising seniors Brittany Todd and Noah Kennedy, who were sifting through a photo box in the College archives while preparing exhibits for Alumni Weekend, this picture of Barack Obama '83 and friends was discovered in June and is published here for the first time. Although the back of the photo suggests that a cropped version (that would exclude the nation's 44th president-to-be) was considered for the 1980 *La Encina*, a check of the volume turns up nothing.

Our Mr. Brooks

When I received the Spring issue of *Occidental*, I was pleased to see David Brooks on the cover, and to see that President Veitch had chosen him to deliver this year's Commencement address. Although I enjoyed the accompanying article, "Let the Right One In," I was somewhat put off by the title—which, in my opinion, was condescending.

It is pretty much indisputable that American colleges are mostly staffed by left-leaning political liberals, and Occidental is among them. While I am dismayed by that fact, it is what it is, and there is little that we conservatives can do about it. Oxy was not that way when I took statistics from Ben Cully.

While I applaud your apparent motive and speaker selection, President Veitch, I would ask you to reflect on this question: Would an identical David Brooks have been chosen if he had been a pundit from Fox News instead of "The PBS NewsHour"? As an Oxy alumnus, I hope so, but from where I sit, I think not.

WAYNE L. STEPHANOLF '53
Prescott, Ariz.

Thanks, Toc—and Terry, Too

Thank you for writing about the remarkable career and life journey of Toc Dunlap '63 ("The Tao of Toc," Spring). I have long felt that Toc's story and challenging activities were overdue for recognition, and I am pleased that you honored the courage, intellect, and selfless determination that her lifelong multicultural path demonstrates for all of us. She was helping Afghan women before many Americans even knew the country existed—before it became popular to take an interest.

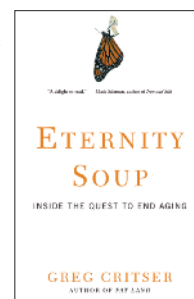
BETTY BOYD ACRONICO '64
San Jose

Thank you for the cover story on Terry Gilliam '62 ("Tilting at Gilliam," Winter). I have been a friend of Terry's since he was in junior high school, and have a large mental file of his antics during his pre-Oxy years.

RON OSWALD '57
Northridge

Correction: In "Lucy's Luminosities" last issue, Bradley Gilman M'78's wife, Roberta, was misidentified in a caption.

ETERNITY SOUP: INSIDE THE QUEST TO END AGING, by Greg Critser '80 (*Harmony*; \$26). The anti-aging industry is a multibillion-dollar business, but to what end? Over the course of three years, Critser visited every outpost of the anti-aging landscape, from a Caloric Restriction Society gathering in Tucson to bioengineering pioneer Aubrey de Grey. *Eternity Soup* is the concluding volume in what Critser has called his "American pathology trilogy," following *Fat Land: How Americans Became the Fattest People in the World* (2003) and *Generation Rx: How Prescription Drugs Are Altering American Lives, Minds, and Bodies* (2005). He lives in Pasadena.



THE NORTHWEST CAUCASUS: PAST, PRESENT, FUTURE, by Walter Richmond (*Routledge*; \$170). "The Northwest Caucasus has been recognized for centuries as a crucial area, lying between Europe and Asia, on the border of the Christian and Islamic worlds, and events there have influenced policies in Russia, Georgia, Iran, and Turkey, as well as the United Kingdom and France," Richmond writes. This comprehensive history examines the struggles of its people for survival against repeated invasions, their ultimate defeat at the hands of the Russians, and the ongoing pressures they face from organized crime, religious extremism, and a federal government that is unresponsive to their needs. Richmond is assistant professor of German, Russian, and classical studies at Oxy.

STAY OR MOVE? THE SENIORS' HOUSING DILEMMA, by Bruce M. Wrisley '49 (*CreateSpace*; \$9.95). California has the largest number of people ages 65 and older of any state—and many seniors will reach a time in their lives when they must decide to stay in their homes or move to another type of housing, or even another part of the country. Drawing on more than 50 years' experience as a real estate broker in Marin County, 82-year-old Wrisley produced this book to give seniors and their families the information and guidelines to make an informed decision. (*A large-type edition is available for \$14.95.*)

ZEN MASTERS, edited by Steven Heine and Dale Wright (Oxford University Press; \$26). *Zen Masters* examines 10 prominent masters who have made Zen Buddhism the most renowned in the world by emphasizing the role of eminent spiritual leaders and their function in establishing centers, forging lineages, and creating literature and art. Wright is the David B. and Mary H. Gamble Professor of Religious Studies at Occidental.

BEACH WEEK, by Susan Keselenko Coll '81 (Sarah Crichton Books; \$25). For as long as anyone can remember, the graduating seniors from the D.C. suburbs have congregated at Chelsea Beach for a week of wretched excess. The tension that erupts between 17-year-old Jordan Adler (who doesn't actually want to go to Beach Week) and her bickering parents, Leah and Charles, offer a window into the lives of families in transition. In her fourth novel, Coll (*Acceptance*) dissects a teenage rite of passage in scary and satirical fashion. She lives with her husband, Steve Coll '80, in Washington, D.C., and New York City.



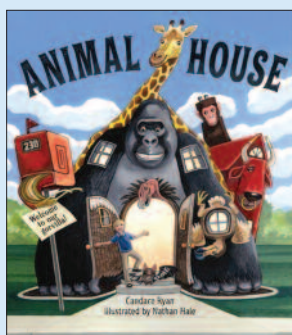
REINHOLD NIEBUHR: ON POLITICS, RELIGION, AND CHRISTIAN FAITH, by Richard Crouter '60 (Oxford University Press; \$19.95). Perhaps best remembered for what is now known as the "Serenity Prayer"—"God grant me the serenity to accept the things I cannot change, the courage to change the things I can, and the wisdom to know the difference"—Protes-

tant pastor Reinhold Niebuhr (1892–1971) is enjoying renewed popularity on both the political left and right. Crouter's book places Niebuhr's theological views in the context of religious and cultural history, examining how they deepen and challenge contemporary expertise on issues of war, peace, and economic and personal security. "Like other strong-minded thinkers, he was surrounded by controversy, misunderstanding, and rival interpretations," Crouter writes. "Yet Niebuhr's complex insight, conveyed with wit and wisdom, speaks to our inner conflicts as individuals and members of society in the 21st century." Crouter is John M. and Elizabeth W. Musser Professor of Religious Studies Emeritus at Carleton College in Northfield, Minn.

GLADSTONE, by A.K. Usafi '83 (Bahati Books Publishing; \$14.95). From underneath a tree, to a little boy's back pocket, to the bottom of the sea, to a young girl's wagon, and back home again, *Gladstone* traces the journey of a "wonderfully smooth little stone" through the words and pictures of Amiekoleh K. Usafi. She teaches art at Inner City Educational Foundation in Los Angeles.

Briefly noted: Retired psychology professor Frank Cox '54 M'58 of Santa Barbara recently retired from a second career: textbook author. His bibliography includes *Youth, Marriage, and the Seductive Society* (1967, '69, '72), *American Marriage: A Changing Scene* (1970, '76), *Psychology* (1970, '73), *Family Living* (1994), *Human Intimacy: Marriage, the Family, and Its Meaning* (11 editions since 1978), and *The AIDS Booklet* (six editions since 1989).

ANIMAL HOUSE, by Candace Ryan '96 M'97; illustrated by Nathan Hale (Walker/Bloomsbury; \$16.95). Jeremy's teacher, Mrs. Nuddles, thinks he belongs in a zoo—and she isn't far from the truth. Jeremy lives in an animal house, where refrigerators roam free, floormingoes don't mind being stepped on, and manatee-vees broadcast the news. When Mrs. Nuddles visits Jeremy's house herself, she witnesses the amazing animal house firsthand: the snailbox full of mail, the armapillow happy to let her rest her head, and—unfortunately for Mrs. Nuddles—the vulchair, who might be a bit hungry today. Full of silly wordplay and brightly detailed illustrations, Ryan's first picture book is aimed at ages 4-8. Ryan spent nine years as a special education teacher and lives in a Lake View Terrace "anacondo" full of animal-inspired furniture and appliances with her husband, David Dandridge M'03, and their 5-year-old son, Clarke. She also maintains a blog devoted to children's books (<http://www.bookbookerbookest.blogspot.com/>).



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Sentimental Journey

New York Times columnist David Brooks encourages the **Class of 2010** to educate their emotions as they wrestle with issues of character and culture



ABOVE: Associate professor of biology Joseph Schulz and retiring theater professor Alan Freeman '66 M'67 lead the processional up Bird Road.

FAR LEFT: Brooks concluded his remarks by saying: "...just once in your life, for the perverse pleasure of the thing, vote for a damn Republican."

LEFT: Confetti rains down upon the Class of 2010.

Photos by Marc Campos

DRAWING ON HIS OWN political journey as well as the philosophers of the Scottish Enlightenment, *New York Times* columnist David Brooks—or, as he jokingly labeled himself, “a middle-aged political pundit without Jack Kemp’s hair”—stressed the importance of educating one’s emotions in his keynote speech to the Occidental Class of 2010 at Commencement on May 16. The failure of much of modern liberalism is its “reliance on a truncated view of human nature ... that we are autonomous, rational decision-makers who respond in straightforward ways to incentives. That’s just not true,” Brooks told the 444 graduates and a capacity crowd under sunny skies in Remsen Bird Hillside Theater.

Whether the issue is policy-making or success in life, human emotions—or what philosophers David Hume and Edmund Burke would have called sentiments—rule our decisions, Brooks said. Citing examples drawn from his own experience as a newspaper reporter on assignment in Chicago, Russia, and Africa, Brooks encountered numerous examples of “smart people creating awful results” when they ignored human emotions and the unseen influence of tangled social relationships, whether in clearing slums in Chicago or fighting AIDS in Namibia.

“You amputate reality if you try to imagine social problems can be solved through material forces,” he said. “That’s why I came to think that everything comes down to character and culture, and that’s why life is so hard.”

Quoting the late Daniel Patrick Moynihan (“The central conservative truth is culture matters most, while the central liberal truth is that government can change culture”), Brooks added, “The best liberalism pushes us to change culture, to change these emotions. The best conservatism warns us that change is hard, and in the long run, if we’re not careful, [it] will accidentally destroy the social relationships we may not even see or be aware of.” The members of the Scottish Enlightenment wrote about the importance of sentiments not only as a way to explain public life, but as a means to explain everything, he said. “That’s why a degree from a liberal arts college is actually the most practical degree you can possibly get—because that’s how you educate your emotions.” □

RIGHT: Jason Kayne (a history major from Northridge) flashes a sign and a smile to well-wishers. **FAR RIGHT:** Jarred Salha's cheering section spells out its enthusiasm for the history major from Los Banos. **BELOW:** Douglas Locke (theater, Houston), strikes an appropriately theatrical pose. (His credits include an appearance as an extra in the Halloween party scene of 2008's *Made of Honor*, shot at Oxy.)



RIGHT: President Veitch (*rear, left*) and Board of Trustees chair John Farmer (*rear, right*) join honorary degree recipients Suzanna Guzmán (mezzo soprano with the Los Angeles Opera), Brooks, Father Greg Boyle (founder of Homeboy Industries), Mo Ostin (music industry legend), and Patricia Alireza '94 (physicist at University College, London).



FAR LEFT: Peace is the word from Bena Li (sociology, San Francisco). **LEFT:** Phi Kappa Psi brothers pose near Gilman Fountain. **RIGHT:** Aviva Kaufman (economics, Toronto) and Danielle Mantooth (history, Agoura) grab a photo op. **BELOW:** Veitch congratulates Gisèle Goldwater-Feldman (art history and the visual arts, Newhall).

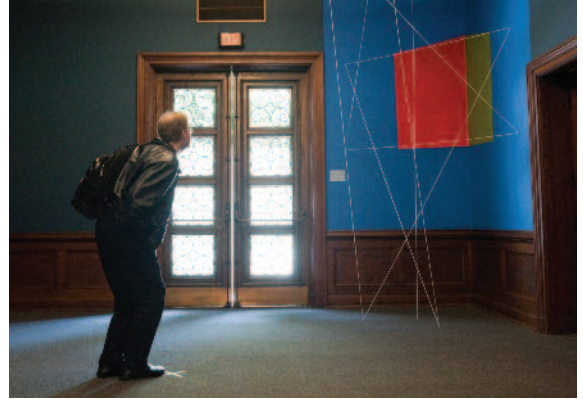


ABOVE: Joshua Youngs (economics, Oxnard), *center*, is surrounded by cousins Ricky Garcia, Daniel "Lovelace" Lemos, Michael Lemos, and Isaac Gutierrez. **RIGHT:** Tilak Gupta (diplomacy and world affairs, Arcadia) hugs associate professor of politics Caroline Heldman.



Social Medium

RIGHT: A curious onlooker contemplates conceptual artist Brian O'Doherty's installation *In Memory of the Book*—commissioned for the Wonder Cabinet—in the Thorne Hall lobby.



Remsen Bird Artist in Residence **Lawrence Weschler** unites the odd, the marvelous, and the jaw-droppingly amazing for a day of old-fashioned wonder and newfangled cool

Photos by Marc Campos



In addition to the Wonder Cabinet and a public lecture series, Weschler also filled Cushman Board Room for an abbreviated version of the class he teaches at New York University, "Paradoxes of Freedom and Form in Narrative Nonfiction."

THE CONCEPT BEHIND THE Wonder Cabinet is a simple one, Lawrence Weschler says: Pull together some of the coolest people around and see what happens. "I'm interested in cross-pollination," says the former *New Yorker* writer, author, teacher, and Occidental's 2010 Remsen Bird Artist in Residence. "I want to upend what you take for granted. I want you to stop and say, 'Wow.' ... It doesn't matter if things fall apart. It should be fun."

As it happened, things did not fall apart when hundreds of people filled Thorne Hall April 24 for a day-long exploration of the kinetic qualities of paper, how planetary orbits relate to the music of the spheres, why pickpockets and horned ladies were 18th-century celebrities, and the role the nose plays in shaping visual perception. The Wonder Cabinet's interdisciplinary presentations by artists, scientists, and historians employed a variety of media—including music, film, PowerPoint, even folded paper—and hearkened back to a time before science and the arts split into mutually exclusive domains.

"With the rise of the Internet and social media we may be returning to an era in which leaders in these fields have all kinds of things to say to each other," says Weschler, 58. "The Wonder Cabinet aims to facilitate that conversation. But it's also simply a celebration of all things cool." The program also served another important function: "to announce to the artistic community of Los Angeles that Occidental is open for business," president Jonathan Veitch said in his opening remarks, echoing the call in his October inaugural address for Occidental to become a center for the arts in Los Angeles.

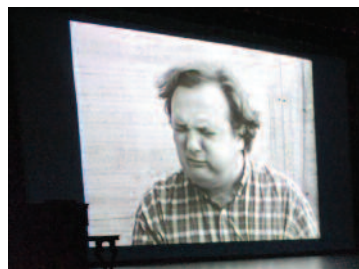
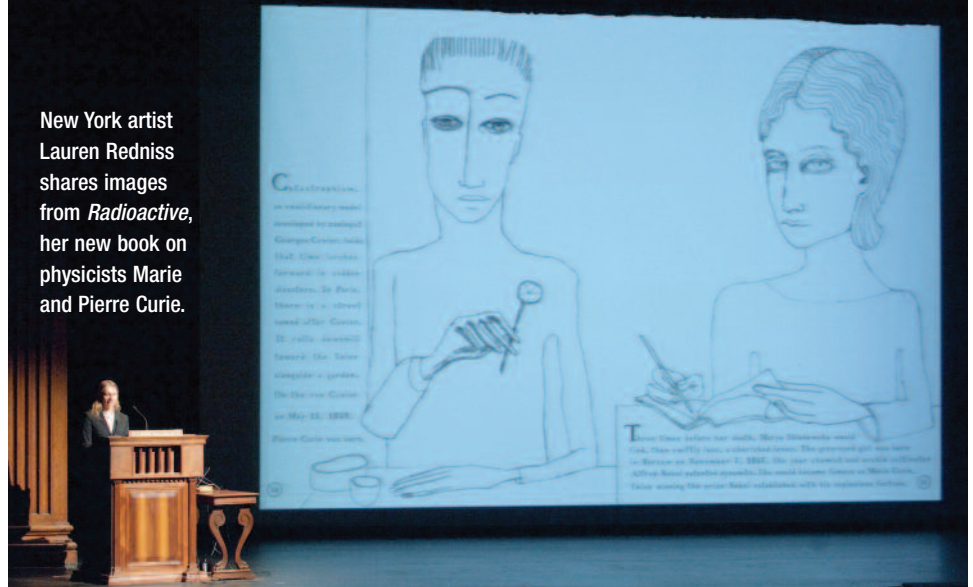
BELOW: New York-based artist Trevor Oakes shows audience members a concave illustration he and his identical twin brother, Ryan, created using a device to depict accurate and detailed cityscapes. **BOTTOM:** Punk-folk duo Guitar Boy (New Yorkers Nancy Agabian, *left*, and Ann Perich) closed the Cabinet with a medley of deliciously sly and twisted songs.



The Wonder Cabinet was the culmination of Weschler's two-month residency at Oxy—the longest period the Van Nuys native has spent in Los Angeles for almost 30 years (“I am very much an Angeleno at heart”). He delivered a series of four public lectures on subjects ranging from the nature of art to the atrocities of ethnic warfare, and taught an abbreviated version of his popular New York University class “Paradoxes of Freedom and Form in Narrative Nonfiction.” The course “is based on the premise that every narrative voice is itself a fiction,” Weschler told students at his opening session, which featured an analysis of writing by such authors as John McPhee, Dave Eggers, and Jonathan Raban. “I insist on a personal voice ... one person’s tentative, provisional take on things. There’s something wonderful and special about that.”

Those personal voices were very much in evidence at Weschler’s carefully constructed Wonder Cabinet. One of the films featured at the opening of the program, Boris Hars-Tschachotin’s *Lurch (Lizard)*, an exploration of a man transformed by a collection of preserved reptiles and amphibians, was followed by images from photographer Lena Herzog’s

New York artist Lauren Redniss shares images from *Radioactive*, her new book on physicists Marie and Pierre Curie.



FAR LEFT: An unidentified gourmand shows his distaste for a most unpleasant candy in Academy Award-winning filmmaker Jessica Yu’s 1992 short, *Sour Death Balls*. **LEFT:** Magician-historian Ricky Jay discusses the very odd nature of celebrity in the 18th and early 19th centuries.

RIGHT: Ann Arbor, Mich.-based designer Matt Shlian’s uncanny paper art, which he filled a suitcase with, was a hands-on hit with the crowd. Shlian is an instructor at the School of Art and Design at the University of Michigan.



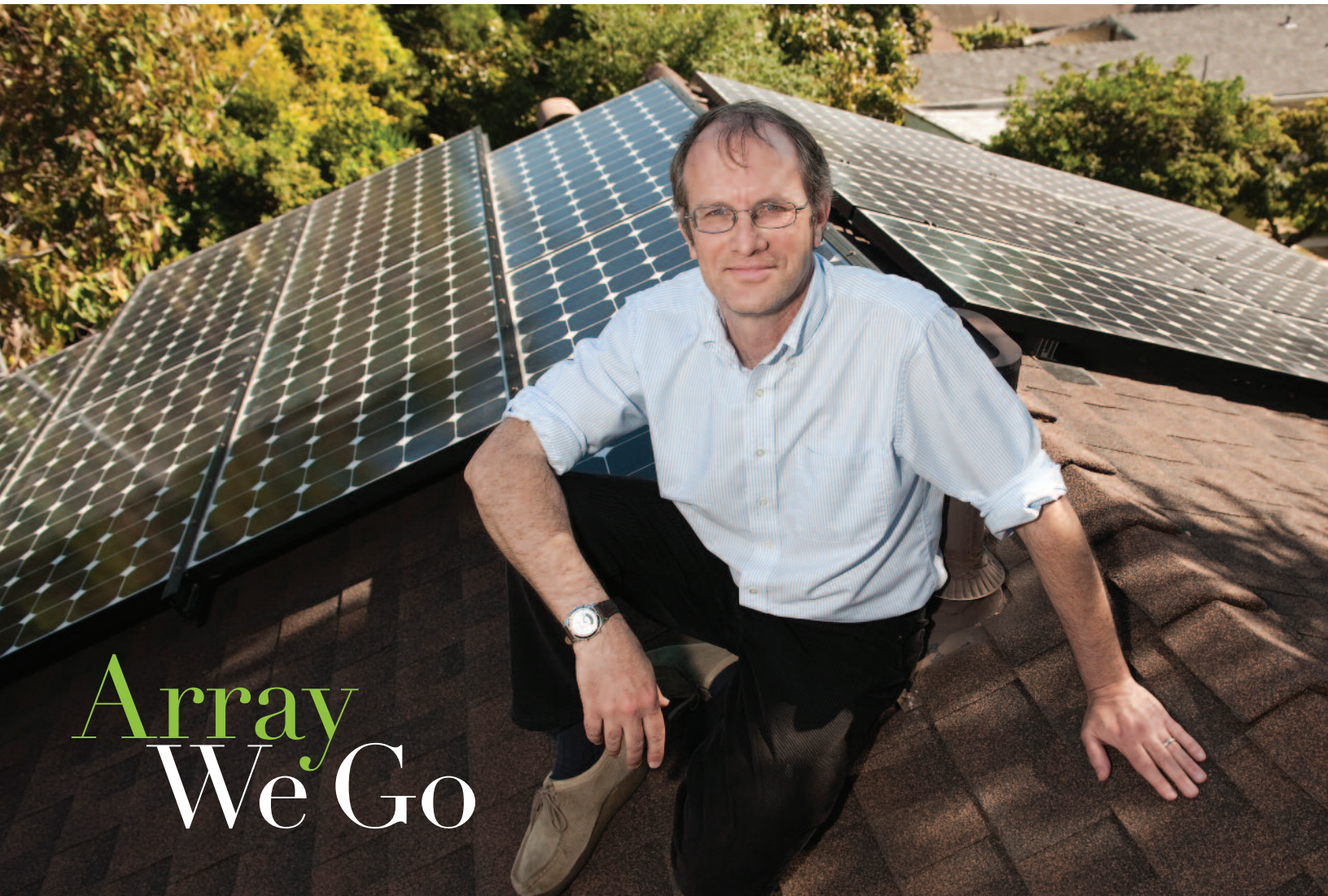
Lost Souls, a forthcoming book of her haunting and evocative images of 17th-century Dutch fetuses preserved in Peter the Great’s *Wunderkammern* in St. Petersburg.

Magic historian, actor, and sleight-of-hand master Ricky Jay delved into his impressive book collection to discuss the 18th- and early 19th-century fascination with remarkable personages—people famous for their age, their size (or lack thereof), their criminal tendencies or, as in the case of one London hardware merchant, for never bathing after the tragic death of his fiancée.

As the event progressed, audience members listened as Museum of Jurassic Technology founder David Wilson recalled the origins of the Soviet space program in the mystical musings of an obscure Moscow librarian; learned the real reasons why no two snowflakes are alike from Caltech physicist Ken Libbrecht (temperature, chemical impurities, and the hexagonal shape of water molecules

all play a role); and heard what the music of the spheres might sound like, courtesy of Oscar-winning film and sound editor Walter Murch (*Apocalypse Now*, *The English Patient*).

And the cavalcade kept on coming. Obsessed with the nature of visual perception since childhood, identical twin artists Trevor and Ryan Oakes demonstrated their new method rivaling that of a camera obscura or camera lucida for drawing landscapes—but one that relies on nothing but the interaction between the artist’s naked eye and nose. The crowd rushed the stage to be able to handle and exclaim over Matt Shlian’s intricate and eye-popping paper sculptures—pieces that have attracted the interest of scientists working on nanotechnology. The reaction of one audience member after the sculptures were reluctantly handed back to disappear into Shlian’s suitcase could well sum up the day of wonder: “How cool was that?”—JIM TRANQUADA



Array We Go

After cutting his energy bill in half with the installation of solar panels at home, physics professor **Daniel Snowden-Ifft** leads Oxy's charge toward renewable energy

BY SAMANTHA B. BONAR '90 ◆ PHOTO BY MARC CAMPOS

PHYSICS PROFESSOR DANIEL Snowden-Ifft has spent his entire career searching for dark matter, but he has seen the light when it comes to solar energy. And when he began spearheading a campaign to bring solar power to campus last year, he wasn't interested "in doing a little demonstrator project—you know, maybe put a few solar panels on the roof of Hameetman Science Center," says Snowden-Ifft, who joined the Oxy faculty in 1997. "I wanted to do something really big and splashy."

It may seem an unlikely passion for a scientist who spends much of his time in dim underground laboratories searching for

elusive invisible particles. Snowden-Ifft credits his parents with instilling in him an interest in renewable energy. "When I was growing up, my mom started a recycling center, and my dad was interested in solar energy," he explains. "I actually wrote a term paper on solar energy when I was in junior high school." But in spite of his upbringing, until recently Snowden-Ifft's efforts never extended beyond recycling at home. "I've always felt guilty about that, coming from that kind of household and basically being your standard American consumer."

A couple of years ago, Snowden-Ifft "came into a little extra money" and decided to install solar panels at his South Pasadena

home. "It cut my electric bill in half, and it just feels good. I'm doing Mother Earth a favor here," he says. A few months after that project was completed, he read an article in a physics journal that contained a call to action to physicists to tackle the world's energy issues. "These are problems that physicists know how to deal with," he says. "We know how to make energy. And I'd just put the solar in at home. So I started thinking about whether we could do something here at Occidental."

His ambitions for the campus quickly snowballed. The original proposal from Snowden-Ifft and the College's sustainability committee to the Board of Trustees last Octo-

ber called for taking advantage of rebates offered by the Los Angeles Department of Water and Power to build a 2-megawatt solar array, or roughly 540 times the installation at his home. “It’s not unfair to say that they freaked out,” he says. It soon became clear that a project of that size would be untenable. The proposed array was too sprawling for a campus Oxy’s size and would require an expensive upgrade of an existing electrical substation—a cost that would effectively put the project out of reach.

So the solar subcommittee, chaired by Snowden-Ifft, sought help from an L.A. design firm named Lettuce, which came up with a 1.1-megawatt array that was not only feasible, but artistic to boot. “Lettuce had argued that we should think of this as land art,” Snowden-Ifft says. “And so it came to represent not just a sustainable statement, but it’s a statement about what a liberal arts school is about, which is marrying the technical and the artistic, or marrying disparate fields of study to create something that’s both practical and beautiful. It will be an ongoing statement about our commitment to the environment and to the liberal arts as well.”

The new design was met warmly by the Board of Trustees—“a complete sea change from the first time,” Snowden-Ifft says. “I think I had gone after their heads, but I’d forgotten about their hearts. There was a certain segment of the board that needed to fall in love with it. And this shape was just the ticket.” Besides being the biggest solar array in Los Angeles, it’s “going to be the coolest array in the country, that’s for sure,” he adds.

Consisting of 5,000 panels, the bulk of the solar array will be located on the slope above the practice soccer field on upper campus, with the remainder placed on carport structures over the adjacent parking lot. The board approved spending up to \$7.7 million, with half of the cost rebated by the LADWP. It will cut the College’s energy use by up to 12.5 percent, saving about \$250,000 a year in electricity costs, and will pay for itself within about 15 years. Savings are predicted to rise at 4 percent per year over the lifetime of the array, which is guaranteed to last 25 years and likely 35.

While Snowden-Ifft anticipates some pushback from the College’s neighbors regarding the specifics of the project—which, as approved by the board, will be



Conceptual drawings of the entire array, *left*, and the hillside segment, *below*. More than 160 colleges and universities nationwide have solar arrays, including UC San Diego, Caltech, Harvard, Middlebury, Oberlin, Princeton, Stanford, Tufts, and Yale.



greenlighted following the completion of fundraising for the ongoing Swan Hall renovation—“I do think something is going to happen, and it’s going to look pretty much as we’ve described it.”

“Dan became an expert in things he never knew existed until this project,” says Michael Stephens, associate vice president for facilities management and a member of the solar subcommittee. “LADWP’s arcane procedures and calculations are enough to bring sane people to the very edge of reason, but Dan persevered until he knew them better than they did.” Subcommittee member Margo McAdams, director of annual giving, adds: “Dan was determined to keep this project moving forward despite setbacks along the way. Many people helped bring solar to Oxy—and I’m proud of my small part in it—but Dan was really the driving force.”

Snowden-Ifft, 47, brings that same level of dogged persistence to his academic research into the composition of dark matter. Decades of study by theorists and experimentalists have whittled down the number of viable candidates to a few, among them the weakly interacting massive particle (WIMP). The goal of Snowden-Ifft’s research is to detect WIMPs. To this end, he and his students have built two particle detectors, one in his lab in Hameetman, the other a kilometer underground in a salt mine in Sheffield, England. They are called directional recoil identification from tracks (DRIFT) detectors.

Since you cannot see dark matter directly (it is invisible), the only way you can perceive it is by its effect on other particles. WIMPs make other particles move. Snowden-Ifft likens it to seeing a billiard ball suddenly start moving on its own on a

Eventually, Snowden-Ifft would like to see the campus bulk up to 2 megawatts of panels, “and maybe beyond,” he says. “Every time we redo a roof or building, I’d like to see some solar there.”

pool table. But detecting a WIMP is an extremely rare event. Although the particle detectors run 24 hours a day, scientists are lucky to perceive one WIMP event per year.

One frustrating possibility for Snowden-Ifft is that the entire WIMP theory could be wrong. Dark matter could be something else, which would mean his decades of research would have been in vain. That’s another reason Snowden-Ifft was attracted to the College’s solar project—so he can point to a concrete accomplishment.

“When I started the DRIFT project, I’d come home and the kids would say, ‘Have you found dark matter yet?’” says the father of two. “So I suppose one additional motivation for the solar array was just to do something very practical ... to be able to say at the end of my life that I had actually done something really good for the world. Just in case the dark matter doesn’t work out.”

Photo by Kirby Lee



Photo by Marc Campos



LEFT: Women's water polo co-captain Karie Nickle '11 looks for an opening against Azusa Pacific March 24. **ABOVE:** Kelly Young '11 shows her form in the discus, one of four events (including the hammer throw, shot put, and javelin) in which she excelled.

Spring Sports Wrap-Up Water Polo Surges, While Young Throws for Records

With a 1-11 mark at midseason, things were looking grim for Oxy's young women's water polo team. Then they won four straight in the Chapman tournament, and downed highly ranked Cal Lutheran in a mid-April conference match. "That gave us more confidence for the rest of the year," says junior co-captain Karie Nickle—confidence that carried the Tigers all the way to the May 9 NCAA Division III national championship match against Cal Lutheran. While the Regals ultimately prevailed, 10-5, Oxy ended the season with a 17-17 record and ranked No. 3 nationally, behind SCIAC champion Pomona-Pitzer and Cal Lutheran.

Nickle was one of four Tigers who received All-SCIAC honors and were named to the All-Tournament team at nationals. Nickle and classmate Julie Monday were All-Tournament First Team picks, while Tessa Bailey-Findley '12 and Nanea Fujiyama '13 were Second Team picks in both SCIAC and the nationals. Such outstanding performances by the Tigers' young roster bodes well for the future. "Hopefully we can build upon this for next year," Nickle says.

While Nickle and her teammates were turning their season around in the pool, out on the track junior thrower Kelly Young was mounting a one-woman assault on the Oxy record book. At the SCIAC championship meet at Pomona-Pitzer, Kelly finished with

three national qualifying marks, four lifetime bests, and four second-place finishes. In the hammer throw, she set a personal record of 159'4", second on Oxy's all-time list and 23rd in Division III; in the discus, she set another PR of 143'9", the eighth-best mark in Division III and the second-best mark in Oxy history; in the shot put, another PR, this time of 41'1.75", third-best in Oxy history; and in the javelin, a new Oxy record of 140'5" (and eighth-best in Division III).

Entering the Division III national championships in Berea, Ohio, ranked No. 10 in the javelin, Young produced a remarkable throw of 146'11", shattering her own Occidental record by almost seven feet and giving her a third-place finish and All-American status. "The opportunity to compete against the best athletes from across the country was an incredible opportunity and pushed me to step up my game. So far this has been one of the greatest athletic experiences of my life," Kelly said. In an unusual discus competition where almost all the competitors threw far shorter than their seasonal bests, Young could manage a throw of only 128 feet.

As a team, the Oxy women finished third in SCIAC; the men finished fourth. "We had a large number of injuries and illnesses that all came at extremely inopportune times," says head coach Rob Bartlett. He points to the 100-meter hurdles championship race, in which the College's record holder, senior Karuna Batcha, won the event for the second year in a row despite nursing a fractured elbow, which she injured a week earlier during a team practice.

Class of 2014

Many Apply (5,882)—and 42 Percent Are Chosen

When the Occidental Class of 2014 arrives on campus in August, it will be the most diverse class in almost 15 years, whether measured in terms of geography, ethnicity, or socio-economic status. One of the few areas where the entering class lacks diversity is in its academic performance: With a median SAT score of 1935 and a median GPA of 3.67, it is a uniformly talented group.

As the roughly 590-member class currently stands—the annual phenomenon known as "summer melt" will trim its size a little before Orientation begins—some 42 percent is made up of students of color, the largest total since 1996. Nineteen percent of the group will be the first person in their family to attend college, and 26 percent are eligible for Pell Grants, the federal program aimed at low- and moderate-income students.

"Oxy's longstanding commitment to excellence and equity is emphatically represented in our incoming class," says Vince Cuseo, vice president for admission and financial aid. "We are pleased to enroll an eclectic set of students who share a passion for learning and a willingness to contribute to our signature community."

Applications to Occidental fell just short of last year's record, with 5,882 high school seniors applying for admission (compared to 6,013 applicants in 2009). Of that group, 42 percent were offered admission in letters mailed March 25. More than half of those students offered admission this year (52 percent) hail from outside California, living in 32 states and Washington, D.C. Seven percent of admitted students are foreign or dual citizens, representing 27 different countries, including India, Vietnam, Botswana, Singapore, and Jamaica. Men make up 44 percent of the class.

Applications to Oxy have increased 80 percent over the last decade. During that same period, the College has repeatedly been named a "Best Value" by *U.S. News & World Report* and *Kiplinger's Personal Finance*, and ranked No. 7 among liberal arts colleges in the most recent *SmartMoney* "payback" rankings, which focus on the relationship between tuition costs and a graduate's earning power.

Academic Commons

Mellon Foundation Grant Targets Digital Resources

The Andrew W. Mellon Foundation has awarded a three-year, \$700,000 grant to Occidental to integrate digital resources into student and faculty learning, teaching, and scholarship as part of the College's new effort to reimagine, reinvent, and reconfigure its library as an academic commons—"one that makes our fundamental commitments as a 21st-century college of the liberal arts and sciences visible to everyone," says President Jonathan Veitch.

The grant will make it possible for Occidental to bring several post-doctoral fellows in the humanities and social sciences to Oxy to stimulate new thinking about the application of digital content and resources in teaching, learning, and research; design and deliver three week-long summer institutes to help faculty integrate digital technologies in their courses; develop OxyScholar—an existing pilot program in open access scholarly publishing—into a fully realized digital platform for work created by faculty and students; train library staff in the use of digital technologies and techniques applicable to academic work; and define the basic elements of digital fluency for Oxy students, as well as



Professors Jim Woodhead (geology), Alan Freeman '66 M'67 (theater), and Wellington Chan (history) are all smiles—and why not?—at a retirement party in Samuelson Pavilion on April 22. The three have collectively taught at Occidental for 106 years.

a process through which they can be integrated across the core curriculum.

While the physical space and some of the services of Clapp Library have been relatively untouched since a new wing was added in 1970, students' learning patterns have evolved and will continue to do so, according to Veitch. The Mellon grant will make it possible for Occidental to explore the digital resources and technologies that have shaped these patterns and pursue efforts to cluster support services in an academic commons. "Our ultimate goal is simple but ambitious: to create a new focal point for our academic community," Veitch says.

Photos (this page) by Marc Campos



Using his trademark mix of erudition and dry humor, Bill Nye the Science Guy urged a standing-room-only Occidental crowd to help develop new solutions to global warming in his March 10 Phi Beta Kappa lecture, sponsored by the Ruenitz Trust Endowment. Speaking to an audience ranging from fifth graders to septuagenarians, he made algebra jokes, discussed how bees fly and how sundials work, dissected the aesthetics of wind turbines, made fun of professors who use laser pointers, and emphasized the importance of good aim in space exploration—digressions that invariably circled back to his main point: "We have to change the world." Afterward, Nye chatted with a long line of students, including biochemistry majors Kevin Grier-Roddy '11 of Burlingame, *left*, posing with Nye; and Colin McKinlay '11, *right*, who models a pair of goggles signed by Nye.

Occidental in Brief

Occidental faculty have approved changing the name of the Asian Studies department to East Asian Languages and Cultures and the creation of three new majors—Chinese studies, East Asian studies, and Japanese studies—to better reflect the department's academic focus. The reworking of the department follows a comprehensive program review last year. □ An unprecedented 20 Occidental students will conduct research this summer on a wide range of subjects in countries from Chile to Zambia through the Richter Traditional Scholarship for Independent Research Abroad. For a full list of participants, visit the News and Events page at www.oxy.edu. □ Oxy Children's Theater will launch its 15th season July 8 with an original production—*Pinocchio-Oklahoma!*—along with three traditional folk-tale adaptations. The production will run through Aug. 21 at Remsen Bird Hillside Theater. □ It's now a lot easier to access campus information and services with the launch of Oxy Mobile, a Boopsie-powered mobile application compatible with all web-enabled phones that allows users to find and contact faculty and staff, access the library catalog, or navigate the campus. High-speed downloadable clients are available for the iPhone, BlackBerry, Palm OS, Android, Windows Mobile, J2ME, and Symbian S60.



Students, faculty, and staff will be able to rent a Toyota Prius and a second car to be stationed on campus this fall through Zipcar, an alternative to traditional car rental and ownership. In addition, a student-run Bike Share program was launched on Earth Day, April 22, with a fleet of 10 bicycles that were abandoned on campus or donated by alumni. The bicycle and car-sharing programs are the latest in a series of green initiatives at Oxy.



AIR JOHNSON

BY RHEA R. BORJA ▲ PHOTOS BY MARC CAMPOS

Twenty years into his second career as a flight attendant— and four decades after alcoholism nearly destroyed him— “Skydood” Joe Johnson ’50 soars on the highs of life

As a high-powered marketing executive at Hughes Aircraft Co. in the 1960s, Joe Johnson ’50 often jetted to Paris, Tokyo, and other glamorous locales. These days, you can still find him cruising at 35,000 feet in altitude—not as a passenger, but as a flight attendant for Delta Airlines out of Los Angeles.

Twenty years into his second career, at an age when most of his peers have traded in their day jobs for tee times, Johnson spends about 80 hours a month in Boeing 747s and 757s ensuring the comfort and safety of passengers heading to Honolulu, Orlando, and all points in between. Soon, Delta may also take him to destinations in South America and Europe.

At age 82, he’s the third-oldest flight attendant for Delta and the first to admit that the 180-degree turn in his career trajectory is unconventional. But it’s one that he’s embraced wholeheartedly. The license plate on his spotless red 2001 Cadillac reads “SKYDOOD.” So does a tiled sign on the front of his house, located just 300 steps away from the beaches of San Clemente. “SKYDOOD” is also etched on a plaque perched on his kitchen windowsill, as well as tattooed on his ankle (next to a pair of aviator wings and a lightning bolt). Photos of Johnson with fellow flight attendants are displayed in his home alongside those of his family members.

“Joe’s a poster child for AARP,” says long-time friend Hugh Tassej ’50. “He has always had a *joie de vivre* attitude about life. His successful late-life career as a flight attendant, of all things, exemplifies the best of an unvanquished spirit we all could hope to emulate.”

Tassej and Johnson reconnected at an Oxy alumni barbecue in 1996 and now “trade insults on a pretty regular basis via e-mail,” according to Tassej. The first time he saw Johnson after four decades, with his pierced



ABOVE: Johnson typically arrives at LAX an hour prior to flight time. **CENTER:** Johnson poses with flight attendants Paulette Thomson, *left*, and George Vasquez and in-flight manager Nancy Perong before taking off for Hawaii. **RIGHT:** When he applied with Northwest at age 62, Johnson thought, “Don’t be a fool and embarrass yourself.”

ear and tattoos, “he struck me as very emancipated—a long way from the corporate suite,” Tassej says. “He looked like a free spirit, someone who had gone through a lot and came out intact.”

For a man who has logged millions of miles in the air, most of the turbulence in Johnson’s life has happened closer to terra firma—the death of his first wife at age 38, a divorce, and a bout with alcoholism that nearly killed him 41 years ago. Earning his flight attendant’s wings at age 62 was just the first leg of an extended journey that shows no signs of ending soon. “At first, I thought, ‘God Almighty, what am I doing?’” Johnson admits. “But it’s given me a whole new perspective in life.”

Born in San Luis Obispo and raised in the San Gabriel Valley, Johnson was the first in his family to go to college, transferring to Occidental from John Muir Junior College of Pasadena. His father was the electrical superintendent for the *Los Angeles Times*; his mother was a homemaker. “Academics were tough,” he says. “I got a well-rounded education and by and large, I liked the instructors. It was a very positive learning experience.”

A football standout at Alhambra High School, Johnson lettered for two years play-

ing for coach Roy Dennis ’33’s Tigers. He started at quarterback, with Tassej at running back/punter, in Oxy’s much-celebrated 1949 Raisin Bowl 21-20 victory over favored Colorado A&M. “He’s a natural leader, and one remark he made in a huddle one day always stuck with me,” Tassej recalls. “The team wasn’t performing well, and Joe said, ‘C’mon guys, you’re as tight as last year’s bra.’”

Johnson attributes part of the Tigers’ Raisin Bowl success to the advice of Los Angeles Rams quarterback Bob Waterfield, a Van Nuys High School teammate and friend of Occidental halfback Johnny Sanders ’49. Waterfield suggested sending in second-string quarterback Don Ross ’49 into the game after halftime to lead the Tigers to their improbable win. (Waterfield’s wife, buxom actress Jane Russell, accompanied Waterfield to the game, a fact that did not go unnoticed by Johnson or his teammates.)

“Joe’s got that strut that most quarterbacks have, but he’s one of a kind,” says fellow economics major and ATO brother Lodi “Guns” Galassi ’50 of San Gabriel. “Joe and I are still blood brothers.” For many years, Galassi, Johnson, and some of their ATO brothers rented a condo near the San Diego racetrack for regular get-togethers.



Photo courtesy Joe Johnson '50



After college, Johnson began his career at Rheem Manufacturing, which makes heating and cooling systems. Then for 11 heady years, he worked for Hughes Aircraft Co. as manager of European air defense systems sales. As Johnson's star rose, he rubbed shoulders with military generals and government officials from NATO and its member countries. "Those were great years, almost all of them," he says.

Except towards the end. In 1967, his world crumbled. Johnson was stationed in Paris, negotiating air defense system contracts with NATO, when his wife, Cynthia, who had already undergone a mastectomy, experienced a recurrence in breast cancer. They and their three children returned to the United States. Cynthia died soon after.

Even though Johnson remarried several months later, grief and despair overshadowed and almost engulfed him. That's when Johnson turned to drink—or, as Galassi calls it, "demon rum." Things only got worse.

Johnson's work, marriage, and family life suffered, and he was sent to a drug and

alcohol rehabilitation center to dry out. "At age 41, I was a widowed father of three teenage kids, had been declared an alcoholic, and was on the verge of divorce," he recalls, shaking his head. "Plus, I was in a nuthouse in Brea. Thank God I was with Hughes when the whole booze thing came down. They took care of me."

Johnson eventually got his life back on track with a 12-step recovery program, one that he says he owes his life to. He took his last drink on Feb. 10, 1969—almost two years to the day of Cynthia's death.

He left Hughes several years later to start over in the Pacific Northwest. By this time, he had married for a third time and his children were grown. Johnson was hired at Boeing, and once again, he rapidly ascended through the ranks, becoming the company's director of NATO military marketing. He was a key member of a team that sold an airborne warning and control surveillance system that is still in use today.

Five years later, he says, an unscrupulous boss took away Johnson's job and gave it to one of his cronies. After that, he tried his hand at real estate and a few other ventures, but Johnson couldn't seem to regain his footing. He decided that, more than anything, he wanted to return to Southern California and be closer to his daughters and the beach.

"I was over the exec thing and the perks, but how do I keep a roof over my head?" Johnson recalls thinking. Then one day in 1990, while reading the local newspaper, he saw an ad that said, "Can you do your work at 575 miles an hour?" Northwest Airlines was hiring flight attendants. At age 62, Johnson threw his hat into the ring and went

LEFT: A mere "300 steps from the surf" at a seniors trailer park in San Clemente, Johnson hangs out with his ceramic canine pals. **BELOW:** Rocking an old aviator's helmet in this 1965 photo from his heyday at Hughes Aircraft.

to a cattle-call interview with hundreds of others at a motel near Seattle's Sea-Tac Airport. He made the cut for a second interview, this time at Northwest headquarters in Minneapolis. He must have said something right. The recruiter was impressed enough to ask Johnson if he could start flight attendant training in a few weeks.

Less than two months later, Johnson received his official flight wings. Soon after that, he moved to San Clemente and bought into a senior citizen mobile-home park at the beach, only a mile or so from his daughter Barbara Runa and her family. He hasn't looked back since.

Two decades later—and two years after Northwest's merger with Delta—Johnson still enjoys the ever-changing schedule of someone who spends much of his time in "air world." "The best thing about my job is the people I work with. It attracts fun-loving people," he says. "Also, there's very little that's routine. One day I was supposed to go to Chicago and I ended up in Hong Kong."

On one of his more memorable flights about 15 years ago, en route from Osaka to Seattle, Johnson felt and heard a huge explosion. He looked out a window and saw a ball of fire blazing from the wing. One of the jet's engines had failed. The plane remained airborne, and the pilot turned back and landed safely in Osaka. "That can scare the living [crap] out of you," he says.

Johnson counts among his many blessings a good job, robust health, three "wonderful wives whom I'll love always," five "terrific" kids (ages 45 to 60), and a close group of friends: "When we get together, it borders on illegal, the amount of fun we have," he says.

"And last but not least," Johnson adds with a straight face, "I have a completely paid for, fully automatic espresso machine. Man, can life get much better than that?"

"Dad's crazy, he really is," says Runa, herself a longtime flight attendant for Southwest Airlines who's been in the business since the 1970s. "Nothing he does surprises me. That's just Joe." □

A globe is shown with a magnifying glass held over it. The magnifying glass is positioned over the European continent and the Middle East region. The globe is tilted, and the colors of the continents are visible. The background is a clear blue sky.

SILVER CONVENTION

**As Occidental's
United Nations
program prepares
to observe its
25th anniversary,
program interns
recount lessons in
policy, bureaucracy,
and YMCA diplomacy**

*By Dick Anderson
Photo by Brand X Pictures*



ABOVE: In May 1996, Heather O'Brien '91 was made a U.N. "blue helmet" to facilitate demilitarization, mediation, and elections at the core of the former Yugoslav conflict, in Vukovar, Croatia. She continued that work for nearly five years in Bosnia and in East Timor until 2000 (where this photo was taken, at Dili Rock dive site). **ABOVE CENTER:** Fall 1996 interns Tess Lacuesta Kinderman '97, Tiffany Thrasher '97 M'99, and Dennis Montelibano '97 in the hall of the Vanderbilt YMCA. **ABOVE RIGHT:** A public information intern at the U.N. in fall 2006, George Simpson III '07 (shown in the U.N. Delegates Lounge) is an online communications associate for Equality California, the state's largest LGBT rights group.

COME SEPTEMBER, a small band of diplomacy and world affairs majors will trade the comforts and familiarity of campus life for a seat at the table of international diplomacy—to say nothing of the creatures and discomforts of the 47th Street Vanderbilt YMCA in midtown Manhattan. But to hear alumni of Occidental's United Nations internship program, any other experience would be incomplete.

In anticipation of the U.N. program's 25th anniversary this fall, Oxy's International Programs Office recently solicited testimonials from more than 300 alumni. While their paths have diverged globally, most participants echo the sentiment of Jeffrey Jackson '06: "The U.N. program was more than a semester in New York—it helped define my experience at Occidental." (For more excerpts, visit www.oxy.edu/Magazine.xml.)

Toby Dalton '97 The U.N. experience was great preparation for serving in government—exposure to a fast-paced work environment; development of strong writing skills; building relationships with foreign counterparts; and learning to communicate nuanced positions on esoteric subjects.

Michael Mathai-Jackson '96

It was interesting to see that relationships between states were often dependent on the relationships between individual diplomats, and matters of style and personality on an individual level could influence how millions of people interacted on a global level. Similarly, those who were most effective operating in the U.N.'s massive bureaucracies relied heavily on their interpersonal relationships to advance agendas rather than simply the "hard power" of the countries they represented.



Lisa DiPangrazio '07 mugs for the camera with her friends in South Sudan. "My boss at the U.N. once said to me, 'There are two things you should be looking for in a job right now: the opportunity to learn and work on something that you're not just going to enjoy, but that's going to light your fire.' Because of him, Oxy, and the U.N. program, I found both of those things."



Sean Gibson '93 I worked at the United Nations Development Programme on its HIV and Development Programme in 1992, sending multilingual training kits to local organizations in Africa and Asia and coordinating World AIDS Day. From this experience I learned more about grassroots organizing and the power of a message down to specific words: Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali used the word *condom* for the first time in addressing the General Assembly.

Katherine Rope '95 My first job in journalism was as an intern at the *U.N. Chronicle*. It taught me the value of coming up with story ideas and angles and pitching them well, since any chance I had to write there was dependent upon that.

Michael Torra '96 I knew that being an intern meant I wouldn't be playing a substantive role in policy-making, but the opportunity to be a fly on the wall, observe, and soak it all in was gratifying enough.

Alison Giffen '97 When the federal government shut down from Nov. 14-19, 1995, most foreign service officers/staff of the U.S. Mission to the United Nations could not go to work—but as free interns, we could. This resulted in our taking on roles that we wouldn't normally do. I was asked to sit in the U.S. seat at the General Assembly a few times until I was caught asleep.

Sarah Bailey '00 Sitting in on Security Council informal sessions was the best part of my internship: It gave me insight as to how decisions are made that still comes in handy as someone who works to influence humanitarian policy.

Rali Badissy '02 The program was my first foray into the world of diplomacy and international law. It opened my eyes to the careful balance of politics, culture, and law that is the foundation of international organizations and development work. My internship with the Iraqi sanctions committee was particularly interesting. In my position as an adviser with the Commercial Law Development Program, I regularly work with the Iraqi government and am able to use the insight gained from that internship on a daily basis.

Casper Oswald '03 In fall 2002, there was a flurry of diplomatic activity in the Security Council about Iraq. As a U.S. State Department intern for the Military Staff Committee at the U.S. Mission to the U.N.—in what could be compared to the military attaché's office of an embassy—I found myself in the eye of a diplomatic storm, attending almost all of the closed Security

Council meetings on Iraq. It was a profound experience, actually seeing foreign policy hammered out by the staff at the United States' most prestigious diplomatic posting, after many semesters of studying the mechanics of international relations at Occidental.

Sarah Chankin-Gould '03 Being there at that crucial moment allowed us to witness a turning point in history. We saw how international reactions developed and policies began to shift before our eyes.

Jeffrey Jackson '06 My internship experience helped me to consider some of the more controversial topics, even if it meant my views ran in opposition to some of the majority views of the students and the DWA department. Shortly before graduation, professor Movindri Reddy observed that between the time I started Oxy and returned from the U.N. program, I had gone from being an idealist to a realist—and wondered what happened to cause me to change my views.

Marisa Singer '00 We experienced a lot together—living in a huge, new city, meeting other interns from all over the world (many happy hours!), being thrown into a highly professional capacity at such a young age, and finally, all living in the hilarious 47th Street Vanderbilt YMCA, sharing the one pay phone in the hallway since this was before cellphones!

Melanie Stambaugh '06 Lots of adventures, from the woman at the Y who lived on our hall and decided to raise a bunch of bunnies, to checking and briefing the news in six different countries every morning, to Ashley Luth '06 and me being “kidnapped” our first day at the U.N. and taken to a little cocktail party to welcome us, to not caring about the amount of sleep I got because I was so happy with what I was doing ... the list goes on.

Marc Feder '89 Oxy-at-the-U.N. gave me a unique appreciation of the nuts and bolts of diplomatic discourse. It was most rewarding to have the run of the U.N., eat in the delegates cafeteria, and spend all my money in New York City.

Charles Nowaczek '90 My favorite memory was having lunch at the U.N. cafeteria with a delegate from some small African nation. Upon learning that we went to school at a college in Los Angeles, he asked if we drove from there to the U.N. every day.

Sara El-Amine '07 I will never forget having bedbugs seven times, Professor Hirsch's lovely meet-and-greets at his house, and trying to make my plate at the U.N. cafeteria weigh less than \$5 for lunch. More than that, I continue to use the organizational, multitasking, communication, and writing skills that I learned at the U.N., and I will always cherish the close, lifelong friendships I made.

Rostom Sarkissian '02 Because of Oxy-at-the-U.N., I was selected as a Coro fellow in Pittsburgh. Because of the Coro fellowship, I went on to work for



Photos courtesy International Programs Office

the Kerry/Edwards campaign in 2004. Because of all those experiences, I was accepted into the Harvard Kennedy School and went on to work for Barack Obama's general election campaign in Colorado.

Lisa DiPangrazio '07 The U.N. program laid the foundation for my career, what I am currently doing and everything I aspire to do over the next few years. Doorways have been opened, and people have invested in me, partially because of the remarkable experience Oxy entrusted us with at such a young age.

Mary Ellen Lyon '05 My time in the Office of the Special Adviser on Gender Issues and Advancement of Women affirmed that I am better suited for field work than coordination and oversight on the scale of a major institution like the U.N. Reading and summarizing reports from the field—actually, summarizing summaries of other summaries of reports from the field—made me long to be the one writing the initial report. I've been able to commit to the long road of pursuing a medical degree without wondering if I wouldn't rather be looking out my office window at U.N. Plaza.

Helena Pasquarella '89 I couldn't stand the bureaucracy of the U.N., and so I decided that I was ultimately not suited for that type of work. Still, the U.N. helped teach me negotiating skills, constructive writing skills, and diplomacy.

Julia Bleckner '10 My faith in the U.N. has been restored—to an extent. The general structure, bureaucracy, and politics among member states make diplomacy seem impure and hopeless at times. But there are a wide variety of branches within the U.N. made up of people who truly are working for the common good of humanity and solving the world's most pressing problems. As a skeptic and critic of the U.N., I am truly thankful to have gained an educated appreciation for the heartfelt work that different branches put in to serving the world's most vulnerable populations. ☐

LEFT: After graduating from Oxy, Kate Fedosova '08 (shown at the U.N. in fall 2007) moved to Boston to develop a global nonprofit she co-founded as a senior. Peace in Focus uses photography to teach leadership, non-violence, and creative problem-solving to marginalized youth in fragmented and post-conflict communities. The grassroots organization launched pilot workshops in Boston and Burundi in 2008 and expanded to Liberia in 2009.



“I jumped into the program as an exchange student from Japan, fell in love with New York City, enjoyed working at the U.N. with colleagues with diverse cultural backgrounds, and struggled so hard to improve my English to study and work at the same time,” says Keiichi Kubo '97. “Without that experience, I would not have visited so many countries since then and would not have studied in London for my Ph.D. So it really changed my life completely.” Kubo (shown with his daughter) is an associate professor of comparative politics at Waseda University in Tokyo.

The Early Years

The history of Oxy's global orientation dates back almost a century, to 1916, when the College hired its first Asian faculty member, K.S. Inui, to teach Japanese history, and entered into its first overseas study program with Hangchow Christian College. Under the leadership of Oxy's eighth president, Remsen D. Bird (1921-46)—who saw overseas service in France and the Mediterranean countries with the YMCA—the College expanded its world vision by appointing faculty with international interests, broadening the curriculum, and bringing visiting lecturers with well-worn passports to the Occidental campus.



1940s



P.K. Mok, professor of Chinese history and culture at Oxy from 1944 until his death in 1962, was a wartime information officer in his native China at the time of his appointment.

1950s



1958



Velma Montoya '58, a founding participant in Crossroads Africa at Occidental, observes the Volta River Project in Nigeria. The venture followed a campus talk by Presbyterian clergyman James H. Robinson, who founded Operation Crossroads Africa to build friendship and understanding between the United States and African nations. A total of 163 Oxy students made the trek in 35 years.

1961



Crossroads Africa participants Carol Richardson '64, Charles Dirks '61, and Alice Harrington '63, with adviser Rev. Hugh Nelson and his wife.

1968



U.S. delegate Mike Mitchell '70 and Republic of China delegate George Kolb '71 debate in Occidental's Model United Nations in General Assembly in March 1968. In addition to U. Alexis Johnson '31, the College has graduated numerous U.S. ambassadors, including William Bellamy '72 (Kenya), David Dunn '71 (Zambia and Togo), and Ray Ewing '59 (Cyprus and Ghana), as well as Toshiro Shimanouchi '31 (Japanese ambassador to Norway) and Aggrey Mbere '69 (South African ambassador to Rwanda).

1970



Leading the Oxy delegation to the XX Session of the Model United Nations of the Far West in Eugene, Ore., in April 1970 are (l-r) Dan Donohue '70, deputy secretary general; Katy Asper '71, under-secretary for conferences and general services; Holly Gosewisch '71, under-secretary for public information; and Stan Mabbitt '70, secretary-general. Occidental hosted the XXI Session at the Ambassador Hotel in 1971.

1957

President Arthur G. Coons '20 (shown with wife Edna boarding a train at the Santa Fe station before departing for Europe in 1953) was trained as an international economist, having done research and taught in Asia, where he had researched and taught. As the campus adjusted to the influx of WWII veterans with international experience, the heightened awareness of world affairs sparked student interest in study abroad as well as a desire to have students from abroad come to Oxy. Between 1948 and 1960, the College welcomed exchange students from Egypt, Greece, India, Japan, the Philippines, Pakistan, Spain, and Turkey.



Images courtesy Occidental College Special Collections

Elizabeth Pickett Chevalier (shown in a 1969 photo with trustee and 1910 graduate Arthur Young and Fulton Freeman, president of the Monterey Institute of Foreign Studies and a Remsen Bird Lecturer at Occidental) establishes the Chevalier Program in Diplomacy and World Affairs in memory of her husband. Stuart Chevalier, who died in 1956, was an authority on corporate tax law, a scholar on international topics, and a trustee of the College for 19 years. Mrs. Chevalier died in 1984.

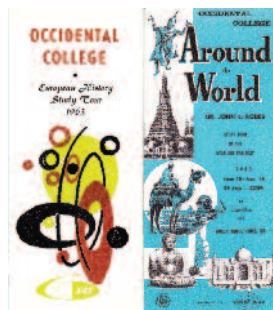
1962



U. Alexis Johnson '31, who spoke on campus during Oxy's diamond jubilee year, enjoyed a long career in diplomacy, including ambassadorships to Czechoslovakia, Thailand, and Japan. He served as under secretary of state for political affairs from 1969 to 1973.

1963

Led by professor of history John Rodes, Oxy offered a popular series of European history study tours each summer from 1956 to 1969. Study abroad programs took flight soon after.



1966



Republican Alphonzo E. Bell Jr. '38—who studied political science at Oxy and served eight terms in Congress, from 1961 to 1977—speaks at Diplomacy and World Affairs Day on Nov. 14, 1966. The grandson of one of Occidental's founders and the son of a real estate, oil, agriculture, and ranching baron, he switched political parties in 1948 “because I opposed Truman’s agenda to weaken our military in the midst of the Cold War,” he recounted in his 2002 memoir, *The Bel Air Kid*. Bell died in 2004.

1986



George Sherry, a 39-year U.N. veteran and former assistant secretary-general for special political affairs, founds the Oxy-at-the-U.N. program, based in New York City each fall.

2005



Sherry's successor as Oxy-at-the-U.N. director, John Hirsch—who served as U.S. ambassador to the Republic of Sierra Leone from 1995 to 1998—addresses the 20th-anniversary gathering.

2010



Photo by Andrew Chan '06

President Jonathan Veitch speaks to an audience of Oxy alumni in Hong Kong on May 28, one of two events on a brief visit to Asia.

2010

On Sept. 25, Occidental will kick off a year of activities celebrating the 25th anniversary of its U.N. program with an afternoon symposium at the University Club of New York. Scheduled highlights include a keynote speaker, a panel discussion led by Pulitzer Prize-winning author and journalist Steve Coll '80, and a roundtable featuring past and current Oxy interns from the U.N. program. The topic for the symposium is “From Arc of Crisis to Zone of Peace: How Can the U.N. Increase Stability in South Asia?”

A woman with short brown hair, wearing a blue polo shirt with a logo, is leaning on the side of a large, red steam locomotive engine. The engine is highly detailed with brass fittings and a large circular headlight. In the background, a circular sign with the text "CALIFORNIA STATE RAILROAD MUSEUM" is visible. The scene is set indoors, likely in a museum, with large windows on the left side.

Back on Track

By ANDY FAUGHT
Photos by JIM BLOCK

Among the myriad attractions that fall under Coleman's purview is the California State Railroad Museum in Sacramento, which first opened in 1976 and attracts more than 500,000 visitors each year.

OPPOSITE PAGE: Coleman talks with ranger Todd Barto at Samuel P. Taylor State Park in Marin County. The site is one of many that now offers wi-fi access.

In the face of budget shortfalls, political infighting, and sedentary youth, Ruth (Griswold) Coleman '82 aims to rejuvenate California's parks system



Ruth (Griswold) Coleman '82 can boast to something few of us can: She's water-skied with crocodiles. In 1984, while skimming the glassy waters of Zimbabwe's Lake Kariba, she figured the odds were in her favor that one of the 18-foot giants wouldn't be trolling the lake center—purportedly the only safe place to escape their reach. "It was a little disconcerting," recalls Coleman, who spent three years in Africa after graduating from Oxy. "You're kind of looking out at both sides saying, 'I hope I don't see any logs going by.'"

For Coleman, her time in Africa amounted to more than just extreme recreation. With recession at hand and few options for her newly minted economics degree, she opted to teach math in Swaziland with the Peace Corps. While in Africa, she gained a greater appreciation for the nexus of environment and economics. Brother David Griswold '84 remembers joining his sister for a three-month sojourn through the continent, the same trip that featured death-defying water sports and a campout on the shores of Victoria Falls.

"It was really one of the most special times I've had in my life—to travel with an older sister and see the world through her eyes," says Griswold, president and founder of Portland, Ore.-based Sustainable Harvest, an importer of fair trade and organic coffee. "She had a commitment to helping others and seeing things through their eyes. She had a real sensibility about where she wanted to make a difference."

Coleman was especially aggrieved by a Swazi government decision to use funds earmarked for a public water project to instead send a handful of mediocre swimmers to the Los Angeles Olympics. "I just thought it was

a complete mistake of priorities," she says. "This was a developing country with an extremely high infant mortality rate and people living without water, and here they're spending money to lose."

Today, Coleman uses that same brand of pragmatism to lead California State Parks, the nation's largest assemblage of beach, desert, and mountain getaways (not to mention ghost towns, lighthouses, and off-highway vehicle parks). In her 10 years as acting or full-time director, she has fought forces—namely budget shortfalls—every bit as daunting as the Nile crocodile. Her mission: keeping the Great Outdoors relevant.

"We now have a whole generation of kids who don't play outdoors," laments Coleman, blaming what she says is a pervasive culture of fear. "As a park professional, that's a frightening trend. If young parents—and now their kids—are not connecting to nature, they're not going to come to your parks, and they're not going to care about your parks. You're going to become irrelevant, and eventually you fall off the edge."

Growing up in Fort Collins, Colo., in close proximity to the Rocky Mountains, Coleman, her two brothers, and their parents made weekly trips to the outdoors—despite her tendency to get carsick. "We'd put her in the front seat and that would help," says mother Jean (Stiver) Griswold '51, who still lives in Fort Collins with Ruth's father, Bill Griswold '50. Their daughter also had difficulty with another outdoor pastime—fishing. Ruth hooked precisely one fish as a child before she gave up the pursuit entirely. "She had a very sensitive heart and didn't like to see fish die," Jean says.

"Ruth was green before it was popular," says Oxy classmate Jody Yoxsimer '82, chief

administrative analyst with the City of Los Angeles. Recalling her Zeta housemate's erstwhile nickname—Granola—she adds, "She understood the importance of protecting the planet. She had this great perspective about everything. She's always calm, always on point, and always knows what to say and how to say it. To know Ruth is to love her."

Another classmate, Anne (Freudenberger) Kay '82 of Melbourne, Australia, recalls Coleman visiting her parents' home in Claremont and engaging in conversation with her father, Carlton Dean Freudenberger '52, then a professor at the Claremont School of Theology. Freudenberger was particularly interested in resource limitations and the environment. "He was absolutely delighted and thrilled that someone at such a young age had an enormous capacity to soak up the issues almost spontaneously while also grappling with the future implications of environmental degradation," Kay says. "Her capacity to absorb details is impressive."

Coleman attributes her ability to shoot political rapids and navigate fiscal upheavals to her days at Oxy, which taught her the interconnectedness of things. "You're writing a term paper here, and all of a sudden if I make a few changes, it can apply over here," she says. "What you were seeing is how the disciplines overlap and how history links in and how music links in. That liberal arts approach of having your mind opened to the fact that actions cause reactions—you don't get that if you're an engineer. In the political world that I live in, it's all about the dialectic. There's an action, you get a reaction, and then something comes out of the top. It's like three-dimensional chess."

De Rycke Professor of Economics Woody Studenmund recalls Coleman as "bright and

energetic.” As he does with his students today, Studenmund downplayed learning by rote. “What I try to impress upon everybody is the ability to develop skills. I don’t focus on knowledge or information, but rather the skill to speak, the skill to write. When you think about 1982, there was no Internet. If you just teach facts and information, you’re not teaching students for the future. The whole focus is to develop their skills to think and make decisions. All those things work together to make someone a successful person in a world that a professor can’t envision.”

After the Peace Corps, Coleman enrolled at Harvard, where she received a master’s in public administration. She then moved on to a succession of jobs in the political realm. Prior to her state parks post, as policy director for California Assemblywoman Helen Thomson, she was responsible for legislative issues relating to water, agriculture, and land use. She also was legislative director for state Sen. Mike Thompson, coordinating his legislative agenda and providing leadership on major environmental legislation such as a

park bond, salmon and steelhead restoration, and the protection of the Headwaters Forest near Eureka.

Appointed to her current position at 42 by Democratic Gov. Gray Davis, Coleman’s ascendancy—as well as her gender—“may well have surprised and, in a few cases, even irked some state parks personnel,” says Knox Mellon, a former state historical preservation officer who has worked closely with her. “No one was overly hostile, but they may have been suspicious. ‘Who is this young lady?’ Indeed, she not only has learned what’s required of running state parks, but she has a gift for implementing how it’s carried out. Ruth was very good at building confidence in park personnel.”

Over time, Coleman “learned that governing is an art more than a science,” Mellon adds. “In almost every instance she considers what’s best for the state parks as criteria for what she’s going to pursue. One of Ruth’s positive characteristics is she’s able to deal with both sides of the aisle.”

Another quality that Coleman brings to the table is that “she is very straightforward by nature,” notes her husband of 20 years, Mike Coleman ’82. “Sometimes she says things very frankly, and that surprises people. I think even the higher-ups find that refreshing.”

The Colemans, who live in Davis, met at a “Viennese Night” performance in the Music Quad. Ruth played the cello for the Oxy-Caltech Orchestra, while Mike (now a consultant with the League of Cities) was in the horn section. “We met that night, started

talking, and really hit it off,” says Coleman, noting she lacked her future husband’s derring-do as an undergrad. “I was so boring. He went tunneling. I never went tunneling.”

These are not easy times in Coleman’s business. Nationally, state park budgets have become a politically expedient area to cut in the face of monolithic budget shortfalls. Throw in \$1.5 billion in deferred maintenance in California alone—and competing recreation options—and nature’s soundtrack is being drowned out by the likes of “Glee” and political bickering. Coleman, the first woman to be confirmed by the California Senate as state parks director, says most of her time has been an exercise in “managing decline.” But that hasn’t stopped her from launching a series of initiatives to revive the wonder quotient in California state parks.

Interestingly, Coleman is turning to the Internet to get people outside. In May, her department launched a 19-second YouTube takeoff on a 23-year-old public service announcement that likened a drug user’s brain to a frying egg. The video, titled “This Is Your Brain on Parks” (which can be viewed at <http://www.youtube.com/user/CaliforniaStateParks>), spotlights northern California’s 129-foot Burney Falls, which President Theodore Roosevelt labeled “the Eighth Wonder of the World.”

The segment was created by Coleman’s office and periodic camping pal Mickey Hart, longtime drummer for the Grateful Dead (Hart’s wife, Caryl, is chairwoman of the California Parks & Recreation Commission that sets general policy for the system’s 278 locations). Coleman doesn’t presume the video alone will reignite interest in California state parks as summer beckons, but she’s not going down without a fight. The stakes are simply too high. For the first time in history, she notes, the current generation of American children will have a shorter life expectancy than their forebears.

Any number of studies have shown that physical inactivity can lead to a host of ills that include diabetes, obesity, and heightened cardiovascular risk. Coleman bemoans the state of the country’s youth. “They’re sedentary, they’re stressed, and they’re getting fat,” she says—sedentary because of the siren song of technology, stressed because of high societal expectations (“There’s this notion that our kids all have to go to Harvard”), and



ABOVE: Ruth and husband Bill Coleman ’82 with daughter Jean, who will enroll at Oxy as a member of the Class of ’14 this fall. (Younger daughter Claire, not pictured, is a high school sophomore.) **RIGHT:** Although she played the cello for the Oxy-Caltech Orchestra, Coleman (shown at Tomales Bay State Park) was an introvert in college. “I was kind of afraid to put my hand up,” she says. “I was a late bloomer.”





LEFT: Coleman surveys the crowd at Prairie City State Vehicular Recreation Area, site of the Hangtown Motocross Outdoor Nationals. **BELOW:** Coleman chats with David Reade (chief of staff for assemblyman Jim Nielsen) and Richard Costigan (policy director for gubernatorial candidate Meg Whitman) at Prairie City. **BOTTOM:** Coleman talks with State Park interpreter Ellen Clark at an educational trailer at Hangtown.



fat due to the country's overproduction of subsidized corn. "We're growing 3,000 calories a day per person, and we only need about half that," she says. "They've got to feed it into us somehow. We've got a school system that is pounding calories into kids."

Coleman is hopeful viewers of the YouTube video will visit a promoted link (www.findrecreation.parks.ca.gov) that connects visitors to 15,000 city, county, and state parks throughout California. The website provides aerial photographs of each site and gives mass transit and driving directions. "I hope it becomes viral," Coleman says. "You can find a park you don't even know about."

And while it may be apostasy to nature purists, nearly 18 percent of the state parks have become wi-fi-compatible on Coleman's watch. "I say, 'Look, you're sitting at a picnic table playing Parcheesi. Why is that moral, but looking at your laptop and sending pictures to your family is not moral?' At some point they do close the laptop and spend time with the family, which is much better than not allowing any wi-fi and then they just refuse to come. I don't see any advantage in trash-talking technology and saying it's the root of all evil."

As long as activities don't harm park resources, Coleman remains open to ideas that can lure more visitors to her parks. She's embraced an activity called "geocaching," a treasure hunt of sorts in which enthusiasts with global positioning devices seek out hidden items. State Parks has sponsored events in which schoolchildren are taken on hunts

for caches that include cards describing the various animals, plants, and insects in a park. "The kids go from here to here to here and they're walking, but they're having fun walking," Coleman says.

Coleman also has overseen the construction and planned future construction of 45 cabins at various parks. They lack water and electricity, but include bunk beds and pads. As a result of the cabins, the parks started to attract more underrepresented groups, Coleman says. "A tent is a real barrier to entry for some people if you haven't been brought up on how to pitch one," she notes. "And this next generation is not playing outside. We need to have places where they can still come and don't have to put up a tent."

The challenges facing Coleman don't stop at luring people to park gates. Last year, Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger threatened to close 220 parks to help close a \$24.3-billion state budget deficit. He ultimately backed off that threat and instead forced 60 parks to partially close, while 90 others had to shutter some campgrounds, picnic areas, and parking lots. The latest budget proposal, released in May and subject to legislative wrangling, would allot the parks \$140 million, restoring funding to 2008-09 levels. In the wake of the recent oil spill in the Gulf of Mexico, gone is a plan to fund state parks with \$100 million a year in royalties from oil drilling off the Santa Barbara coast.

The future of California's state park network remains very much in flux, as is Coleman's role in leading them. Term limits

will force Schwarzenegger from office in January, and it's not typical for successors to keep previous appointees on board. Coleman, a Democrat, already is the longest-tenured person to have held the position.

Reflecting on the last decade, Coleman says she would like her legacy to be fiscal sustainability for California State Parks. Relief could be on the horizon. In November, Californians will vote on the State Parks and Wildlife Conservation Trust Fund Act of 2010, which would append an \$18 charge to the annual vehicle license fee that would fully subsidize ongoing maintenance costs. Trust Fund revenues would amount to approximately \$500 million each year.

These days, Coleman and her family manage to camp twice a year. "For 100,000 years our species evolved as hunter-gatherers," she says. "So it's very late in human development that we are completely shutting ourselves off from nature. Humans need to be outside." Crocodiles, beware. □

Freelance writer Andy Faught lives in Fresno. He wrote "Places to Go, Things to Do" in the Summer 2008 issue.

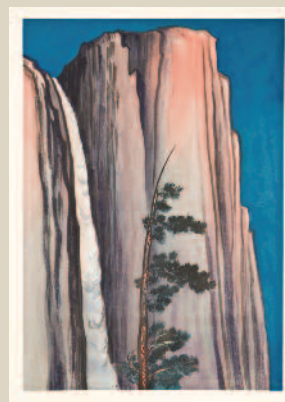
For 11 seasons, Frank Castle '62 has appraised Japanese art for would-be millionaires on “Antiques Roadshow” on PBS—and he knows a photocopy of an Asian print when he sees one

KEEPING *it* REAL

By SAMANTHA B. BONAR '90
Photos by JIM COIT



RIGHT: Sorry, Oxy: This print of *Night Snow at Kambara* (ca. 1833-34) by Utagawa Hiroshige (1797-1858) from the College's Special Collections is a photocopy. **CENTER:** *Misty Spring Evening* (ca. 1924-27) by Takahashi Shotei (1871-1945), belonging to the author. In better condition, its value is \$500-600. **FAR RIGHT:** *Evening Glow at Yosemite Falls* (1930) by Chiura Obata (1885-1975), from Castle's personal collection.



VEN TO THOSE WHO KNOW him well, Frank Castle '62 is somewhat of an international man of mystery. After losing track of his Kappa Sigma fraternity brother for a few years following graduation, Dave Berkus '62 was shocked to find Castle living in Japan, married to a Japanese woman, and dealing in Asian art—especially as Castle hadn't taken one course in art or Asian studies while at Occidental. Many years later, Carl Brakensiek '64 was surprised to see Castle on television as an Asian art appraiser on the popular PBS series "Antiques Roadshow."

"One night we were watching it and all of a sudden my wife said, 'Hey, there's Frank!'" recalls Brakensiek, Castle's roommate at the Kappa Sig house. "I have no recollection of him being interested in Asian art when we were roommates."

The more time you spend talking to Castle, the more "extraneous" details emerge about him: The two-mile run he took with Muhammad Ali along a golf course in Jakarta, Indonesia, in 1973. The front-row access he had to Bob Hope and Raquel Welch during a USO stop in Da Nang as an Army photo officer in Vietnam. Or the time he lunched at the House of Lords as the guest of Lord John Hunt, who led the 1953 British expedition of Mount Everest.

"There's the old saying that when you're doing something you love, you don't have to work a day in your life," says Castle, who has been a fixture on "Roadshow" since 1999. "Well, that's not quite true, but it sure does make it a great deal easier."

Castle has specialized in 18th- through 20th-century Japanese woodblock prints for

the last 35 years, building a hobby into a global business. "I love what I sell, I love what I've collected through the years, and I think it comes across to my clients," he says. "I enjoy finding fine things good homes."

A native of Glendale, Castle transferred to Oxy as a junior from Glendale City College. After graduating with a degree in communications/speech in 1962, with the Vietnam War looming, he enlisted in the Army and received his commission at Officer Candidate School at Fort Benning. He was stationed in Korea, followed by two short tours in Vietnam. While there, he interviewed with the U.S. Information Agency and received an offer to go into the Foreign Service. Castle spent 18 months in the Foreign Service in Saigon—and ended up staying in Asia for 27 years.

While Castle says his interest in art began as a child—his grandfather was an amateur watercolorist who designed sets for New York stage productions, and young Frank was taken to museums and art exhibits—his penchant for Japanese culture began when he lived in Japan for 18 months at the impressionable age of 12. His father was stationed there as a field director in the American Red Cross and brought his family over in 1952.

"While we as a family didn't buy anything important, we traveled widely and had some really interesting opportunities to meet the Japanese people," Castle says. "I stood out because I had curly blond hair, and people would come up and touch my hair just because I was different."

Castle bought his first pieces of Japanese art when he was in the Army in Korea and was given leave to attend the 1964 Olympic

Games in Tokyo. "I was there for the entire two weeks, including opening and closing ceremonies and all the track and field events," he recalls. At that time, he bought his first two Japanese woodblock prints: a minor work by Utagawa Hiroshige ("long since sold") and a landscape by 20th-century printmaker Hiroshi Yoshida. "That was my start of collecting. Whenever I'd go to Tokyo after that, I'd look for prints."

When you add Castle's passion for the outdoors into the mix, the puzzle pieces of his personality start coming together. Many Japanese woodblock prints portray scenic landscapes, often with mountains in the distance. "They can capture such a wonderful feeling of nature," he says. "I think it dovetails very well with my love of nature. I love to see how in some cases the artists have done very powerful landscapes and sometimes very tranquil ones."

As a youth, Castle enjoyed camping and backpacking with his family. "I was always interested in what was on the other side of that ridge," he says, a curiosity that eventually led to him scaling mountains on seven continents. Castle has summited all over the world, including a first ascent of Mount Bokkra (17,500 feet) in the Siguniang Range of China, self-portered ascents of Kilimanjaro and Mawenzi, and, last December, at the age of 69, tackling two peaks in Antarctica.

In June 2002, he completed his goal of ascending all 15 peaks in California over 14,000 feet. These included Mount Whitney via the East Face ("My most challenging climb—I get goosebumps thinking about it."), Mount Sill via the Swiss Arete, and culminating with Mount Williamson, the second highest of the group. He is a Life Fellow

of the Royal Geographical Society and the Explorers Club.

After leaving the Foreign Service, Castle worked for a couple of American companies in Asia (including a five-year stint at Boarts International, a subsidiary of Playboy), continuing to collect Japanese prints as a hobby. He was married and living in Okinawa in 1975 when he decided that he wanted to try opening his own business. So he and his wife moved to Hong Kong and he established the Asian Collector Gallery, dealing in Japanese woodblock prints, China Trade paintings (early paintings that depicted Hong Kong and Shanghai), and antique maps.

“I basically bootstrapped it,” Castle says. “I didn’t have a business background, but I knew the product that I was selling. And there was a niche for it.” He spent 15 years in Hong Kong, holding two shows a year of Japanese prints. “The ex-pat market was really a good one for fine art,” he says.

Castle credits his speech and communication classes at Oxy for much of his business success. “I’d like to think that one of my stronger suits is that not only do I know my material—and I guarantee everything I sell—but people can pick up the phone and call me, and I’ll walk them through things. I’ll explain everything, whether they’re buying a \$250 print or a \$10,000 piece.”

But in 1990, the situation in Hong Kong was changing. It was going to be reverted to China, and nobody really knew what might



Castle stands at the summit of Spigot Peak in Antarctica last December.

happen. So Castle decided to bring his family (including sons Frank Jr., now 34, and Richard, 32) back to the United States. They settled in Alameda, near his ailing mother, and Castle took over an art gallery that had been run by a Japanese firm in San Francisco. He ran the gallery for six years, until the commute got to be tiring. Realizing that most of his clients were from outside the state or overseas, Castle decided to take his business online and run it from home. Five years ago, he and Castle Fine Arts Inc. relocated to Del Mar.

“Now I’ve got a really good core of up-market, important collectors,” says Castle, who counts private, corporate, and museum clients on five continents. “More and more I’m trying to find the really top-quality pieces. It makes my job a bit easier.” Castle travels to Japan two or three times a year

searching for merchandise. He goes with things in mind for certain clients. “I know exactly what I’m looking for,” he says. The world of Japanese woodblock collecting is so small, however, that “Unfortunately the dealers know what I’m looking for, too.”

In 1999, Peter Montgomery, a friend and fellow art dealer, approached Castle about appearing on the then-new PBS appraisal series “Antiques Roadshow.” “Roadshow” travels to cities around the United States, and people in those cities can bring in art, antiques, jewelry, toys and other objects to be appraised by experts for free. The most interesting appraisals are taped for broadcast. “Roadshow” appraisers aren’t paid for their appearances—they even pay their own airfare. But if they get an appraisal on the air, it is good publicity for their business.

“One of the rules of ‘Roadshow’ is we’re not allowed to solicit any business at the table,” explains Castle, who participates in two to three shows a year. “All we can say, and only if they ask, is ‘My card is on the table by the exit door.’ And not only are we not allowed to solicit at that time, we have to give it 24 hours. Even if they want to sell their piece, you have to wait ‘til the following day.”

“Frank brings a wealth of experience and knowledge to the Asian arts table at the ‘Antique Roadshow’ venues,” says Lark Mason, a “Roadshow” appraiser who has known Castle for 25 years. “There are always situations where we are surprised by something brought to the table.”

Mason recalls one instance when Castle was brought a Japanese Imari porcelain coffee or teapot dating to the 17th century. “This particular example was both unusual in the design and fairly rare, and Frank and the rest of us at the table were torn between who would do the appraisal,” he says. “The design was Western, the porcelain was Japanese, and the decoration based on Chinese prototypes. We conferred and decided that overall, it was more in the line of Frank’s area of expertise, and Frank taped a very informative segment explaining the interrelationships and complexity of the piece.”

Castle ended up valuing the piece at \$10,000-\$15,000. The owner, who had flown up to Seattle from San Diego for the show with no idea of the object’s value, bought a separate airline seat for the teapot for the flight home. □



Talking Woodblock

Woodblock printing was adopted in Japan during the Edo period (1603-1867) as a way of printing books. The technique is essentially the same as that which is called woodcut in Western printmaking. The medium quickly gained popularity among artists, and was used to produce small, cheap, art prints as well as books. Some of the prints are of people engaged in everyday activities; others are landscapes that portray the natural world as a source of spiritual insight and an instructive mirror of human emotion.

Ukiyo-e is a genre of woodblock prints produced between the 17th and 20th centuries featuring motifs of landscapes, tales from history, theater, and pleasure quarters. Ukiyo-e were affordable because they could be mass-produced. They were mainly meant for townsmen, who were generally not rich enough to afford original paintings. Among the most popular woodblock artists are Hokusai, who created the hugely popular print series *Thirty-six Views of Mount Fuji* in the 1820-30s, and Hiroshige, who crafted

the landscape-travelogue series *Fifty-three Stations of the Tokaido*. Other major artists include Utamaro, Ito Shinsui, Hiroshi Yoshida, and Hasui Kawase. The depiction of famous views allowed for their idealization and also for experiments with composition that were later adopted by the French Impressionists.

Nineteenth-century European artists “were just blown away” by Japanese woodblock prints, says Castle, a member of the Ukiyo-e Dealers Association of Japan. “Monet, Manet, and Degas were all very much impressed and influenced.” Artists still make woodblock prints today of varying quality.

CONGRATULATIONS,
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PREFERRED COLORS.



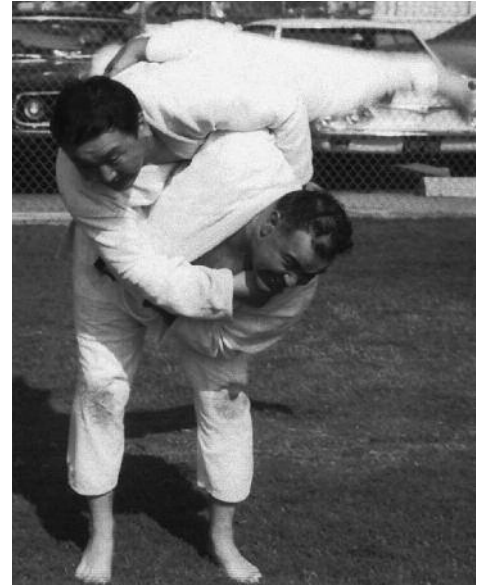
Paint Life
Grand

Having built the family business into one of the largest paint and painting supplies manufacturers on the West Coast, Dunn-Edwards chief executive Ken Edwards '54 is ready to go fly a kite. Literally.

By Dick Anderson
Photos by Max S. Gerber



Although Edwards has some arthritis in his knees today that prevents him from executing judo moves like the one below, “I still fumble around,” he says.



“

wish to gosh that we could get people to not cheat themselves when they buy paint,” laments Kenneth Edwards ’54. “It’s amazing how many people do.” To make his point, he outlines a scenario with three different paints from three paint companies. Paint No. 1 is versatile, with a high-quality coating; No. 2 is created for commercial use, and is of equal durability; and No. 3 is a price-sensitive product, for the consumer “who wants to get something for nothing,” he says.

The problem kicks in when a customer sees a color that they like, made by company No. 3, and buys that brand based on its color. Whereas an experienced commercial buyer would, depending on the job, buy the finished product from company No. 1 or No. 2—“because they both match all those colors anyway”—the budget-minded consumer opts for No. 3 instead, and winds up putting “pure junk” on their wall, Edwards says. The lesson here? “People get cheated by thinking that they’re limited to a manufacturer’s paint because it’s a particular color, when they can go to anybody and get that color matched. The nature and quality of the paint are independent of the color. That’s one of my pet peeves—that we can’t get that across.”

Ken Edwards certainly knows his way around a paint can. As chief executive officer of Dunn-Edwards Paint Corp. in Monrovia, he has devoted more than half a century of work to the development of premium paint products for home and commercial use. “He’s

in a rare position in the industry in that he’s a chemist, whereas most owners of paint companies are not,” says Edwards’s eldest son, company vice chairman Neil Edwards ’76. With the challenges that companies are facing in conforming to regulatory pressures—such as limiting the VOC (volatile organic compounds) content that has long been essential to the making of paint—“if you have an owner with a real understanding of chemistry and its limitations, then you have a better chance of knowing what to do about it than the rest of us,” he adds.

Nearly a decade after going from a family-owned and operated company to one majority-owned by its employees, Dunn-Edwards has more than 100 retail outlets throughout the Southwest with annual sales well into nine figures. Its products cover everything from Staples Center and Caesar’s Palace to the California State Capitol building. Edwards led Dunn-Edwards through an employee stock ownership plan after his younger brothers “decided that they didn’t like having their money tied up in a business—I told them they were crazy.”

An honorary member of the Los Angeles Society for Coatings Technology, he talks enthusiastically about the future of the business, which was founded in 1925 by wallpaper vendor Frank Dunn and colleague Charles Smith. (Former painting contractor and pigment salesman Arthur C. Edwards—Ken’s father—became his partner in 1938. A

year after Dunn’s death in 1956, his widow sold her interest to Arthur.) Since the arrival of Karl Altergott as president and chief operating officer in January 2009, the company has been doing more marketing to homeowners, adding more night and weekend hours while developing the “neighborhood paint store” concept. “We’re doing some intriguing things, pushing some new technologies,” Edwards adds. “The company’s in great hands.”

A model scholar-athlete at Hollywood High School, Edwards excelled in science and football and followed buddy Bill Emig ’52’s path to Oxy, jumping at the chance to study with chemistry department chair Reed Brantley, who was doing paint research at the College. “I knew one thing for darn sure: I didn’t want to be a paint salesman,” he says.

Eager to study under the “top-notch coating professor in the United States,” Edwards then enrolled in the School of Chemical and Metallurgical Engineering at the University of Michigan. With a California draft board eager to snag him, he completed his master’s studies in one year flat. “It was tough, but I can guarantee it was motivational,” he recalls.

With his future plans very much in flux, Edwards attended an American Chemical Society meeting in Cincinnati chaired by Brantley. The Oxy professor introduced his former student to the room, adding, “You will see a lot of him in the future.” Over lunch with Brantley that day, Edwards met Ernie Mueller, head of the organic coatings division



LEFT: The emulsion paint section of a Dunn-Edwards plant in Vernon in April 1960. **BELOW:** One of the company's earliest retail stores, located at 1838 S. Flower St. in Los Angeles. **BOTTOM:** "I've had some hard days, but I can pretty honestly say I've never worked a day," says Ken Edwards '54 (with oldest son Neil Edwards '76).



of Battelle Institute in Columbus, Ohio—the world's largest not-for-profit research institute. At breakfast the next morning, Mueller offered him a job at Battelle, prompting Edwards to share his draft board dilemma. Mueller replied, "We can take care of the draft board," and Edwards accepted the job. "I preferred to be a chemical researcher as a civilian than as a second lieutenant," he says.

It was anything but certain that Edwards would one day work in the family business. "My father and I got along like two cats tied together on a clothesline," he says. Besides, he was "having a ball" at Battelle. "My supervisors would come to me with projects that nobody else in the world could handle and say, 'Solve them.'" But during a visit home one Christmas, Edwards thought his father "looked like hell. And I suddenly realized that I was also responsible for the family as the oldest son and so on." So he reluctantly left Battelle to return to California in the late 1950s, as director of new product research and development at Dunn-Edwards.

"One of the things my father and I fought about is I wanted to expand our product line and development into more exotic coatings, because I felt there was a market for them," Edwards says. Working with a chemist and a salesperson, he would identify a customer with a need, go into the lab and make the coating, and then start producing and selling it. "The old man never really paid any attention to what I was doing," he says. But when they had a falling-out over another matter, Arthur (who died in 1988) discovered that his son in fact handled the company's largest account, CBS's Fender guitars division.

The relationship between Ken Edwards and his son is a good bit smoother. While their offices are just a reception area apart, "We don't collaborate much except on the

board," says Neil, who majored in geology at Occidental and joined Dunn-Edwards about 15 years ago after weathering his construction business through three recessions.

While at Battelle, Edwards was encouraged to be involved in various professional organizations. So he became active in the American Chemical Society, chairing its division of coatings and plastics and eventually heading the entire ACS. In 1954, he helped found Oxy's Beta Mu chapter of Alpha Chi Sigma, a professional fraternity for chemists, and served as grand master alchemist of the national organization from 1976 to 1978.

In recent years, Edwards has been working with two of his friends in the industry to address a problem that has long plagued the profession: losing promising young chemists from the East Coast back to their roots after they get married and start families. "We decided that what we had to do was develop on the West Coast a source of coatings chemists so that we at least had a fighting chance to keep them," he says. Twenty years later, Cal Poly San Luis Obispo has both a bachelor's and master's program in coatings technology, with a Ph.D program in the works. In recognition of his efforts, the school's Western Coatings Technology Center, now under construction, will be named for Edwards.

There's another side to Edwards that only tangentially relates to paint. During a game of badminton in his late 20s, he spun around too fast to change direction, tearing the Achilles tendon in his right leg. "I had always been fairly athletic," Edwards says, "but by the time I got off of crutches and could walk without limping, I was in the world's worst shape." He started taking judo lessons at the Jonathan Club in Los Angeles, found he had a knack for it, and pushed to see how far he could go with it.

While on business in Korea to help out with a chemical problem involving a wall covering, "I talked myself into spending the afternoons working out at the Korean judo university with the staff there," Edwards says. He continued his study back in the States, and eventually advanced to fifth-level black belt—one short of master's level, which required a vote by the sport's 18 grand masters. They did, and to his knowledge, he's still the only Caucasian master in Korean judo.

As Edwards looks to the future, "I've got some other rainbows I want to chase," he says. An instrument-rated pilot, he flew his plane frequently between Southern California and his adopted home some 1,000 miles away. "I got involved a number of years ago with northern Idaho, which shows you what can happen when you drink with the wrong people," he says. One of the things he plans to do "for the fun of it, and because I had so much fun when I was a kid," is to open a kite store in the area. "It's going to be my toy," Edwards says. "If it never makes a dime, I don't give a damn. I've had too many people over the years tell me to go fly a kite—now I'm going to go do it." ☐



After viewing the wreckage of the earthquake in Port-au-Prince, Zebuda saw patients in a field hospital set up by an Israeli military unit.



Photos courtesy Craig Zebuda '97

those who remained. The experience left me with a tremendous longing to return.

That's why I jumped at the chance in March to spend two weeks in Port-au-Prince with an American NGO called International Medical Corps, which had taken over operation of "The General," the city's main hospital, from the U.S. military. I worked with outstanding doctors and nurses who treated anyone who came to our door, all without the standard medical diagnostic tools we were accustomed to. We practiced medicine with the basic skills that we brought with us and a relatively small stockpile of medications. At this point, most of the medical issues we were dealing with arose from the vast homelessness and dislocation that the earthquake had caused: malaria, typhoid, and tetanus, as well as diabetes, heart failure, and tuberculosis. Despite the bare conditions, the overwhelming need, and the challenges of dealing with a new culture and a new language, I loved each day I was there. This time, I felt I was actually making a small difference.

I went to medical school wanting to work with an underserved and diverse community. Emergency medicine has been a great fit for my desire to help the suffering and to solve problems, as well as my general love of chaos. I also welcomed the challenges that the field presented—a perspective that I acquired from my days at Occidental. Whether it was pledging a fraternity or working as a school counselor in a local middle school, Oxy always allowed me to seek experiences that were new and unexpected, activities that challenged the image that I had of myself. This approach to life was the seed for my eventual application to medical school, a decision I made a couple of years after graduation. Cecilia Fox, Oxy's longtime medical school adviser, was instrumental in my successful application and acceptance to medical school. I pushed myself further toward goals I had never thought possible before enrolling at Oxy.

My work in Haiti, like other challenges I have faced since graduation, has inspired me to continue to help. I now have the skills and confidence to assist in other medical disaster areas, and hope to be of assistance in the future. The rebuilding in Haiti will take years, if not decades, but I feel better knowing that the time I spent there made a small contribution toward that end. □

Going Back to Haiti

Longing to return to Port-au-Prince after January's earthquake, physician **Craig Zebuda '97** seized a second chance to heal

The day after the devastating earthquake in Port-au-Prince in January, I was awakened by a text message from a friend asking, "Do you want to go to Haiti?" Although the thought had crossed my mind after hearing about the horrible 7.0 tremor, I didn't see how it was possible. But my friend, an aspiring filmmaker, had secured a modest amount of money to go down to Haiti to film the immediate aftermath, and invited me along to offer any assistance that I could.

Fortunately, I was able to get five days off from my job as an attending physician in a new hospital in Mineola, N.Y., and so the next day we were on a plane headed to Santo Domingo, with no idea how to reach Port-au-Prince or what we would do when we got there. On our flight, we met a woman of Haitian descent who was also trying to get to Port-au-Prince to see if her family had survived. She helped us get to the border, where we hired a local form of transit, the "taptap" (basically a pick-up truck with a brightly painted wooden camper shell), to get us to the center of the city. As we passed by the tombs of shattered rebar and concrete, bodies strewn on the sidewalks and survivors wandering the streets in shock, the enormity of the disaster quickly became clear.

We spent most of that afternoon working with an Israeli search-and-rescue team at the site of a six-story building, once a high

school, that had pancaked while classes were in session. While we were working, I was approached by a man who had flown in from New Jersey after receiving a cellphone call for help from his brother, who was one of at least six known survivors trapped in the wreckage. His desperate appeal, the lack of proper rescue equipment, and the overwhelming extent of the need made me feel helpless.

When the 5 p.m. curfew set in, all rescue teams were ordered back to the U.S. military-protected airport. With U.N. security escorts, we rode through the dark streets of Port-au-Prince to one of the few secure zones in the city. At the airport, we came across an Israeli military unit, which invited us to help them set up and work in their field hospital. After sleeping for two hours in an open field, we began unfolding gurneys, putting up tents, and seeing patients. They were mostly severe orthopedic and trauma surgical cases, and it was good to see that the Israeli military was well prepared to deal with them.

In the short period I worked with the Israelis, we took care of dehydrated newborns, gunshot wounds, crush injuries, and many badly infected wounds. After two days at the field hospital, my friend and I had to leave to catch our flight back to the States. I left feeling as if I had done hardly anything at all. At home, friends and coworkers showered me with praise, yet I couldn't shake the feeling that I had done so little compared to