


# OCCIDENTAL

SPRING 2008



**No sequins.  
No glitter.  
No problem:  
The 14-member  
Oxy Dance Team  
trains, bakes,  
and paints its way  
to the nationals**

**DANCE  
FEVER**

# OCCIDENTAL

OCCIDENTAL COLLEGE MAGAZINE

VOLUME 30, NUMBER 2 SPRING 2008

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Remembering Olympic silver medal winner Bob McMillen '53 and other track and field legends, rekindling a WWII romance after more than 60 years, and resurrecting three long-forgotten stanzas to "Occidental Fair."



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When moving-in day finally arrived, the nearly 275 occupants of Oxy's spanking-new \$38.8-million Rangeview Hall were wowed by its luxuries—and cautioned about thumbtacks. Also: Oxy's men's and women's basketball squads set new records, applications for admission raise the bar, and Andy Collins '07 becomes an Avenger.

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How did the 6-year-old Oxy Dance Team make the leap from halftime football shows to the national semifinals? It took gumption, a convincing audition tape—and a whole lot of bake sales in the Quad.

## Keeping Track: Oxy's Glory Days

Included among the obituaries in the Winter edition of *Occidental* was the following, in its entirety: "Robert E. McMillen '53 died April 1, 2007." The brevity of the notice suggests how uninformed modern-day *Occidental* is about the College's track and field glories of the past, particularly of the 1950s and '60s.

Bob McMillen, for instance, was a silver medal winner in the 1952 Olympic Games 1,500-meter run, and the NCAA champion in that event. He was also a member of the 1948 Olympic team (before he came to Oxy), in the steeplechase.

It was not unusual in those days for *Occidental* athletes to participate in the Olympic Games and to win NCAA championships. The team, for example, finished fourth in the 1951 and '52 NCAA meets, and individual championships were won by John Barnes in the 800 those two years. Other individual NCAA championships were won by pole vaulter (and then world record-holder, and also a silver medal winner in the Olympics) Bob Gutowski '58 in 1952 and '53, and intermediate hurdler Dixon Farmer '63 in 1959.

In 1950 Oxy had the best mile relay time in the world in winning the Coliseum Relays race, and a few years later set world records in the distance medley relay and the two-mile relay. Half-miler Jim Cerveny '61 and intermediate hurdler Ron Whitney '60 won AAU championships.

The names and illustrious accomplishments go on and on. Be proud, Oxy. And remember.

**BOB SCHMIDT '53**

Sacramento

## Random Act of Sweetness

I am the daughter of Robert Main Ross '41. My dad, who is 89, got in touch with an old flame of his from right after World War II. She lives in Arizona. He has visited her there, driving himself; she returned the favor and visited him in Huntington Beach back in February. They are both graduates of *Occidental*, and so my dad took Teen back to Oxy for old times' sake. They walked around



### Can't Place the Face

Have you seen this portrait of a lady? The above unidentified portrait has been stored in the College archives for years. Over time, the identification of the subject and the artist has been lost. Perhaps a member of the alumni can help us with some background about this lovely lady or the portrait? If you have any clues, please contact us at 323-259-2852 or [dstieber@oxy.edu](mailto:dstieber@oxy.edu). Thanks!

**DALE ANN STEIBER, Special Collections Librarian**

campus reminiscing, and then decided to go to the student union for lunch. They were in line to pay for their food, when the student right in front of them said he had to use up the money on his card and he would like to pay for their lunches. They accepted.

While they were eating and chatting they were passed a note with a big heart on it that said, "You two are the *cutest* couple!" They both came away cheered and in awe of the kindness of this next generation coming through the college ranks!

Now isn't this a sweet story?

**DANA ROSS STANKE**

Waco, Texas

### Dead Letter Office

As Mark Twain once observed, the reports of my death are premature. The Winter 2008 issue features a nice obituary article; however, I'm alive and well in Hanahan, S.C. (Now I understand why my name was dropped from the mailing label; the magazine came addressed to my wife, Tammy.)

Would appreciate your informing the Alumni Relations office that I'm still around, and printing a correction notice in your next issue. Thanks, and Happy New Year!

**RICK BENNETT '63**

Hanahan, S.C.

(*Occidental Magazine regrets the error.*)

## Fairly Well Forgotten

Several years ago, I attended a College event that quite fittingly concluded with the singing of the alma mater, "Occidental Fair." For the benefit of visitors and guests, the words were printed in the program, and to my surprise, there were three verses, not just the two that we know so well.

I subsequently mentioned this to College archivist Jean Paule, who did some digging in Special Collections. She found the words and music as originally written by W.D. Ward—not in two, or three, but in *five* beautiful verses. With many thanks to Jean, I am sending this wonderful discovery to you so that it can be shared with all alumni—and to Jeffrey Bernstein in the hope that the *Occidental* Glee Clubs will now be able to perform "Occidental Fair" as it was originally written:

Occidental Glorious,  
O'er her foes victorious,  
Be her praise uproarious,  
Occidental Fair.

Rarest fellowship is thine,  
Love that doth the heart entwine,  
Truth and wisdom's sacred shrine,  
Occidental Fair.

Here the days glide swiftly by,  
Not a shadow in the sky,  
Till we breathe the parting sigh,  
Occidental Fair.

To the world's wide bivouac,  
March thy sons all cheering back,  
For the Orange and the Black,  
Occidental Fair.

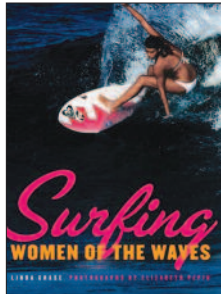
'Neath the mountains old and grand,  
By the roar of ocean's strand,  
Girt with might forever stand,  
Occidental Fair.

**HARRY GAGE '49**

Pasadena

## Bookshelf

**SURFING: WOMEN OF THE WAVES**, by Linda Chase '72, with photography by Elizabeth Pepin (*Gibbs Smith, Publisher*; \$29.95). Until recently, the sum total of Chase's surfing experience consisted of memorizing the lyrics to Beach Boys songs. That changed during one of her frequent visits to Hawaii, when she tested her mettle in the surf off Oahu's North Shore. In writing the history of this sport—with a female twist—from the early Hawaiians to the present, Chase fills the pages with surfing lore and dramatic photography. Chase majored in economics and later pursued a career in publishing. She lives in Calabasas.



**CALIFORNIA: A HISTORY (SEVENTH EDITION)**, by Andrew Rolle '43 with Arthur Verge (*Harlan Davidson*; \$42.95). In the 45 years since Rolle published the first edition of *California: A History*, the state's population has more than doubled. Even the five years since the last volume have brought "enormous social and material changes" to California, as he writes in the introduction: "This seventh edition incorporates new developments in a historical context, pondering implications for the future. Likewise, those sections of the book devoted to women, the environment, immigration (legal and illegal), crime, sports, energy, and transportation have all been expanded." Rolle is a research scholar at the Huntington Library, Art Collections, and Historical Gardens.

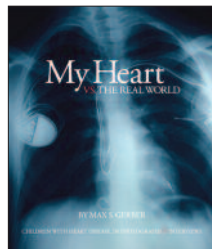
**WHAT'S THE USE OF ART? ASIAN VISUAL AND MATERIAL CULTURE IN CONTEXT**, edited by Morgan Pitelka and Jan Mrazek (*University of Hawaii Press*; \$58). Post-Enlightenment notions of culture, which have been naturalized in the West for centuries, require that art be autonomously beautiful, universal, and devoid of any practical purpose. Pitelka and Mrazek seek to complicate this understanding of art by examining art objects from across Asia with attention to their functional, ritual, and everyday contexts. From tea bowls used in the Japanese tea ceremony to television broadcasts of Javanese puppet theater;

from Indian wedding chamber paintings to art looted by the British army from the Chinese emperor's palace; and from the adventures of a Balinese magical dagger to the political functions of classical Khmer images, the authors challenge prevailing notions of artistic value. Pitelka is associate professor of Asian studies.

**IT'S THE WILL, NOT THE SKILL: PRINCIPLES AND PHILOSOPHIES OF SUCCESS**, by Jim Tunney '51 (*Executive Books*; \$16.98). A professional treatise on success as embodied by Kansas City Chiefs head coach Herman Edwards, Tunney examines the formation, implementation, and accomplishment of Edwards's dream of professional success. In his 31-year NFL career, Tunney officiated in Super Bowls VI, XI, and XII. He lives in Pebble Beach and remains involved with community youth programs as president of the Jim Tunney Youth Foundation.

### Briefly Noted

Professor of geology **Donald Prothero's** latest book, **EVOLUTION: WHAT THE FOSSILS SAY AND WHY IT MATTERS** (*Columbia University Press*; \$29.50), has won a 2007 Award of Excellence in the field of earth science from the Association of American Publishers' Professional and Scholarly Publishing Division. The book was excerpted in the March 1 issue of *New Scientist*. □ Frequent *Occidental* contributor **Max S. Gerber** has published **MY HEART VS. THE REAL WORLD: CHILDREN WITH HEART DISEASE, IN PHOTOGRAPHS & INTERVIEWS** (*Cold Spring Harbor Laboratory Press*; \$29). Ten chapters each spotlight a



single child and, in an additional chapter, Gerber writes about his own experience of growing up and living with congenital heart disease. The images and accounts reveal how, compared with someone healthy, a chronically ill child develops adult attitudes in a much different way. Gerber lives in Pasadena. □ Interim head librarian **Emily Bergman** is co-editor of **NEW SUPERVISORS IN TECHNICAL SERVICES: A MANAGEMENT GUIDE USING CHECKLISTS** (*Library Administration & Management Association*; \$27), a management tutorial for library science professionals.

# OCCIDENTAL

Volume 30, Number 2, Spring 2008

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Photo courtesy Occidental College Special Collections

# At Close Range

When moving-in day finally arrived, the 274 occupants of Occidental's spanking-new **Rangeview Hall** were wowed by its many luxuries—and warned about using thumbtacks

By  
SAMANTHA B. BONAR '90

Photos by  
DENNIS DAVIS  
& KEVIN BURKE



**C**HRIS KYLES '08'S REACTION when he first opened the door to his single room in Rangeview Hall—Occidental's first new student housing in 25 years and the largest residence hall on campus—could be summed up in one word: "Whoa!"

"'Amazing' is the first word I would use," chimes in his girlfriend, Molly Frolich '09, who was helping Kyles move in. As they examine the space, she complains, "It's really not fair that you have a bigger closet than I do. I'm a girl. And the bathroom is bigger than my bathroom in my house!"

"Oh my God, two sinks!" exclaims Kyles, a biology major from Las Vegas.

Students who lived in Erdman, Wylie, and Bell-Young halls last semester are the first occupants of the new four-story, 274-bed residence hall, which opened to students on Jan. 19. Built for \$38.8 million, Rangeview features private bathrooms and refrigerators and microwaves in each room, a fitness center, and classrooms, lounges, and study halls scattered throughout the building, which is arranged around a series of internal courtyards. Erdman, Wylie, and Bell-Young—three of Occidental's oldest residence halls—have closed for extensive renovations. Next fall, Rangeview will become a residence for juniors and seniors, and the three newly renovated halls will



Built on the onetime home of Navy surplus huts erected after World War II, *opposite page*, and more recently the site of a tennis court, Rangeview Hall echoes Myron Hunt's original designs for the Oxy campus, with a tile roof, stucco exterior, and internal courtyards. The 274-bed, four-story structure includes a fitness center, *above*, classrooms, lounges, and study halls, as well as subterranean parking for 235 cars.

Great for parties and entertaining: More than 100 friends of the College—from alumni to trustees to the team of architects and engineers who oversaw the project—turned out for a preview party celebrating the completion of Rangeview on Jan. 18. Joining interim President Robert Allen Skotheim (*second from right, below*) are (*l-r*) Board of Trustees chair Dennis Collins, trustee emeritus Jack Samuelson '46, Joyce Hameetman, and trustee Fred John Hameetman '61.



“Having our own bathroom, fridge, and doorbell really makes Rangeview feel like home,” says one resident, while another adds, “I don’t have to wear shoes in the shower anymore.”

reopen, increasing the number of students living on campus to 80 percent, up from the current 70 percent.

The excited new residents began moving into Rangeview at 10 a.m. Jan. 19, some clad in pajamas and heaving Hefty bags full of clothing while their dads lugged flat-screen TVs. Resident adviser Erik Quezada '09 gave students the drill as they arrived: “No holes in the walls, no smoking within 20 feet of the exterior walls, no smoking in the courtyards,” he explains. “Welcome.”

“Putting up posters, I can’t thumbtack ‘em?” one student asks.

“No,” Quezada says.

“So same thing with putting up lights?” the student persists.

“No holes,” reiterates RA Elizabeth Teurlay, a senior psychology major from Walnut Creek. “And if you hear hammering, run and find that person and tell them to stop.”

“Because they will get charged a lot,” Quezada explains. How much?

“Their soul,” Teurlay says ominously.

Sophomore roommates Aviva Kaufman and Jessica Allen gave their third-floor room mixed reviews. Although they agreed it was a huge improvement over their old room in Bell-Young, they wished the closets were a little bigger and the bathroom a little smaller—they felt it unnecessarily took up space that could’ve gone toward making the main room bigger. Also, with the no-holes policy, “It’s hard to hang anything heavier than a

poster,” says Allen, an undeclared major from Ripon. Still, they liked the mirrored closet doors and were big fans of the private bathroom. “I don’t have to wear shoes in the shower anymore,” says Kaufman, a mathematics major from Toronto.

Shana Edmond, a senior biology major from West Hills, moved into Rangeview from Wylie. She liked the fact that the dorm has its own 235-space parking garage and a laundry room on every floor: “It’s much better than Wylie, just because everything is new.”

Justin Aguilar, a junior American studies major from Upland, gave Rangeview the thumbs-up as well. “It is undoubtedly the best dorm on campus,” he says. “With the recreation rooms, gym, and coffee cart at night, there is really nothing more I could ask for. Having our own bathroom, fridge, and doorbell really make it feel like home.”

No new building is without its critics. Writing in *The Occidental Weekly*, Haines Hall resident Michael Darling '10 expressed the sentiment of many students “that a lot of the money could have been used for the other halls as opposed to blowing so much on the new building.” Lest anyone miss his point, the Feb. 6 opinion piece was titled “The Decadence and Depravity of Rangeview Hall.”

On a more micro level, Lindsey Forrester Archer, a senior theater and philosophy major from Vista, found a coffee cup and chewing tobacco in her closet upon moving in. Even so, she says, Rangeview is “amazing.” □



**ABOVE:** Have dolly, will travel—Aviva Kaufman '10, a mathematics major from Toronto, makes one of many trips from Rangeview's underground parking lot to her room.



**ABOVE:** Guests at the Rangeview preview party were treated to a tour of the building, including this colorfully appointed single.

**LEFT:** David Fong '09, a physics major from Portland, Ore., has his hands full en route to his fourth-floor room on moving-in day.

**BELOW:** Former Wylie Hall resident Shana Edmond '08, a biology major from West Hills, prepares to see her triple for the first time. Her immediate reaction? "I love this."



**ABOVE:** Resident advisers Erik Quezada '09, *left*, Tessa D'Archangelew '10, Zak Stoltz '09, Debbie Weiser '08, and hall coordinator Elizabeth Teurlay '08 enjoy a moment of tranquility before the onslaught of residents hits Rangeview Jan. 19.

**BELOW:** Chris Kyles '08 and girlfriend Molly Frolich '09 check out the amenities of Kyles's new campus home.



**ABOVE:** Hall coordinator Elizabeth Teurlay '08, a psychology major from Walnut Creek, shares a senior moment with classmates Jen Manuzak, a biology major from Kailua, Hawaii, and Katie Marshall, a biology major from Moscow, Idaho. **BELOW:** Justin Aguilar '09, an American studies major from Upland, totes in a small stockpile of beverages while his dad, Albert, does the heavy lifting with a flat-screen TV.





# ROAR on the Floor



Tigers of all stripes had twice the reason to rattle the rafters, as Oxy's men's and women's basketball squads took conference honors

Photos by Kirby Lee



**ABOVE LEFT:** Senior forward Chris Pitcher averaged 6.4 points per game in his final campaign.



**ABOVE CENTER:** Sophomore forward Sean Anderson led Oxy in rebounds (6.9 per game) this season.



**RIGHT:** Senior guard Connor Whitman was named West Region Player of the Year by D3Hoops.com as well as Second Team All-District by the National Association of Basketball Coaches.



Brian Newhall '83 passed the 300-victory milestone in his 20th year as Tigers head coach en route to Oxy's second consecutive SCIAC regular-season title—and Newhall's third 20-plus win season in the last six years.



**LEFT:** Junior guard Huston Conti stepped up his game this season, averaging 11.7 points and winning Second Team All-SCIAC honors.

**ABOVE:** Senior guard Gemayal McBride of Pasadena was a solid contributor off the bench for the Tigers, with 3.9 points per game.

**I**N ADVANCE OF A MUCH-NEEDED facelift scheduled over the summer, Rush Gym wrapped the 2007-08 basketball season in fine fashion, with both the Oxy men's and women's teams enjoying a year for the record books. The women notched their first conference championship since 1980 and set single-season records for wins in conference play (12-2) and overall (20-5). Senior guard Stacie Roshon, a sociology major from Eagle Point, Ore., finished her career as the Tigers' all-time leading scorer, with 1,533 points.

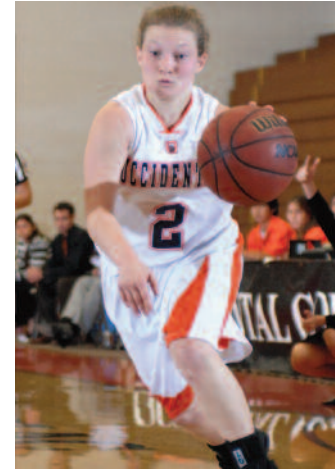
The nationally ranked men's team also won the Southern California Intercollegiate Athletic Conference championship, the first time it has won back-to-back crowns since 1974. The Tigers weathered a loss in the inaugural SCIAC Post-Season Tournament to net an at-large bid to the Division III playoffs—its fourth trip in six years—before ending its season on the road to Whitworth University, 83-75, in the second round.

This season capped a remarkable turnaround for the women's team, which finished 0-12 in conference play in 2001. "It was just two years ago that Stacie and I were recruiting the players on this team and talking about the possibility of great things to come, including a conference championship," says third-year head coach Jaime Hoffman. "And now they have made it happen. I can't tell you how proud I am of the drive and heart of this remarkable group of student-athletes."

This season marked a swan song for Hoffman, who was named athletic director in December and hopes to announce the appointment of a new women's basketball



**FAR LEFT:** Junior guard Brianne Brown soars over two Cal Lutheran defenders in the Tigers' 56-44 win Feb. 21. **LEFT:** Senior guard Stacie Roshon became Oxy's all-time leading scorer, ending her career with 1,533 points.



coach later this spring. "Now we need to set our sights on something bigger," she says. "Look what Brian Newhall has done with the men's program. We should be doing the same thing—looking beyond SCIAC for regional and national recognition."

Oxy guards Connor Whitman '08, an economics major from Los Angeles, and Brianne Brown '09, a biology major from Rancho Palos Verdes, were selected as SCIAC Players of the Year.

Whitman's 3.7 three-pointers per game and his 46.3 three-point field goal percentage ranked fifth and ninth, respectively, among all Division III players nationwide. A three-time winner of the team's Most Improved Award, the 6'1" guard scored 1,325 career points, including 284 three-pointers, for the Tigers. "Connor was a marked man throughout the year and still produced big numbers," says head coach Brian Newhall '83. "Not only was he an offensive threat, but his defense and rebounding were just as strong."

With Newhall's help, Whitman hopes to follow in the footsteps of a number of past Oxy standouts and play a few years of basketball in Europe—most likely Germany or Denmark—before returning to the States to begin his own business. "Oxy provides the perfect blend of basketball and academics," Whitman says. "I can truly say that I was challenged both on and off of the court."



After three seasons as head coach of the Tigers, Jaime Hoffman will step away from the sidelines to focus her energies on the job of athletics director. Her record as a head coach at Oxy: 50-27 overall.

Brown—who transferred to Oxy from Division I Western Kentucky University this year in order to further her career goal of being a pediatrician—appeared in the Top 10 in nearly every statistical category, leading the conference in scoring (18.3 points per game), defensive rebounding (6.23 ppg), and three-point field goal percentage (51.6).

Joining Brown and Whitman with All-SCIAC honors were Roshon and Stephanie Babij, a freshman from Ontario, Ore., who were named to the women's First Team; and junior guard Huston Conti, a diplomacy and world affairs major from Seattle, earning Second Team recognition for the men. □

**ABOVE RIGHT:** Sophomore guard Laura Mohler averaged 7.9 points per game for the Tigers.

**RIGHT:** Freshman guard Stephanie Babij was Oxy's No. 3 scorer this season, notching 10.6 points per game.

**BELOW:** Sophomore point guard Britinee Yasukochi poured in 11 points in the Tigers' 69-47 win over Cal Lutheran on Feb. 28.



## Applications to Oxy Class of 2012 Aspirants Shatter Admission Record

Occidental received almost 13 applications for every opening in the Class of 2012, with a record 5,789 students applying for 455 spaces. That's an increase of 10 percent over last year and a 127 percent spike over the last decade. Of those who applied to Oxy, 39 percent were offered admission, one of the lowest acceptance rates since the late 1940s.

Of those students offered admission, 69 percent of those reporting school rank graduated in the top 10 percent of their class. The median SAT score for admitted students is 2010. The median ACT score is 30.

"The record volume and quality of applicants are testament to a heightened awareness of Oxy's unusual strengths," says dean of admission Vince Cuseo. "Students are attracted to a kind of 'perfect storm' in their college search—a rigorous education at arguably the nation's most diverse liberal arts college set in a cutting-edge urban environment."

Half of admitted students are from outside California, living in 46 states and Washington, D.C. (Washington, Oregon, New

Photos by Kirby Lee



Former Occidental quarterback Andy Collins '07 made his Arena Football League debut with the L.A. Avengers March 20 against the Philadelphia Soul at Staples Center. Collins (signing autographs for young fans, above) saw playing time both at jack linebacker and on the kickoff return team.

York, and Massachusetts fill out the top five states for admitted students.) Seven percent of admitted students hail from overseas or are dual citizens, representing 46 different countries. Men constitute 41 percent of the group.

Students of color make up 37 percent of admitted students from the United States. Under-represented students (African-Americans, Latinos/Latinas, and Native Americans/Native Hawaiians—make up 20 percent of the group. Fifteen percent will be the first person in their family to attend college.

## Awards and Honors

### From Research to Service, Kudos for a Job Well Done

In what has become a rite of spring, Oxy faculty, students, and alumni received regional, national, and international recognition for outstanding work both on and off campus.

Assistant politics professor Caroline Heldman and Justin Anderson '00 are two of 97 regional finalists for the White House Fellows Program—the nation's most prestigious program for leadership and public service. Two additional rounds of demanding interviews will determine who receives a one-year appointment as special assistants to the executive branch.

Heldman, who joined the Occidental faculty in 2006, specializes in the presidency, media, gender, and race in the United States. She co-edited the 2007 book *Rethinking Madam President: Are We Ready for a Woman in the White House?* She also takes a group of students to New Orleans each year to help rebuild the hurricane-ravaged city. Anderson, a diplomacy and world affairs major at Oxy, continued his study of weapons, war, and foreign policy at King's College London's Department of War Studies. The recipient of a Carnegie Fellowship and a Marshall Scholarship, he is currently completing his doctoral thesis, titled "From Faith to Foreign Policy."

Thirty-four Occidental students were invited to present at the April 10-12 National Conference on Undergraduate Research and showcase their original work. The 2008 contingent, representing a wide range of disci-

## New Director of Athletics

### Jaime Hoffman Brings Her 'A' Game to AD Role

It's been quite a year for Jaime Hoffman: Appointed interim athletic director in July, she was named to the permanent position in December—and then in her swan song as head women's basketball coach led her team to a record-breaking season and the Tigers' first conference championship since 1980.

Photo by Kirby Lee



"It's a tremendous opportunity," Hoffman, 35, says of her new job as head of Oxy athletics. "I really believe in Occidental and in the direction of our department. To now have a little clarity as to the length of my term gives me the opportunity to tackle the projects we've begun and see them through."

"From all accounts and from my own observations, Jaime has done a truly outstanding job as interim athletic director," outgoing President Susan Prager said in a Dec. 29 e-mail announcing Hoffman's appointment. "Jaime well understands the importance of our academic mission and how it must be furthered and supported as we also pursue excellence in athletics."

Through the fall and winter sports seasons, Oxy has won four conference championships, produced four SCIAC Athletes of the Year, and sent two teams into NCAA postseason competition. Among Hoffman's first tasks will be to find her own successor as head basketball coach as well as a new volleyball coach.

Hoffman joined Occidental in 2005 and has more than 10 years' experience working in intercollegiate athletics, including Newbury College in Boston, Montclair State University in New Jersey, and Regis College in Weston, Mass., serving as head women's basketball coach, a professor, and an administrator.

plines, is the largest ever to represent Occidental and includes more students than Harvard, Caltech, Berkeley, UCLA, and USC combined.

For the second time in as many years, Occidental has been named to the President's Higher Education Community Service Honor Roll With Distinction for exemplary service efforts and service to disadvantaged youth. In 2007, more than 1,100 Occidental students—nearly two-thirds of the student population—contributed more than 51,000 hours of service in areas ranging from math tutoring to art appreciation.

Each year, the Corporation for National and Community Service recognizes general community service work as well as service in a designated special focus area. The 2007 special focus area highlighted service to youth from disadvantaged circumstances, such as work to lower school dropout rates and prepare youth for college—areas in which Occidental student volunteers excel.

Andrew Kinder, a senior politics major from Atlanta, is one of 75 students chosen for the 2008-09 Congress-Bundestag Youth Exchange for Young Professionals. Kinder—who studied abroad last year in Vienna—will receive intensive German-language training and classroom instruction, and work in an internship in his career field during a 12-month stay in Germany.

## Institutional Advancement Liberal Arts Legacy Lures Tomlinson to Occidental

John G. “Tom” Tomlinson Jr., a top development officer at USC since 1980, has been appointed vice president for institutional advancement at Occidental. “Tom is a consummate professional with a long and distinguished record,” says interim President Robert Skotheim. “He brings not only a comprehensive understanding of philanthropy but also a background as a historian, teacher, and trustee, giving him an unrivaled understanding of higher education.”

“This is a remarkable opportunity to contribute to an extraordinary liberal arts institution,” says Tomlinson, who started at the College in March. “I look forward to my new life as the capstone of my career, helping to deepen and expand the 121-year-old culture of philanthropy at Occidental.”

As associate dean for graduate relations and development at USC Law School, Tomlinson oversaw a successful \$75-million capital campaign in conjunction with the law school's centennial. During his 27 years as a development officer at USC, he also served as chief fundraiser for university libraries and the College of Letters and Science.



A resident of Sierra Madre, Tomlinson graduated from the University of Redlands with a history degree, and received his master's in modern European history from UC Irvine and his Ph.D in modern European intellectual history and cinema from USC. At Redlands, he has served as president of the alumni association and university trustee and received the university's Distinguished Service Award in 2006.

Tomlinson, 64, claims to be an intrepid fly fisherman, a craven mountain climber, and an aggressive but painfully slow 1,500-meter runner: “I think patience and a willingness to take on challenges are the threads that connect my professional and personal lives.”

## Flooding in the Stacks Faulty Air Conditioning Unit Damages 18,000 Books

Coils in the air conditioning unit above the Occidental Library stacks broke over the weekend of March 1, sending water flowing through all four tiers and damaging 18,000 books (including portions of psychology, philosophy, religion, sociology, economics, law, women's studies, and politics). Staff and students sorted through the soiled volumes, shipping out 902 boxes to be freeze-dried.

Interim head librarian Emily Bergman expects the books to be returned in April and has requested the help of six additional summer students to assess their condition. While most volumes are expected to be returned to the shelves, she notes, some will not survive the freeze-drying process—and some out-of-print works will be irreplaceable. In the meantime, students and alumni are able to borrow the books they need from the library's consortial lending partners.

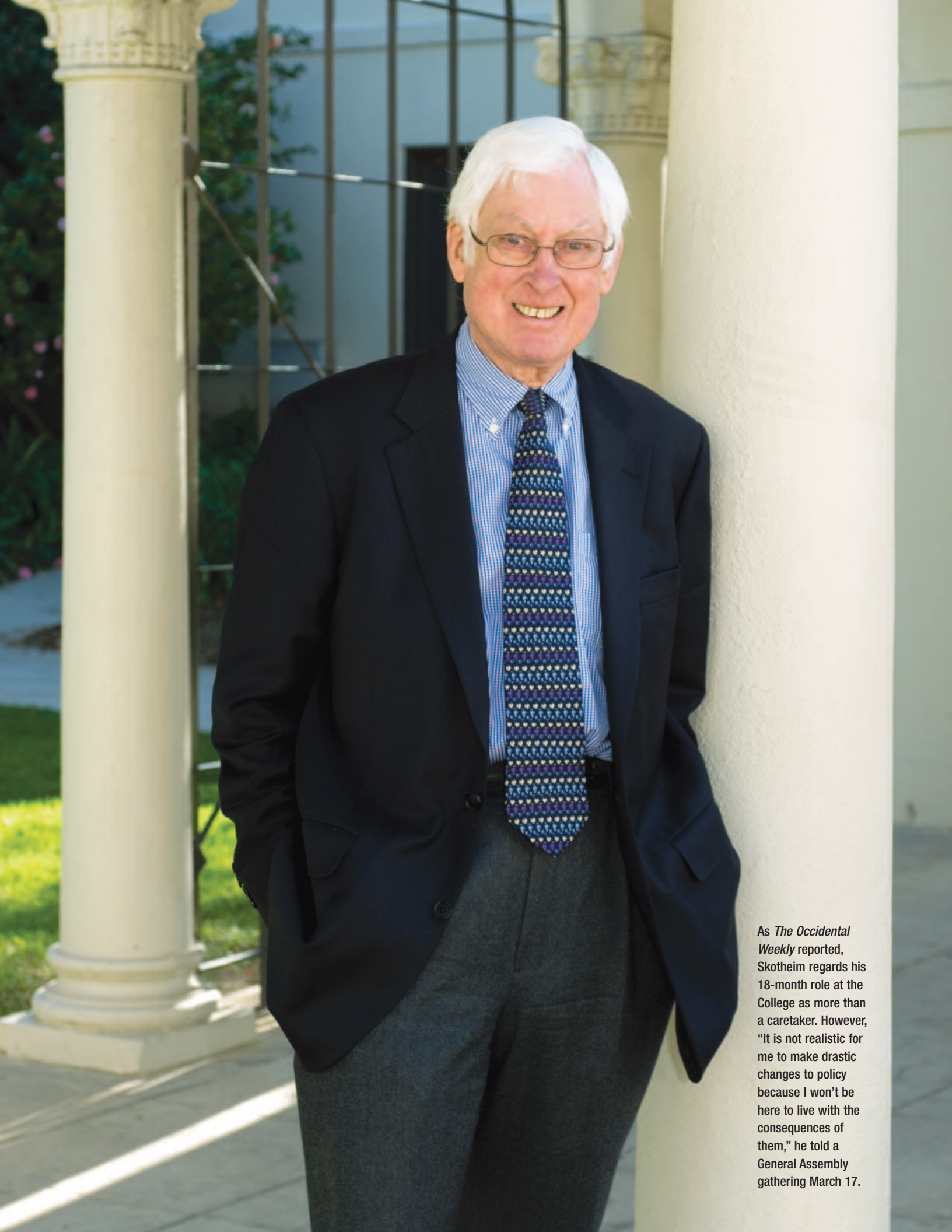
## Occidental in Brief

To coincide with the Museum of Contemporary Art's retrospective on influential conceptual artist Allan Kaprow (1927-2006), Occidental students recreated Kaprow's 1971 “Happening” titled *Labor Day*. Participants spent their day dumping and re-shoveling one cubic yard of sand at locations in a circular trajectory across the city, beginning and ending at the Mullin Sculpture Building on the Oxy campus. They also drove a car on a circular route around campus, stopping once per “lap” to remove and reinstall the car's wheels. Sure beats Guitar Hero III. □ Occidental students will be making their first-ever trip to Carnegie Hall in New York as part of the Caltech-Occidental Concert Band. About 60 performers will participate in the hall's Ensemble Spotlight Series May 24. □ Visitors to campus during spring break were *Fired Up* to see a full-blown film crew and more cheer squads than you can shake a pom-pom at. Oxy doubled as Southeastern Illinois University for the Screen Gems release. □ Four-time All-American Dickson Fai '08 finished seventh in the 100 backstroke at the 2008 NCAA Division III Men's Swimming & Diving Championship March 21 in Miami, Ohio. Earlier, Fai earned a trio of All-SCIAC honors at the conference championship, winning the 100 backstroke, finishing second in the 200 backstroke, and placing third in the 400 IM.

Photo courtesy Cynthia (Howe) Merman '55



Family members of Cynthia (Howe) Merman '55 were “fired up and ready to go” for Sen. Barack Obama '83 prior to the South Carolina primary. While we're on the subject, the transition of the Democratic presidential frontrunner “From Barry to Barack”—a journey that coincided with his Oxy years (1979 to 1981)—was the subject of a *Newsweek* cover story March 31. (That's Obama's freshman application photo staring back at you.)



As *The Occidental Weekly* reported, Skotheim regards his 18-month role at the College as more than a caretaker. However, "It is not realistic for me to make drastic changes to policy because I won't be here to live with the consequences of them," he told a General Assembly gathering March 17.

Retired historian and former college president **Robert Allen Skotheim** had finished his memoir when he was recruited to steer Oxy through the next 18 months. He answered the call because “old habits die hard.”

In 1989—one year into his new position as director of the Huntington Library, Art Collection, and Gardens—Skotheim was awarded an honorary doctorate of humanities at Occidental. Joining Skotheim, *from left*, are Los Angeles Mayor Tom Bradley; Oxy President John Brooks Slaughter and his wife, Bernice; and Board of Trustees chair Donn Miller.

# Turning *the* Page

BY SAMANTHA B. BONAR '90  
PHOTO BY KEVIN BURKE

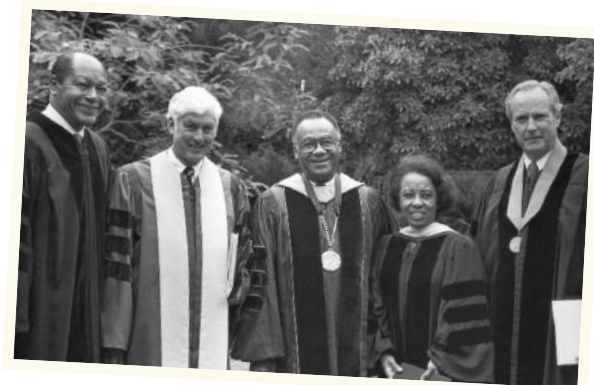


Photo courtesy Occidental College Special Collections

**I**T HAS BEEN 20 YEARS since Robert Allen Skotheim left the presidency of Whitman College. But at an informal lunch with students in the dining hall in January, Occidental's new interim president quickly laid to rest any fears that he might be out of touch with the concerns of today's young people.

“If you want to learn how to bartend,” he told the crowd, “come by the president's house and my wife Nadine will teach you. She's taught students for years.” (Nadine Skotheim concurs: “The offer is still open.”)

Oxy's students may be the age of Skotheim's grandchildren, but that doesn't mean they can't relate to one another. “It's often been said that grandparents and grandchildren are so sympathetic to one another because they share a common enemy,” says Skotheim, whose 18-month appointment as president runs through June 30, 2009. In a more serious vein, he adds: “Despite all the things that are different about being a young person today from being a young person 30 or 60 years ago—

the technological revolution, the changes in worldly sophistication, even drugs—I think the underlying personal, social, intellectual, academic, and developmental challenges remain the same.”

That's not to say that the father of three and grandfather of eight isn't old-fashioned in some of his ways. He doesn't use a computer (“I'm a Luddite”) and says it's too late to learn. He relies on an executive staff of two to transcribe his words from a yellow writing pad into e-mails and other forms of electronic communication.

Luddite or not, Skotheim rolled up his sleeves and immediately went to work after arriving on campus, making his first public appearance at a gala dinner on Jan. 18 to mark the opening of Rangeview Hall (*page 4*). Since then, he has met with alumni in Los Angeles and Seattle, hosted the President's Circle dinner, and plans to attend several alumni and admission events in northern California, Washington, and Oregon in April.

Skotheim, who turned 75 in January, was happily retired in the Seattle area when

Occidental trustees approached him in December with the idea of becoming interim president after Susan Westerberg Prager's resignation after just 18 months on the job. William Tingley, vice president of admission and financial aid, worked with Skotheim for 13 years at Whitman and was the first to suggest contacting him. Tingley made the initial call to Skotheim to explore the possibility. They spoke for two hours.

Skotheim's immediate reaction was that it was “a ridiculous idea and that I was not going to do it,” the new president recalls. But he began to warm to the idea, he says, when his wife reminded him that, having recently finished writing his memoir (a project he undertook not for publication, but for his family), he had run out of projects.

“My very first response was, ‘Why don't you do it?’” Nadine recalls. Skotheim resisted outwardly, but didn't let go of the idea. It became a puzzle he wanted to tease out: Could he help the College? How? He had another phone conversation, this time with Occidental Board of Trustees chair Dennis A.

Skotheim speaks at the President's Circle dinner March 15, *right*, and visits with Cyrus Irani '81 and wife Jessica, *below*. In announcing his appointment, Oxy Board of Trustees chair Dennis A. Collins noted, "His track record as the chief executive of higher education and cultural institutions is without peer."

Photos by Dennis Davis



**"We could not be more fortunate to have a president of his caliber here at this particular point in our history," says vice president of admission and financial aid William Tingley. "It's going to be a great 18 months for Oxy."**

Collins. After a sleepless night spent thinking about Oxy, he changed his mind.

"I think old habits die hard," he explained at an Occidental faculty retreat in January. "I am so committed to institutions like this ... it's an intellectual challenge."

Tingley says he immediately thought of Skotheim for the position because he had "invaluable experience as a very successful president of a small liberal arts college. He has a great understanding of the issues of higher education." Tingley adds, "We could not be more fortunate to have a president of his caliber here at this particular point in our history. It's going to be a great 18 months for Oxy."

Because the trustees wanted a new president on campus by Jan. 1, the Skotheims, who will celebrate their 55th wedding anniversary in June, quickly updated their wills, flew a pet cat to a grandchild back East, packed suitcases, and bought a new Acura for the drive down to Los Angeles.

Bob Skotheim is no stranger to the Southland, having headed the Huntington Library, Art Collections, and Botanical Gardens in San Marino for 13 years (from 1988 until his retirement in 2001). "Bob is very, very smart," says

As a high school senior in 1950-51, Skotheim played basketball for the West Seattle High School Indians (a name later changed to the Wildcats).

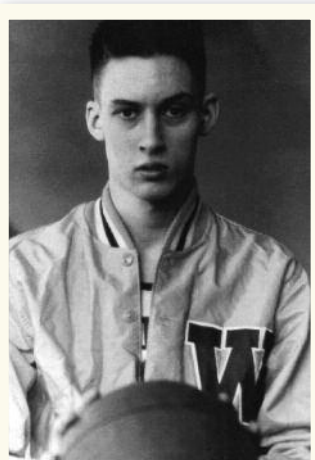


Photo courtesy Robert Allen Skotheim

Steven Koblik, current president of the Huntington. "Part of the way he approaches things is with a great sensitivity to culture and the differences in institutional cultures. He made extraordinary changes at the Huntington. You will need to moderate your expectations of what he can and can't do in 18 months."

At the faculty retreat Skotheim confided that he has watched Occidental for more than 30 years—first at Walla Walla, Wash.-based Whitman, which counts Oxy as a peer institution, and subsequently as president of the Huntington. "The condition of Oxy is very strong; you are the envy of most colleges, despite the great embarrassment of instability in the upper echelons," he told the faculty.

Skotheim plans to counter whatever fallout resulted from Prager's short

tenure and unexpected resignation "by making clear that we are trying not to miss a beat and to fill the vacancies that exist. There's one priority, which is to select a new long-term president," he says in his third-floor office in Coons Administrative Center. "What we hope is that by June 30, 2009, there will be a community consensus about—and pleasure in the selection of—a president who sees it as a long-term commitment." Underneath that goal, he adds, the primary objective is to make the campus as "collegial and harmonious as possible" for serious candidates for the presidency, "because the best people from Occidental's standpoint will look very carefully at the campus."

Moving quickly in conjunction with the board, Skotheim announced his first major appointment at the end of January: the hiring of Tom Tomlinson, longtime associate dean for graduate relations and development at USC Law School, as Occidental's new vice president for institutional advancement.

Another asset that the Skotheims bring to Occidental, according to Tingley, is that they are "terrific campus hosts, and I think that is something that will be very important here in the next few months as a way of bringing the campus community together."

Nadine Skotheim describes her husband as someone who is "extremely focused" on the task at hand who always "gives 150 percent." In addition to hosting, with Bob, small Friday-night dinners for a mix of alumni, faculty, staff, and acquaintances from their Huntington days, Nadine has added her own touches to the Wallis Annenberg President's House. She had the previously all-white downstairs rooms painted in red, gold, and other colorful hues, and had eight bunk beds—salvaged from the ongoing renovation of Oxy's residence halls—installed upstairs for visits from their grandchildren.

A native of Seattle and the grandson of a Norwegian fisherman, Skotheim received his bachelor's, master's, and doctoral degrees in history from the University of Washington. The cultural historian moved through the ranks from instructor to full professor, teaching at UCLA, the University of Colorado, and Wayne State University in addition to the University of Washington, and later served as provost and dean of faculty at Hobart and William Smith Colleges. At the same time, he and Nadine, who began dating



Would Skotheim (shown with wife Nadine in the grandchildren's guest room in the Wallis Annenberg President's House) stay past his allotted tenure at Occidental if asked? If the trustees seek to prolong his presidency, he says, "that will be a failed 18 months."

Photo by Kevin Burke

in the ninth grade and married at ages 20 and 19, respectively, were raising a family. In 1975, at age 42, he became president of Whitman. During his 13-year tenure at the college, the endowment nearly tripled, a new general studies program was introduced into the curriculum, and alumni support more than doubled, to 55 percent. "It is a matter of enormous pride to me—more than I realized—that we have done what we have done to build an institution," he said in a 1988 interview with *Whitman* magazine.

Throughout his life, Skotheim has experienced tension between his desire for solitary scholarship and contemplation and his impulse toward activism and reform. "In my late 30s, when I left teaching and research and went to Hobart and William Smith as the provost and dean, for the next 30 years, until I retired from the Huntington Library, I obviously was way over on the side of activism," he says. "For the prior 20

years, from the time I went to college until I became an academic administrator, I was way over on the side of contemplation and study and scholarship. And when I retired, I reverted to my youth. I participated in no community activities, virtually no institutional activities. I have been doing nothing for the last six and a half years except reading and writing." When his time at Oxy is up, Skotheim looks forward to reverting "to my solitary, contemplative self."

Over the years Skotheim has published a number of books, articles, and reviews in the field of American intellectual history and social thought. ("I am a relic," he noted at the faculty retreat, "but this was a very exciting field in the 1950s," when it represented a break from the prevailing focus on military and political history.) As a young historian at Wayne State, Skotheim was publicly rebuked by an eminent American historian for writing an article that was critical of

current historical methodology. Reviewing Skotheim's 1966 book *American Intellectual Histories and Historians*, John William Ward of Amherst College wryly called Skotheim "incurable" for insisting "that it may be wise to think about what we are doing before we do it."

A Guggenheim Fellow while at the University of Washington, Skotheim has honorary doctorates from eight institutions, including Occidental, where he delivered the commencement address in 1989. But his intellectual pursuits belie a keen wit and strong interpersonal skills. "I think he brings out the best in people," Tingley says. "He also has a great sense of humor, which I think is needed here."

When asked what her husband can contribute to the campus, Nadine quickly replies: "Fun. He's a lot of fun. The photo of Bob in *The Occidental Weekly* made him look like a crabby old man. That's not him." □



“The perks are great,” Slavov says of working for the federal government. “When people visit, I get to take them on White House tours!”



# Economic Indicator

BY COLLEEN SHARKEY | PHOTO BY DENNIS DRENNER

As the conversation turns to rebates, refis, and rumblings of a recession, Oxy associate professor **Sita Slavov** adds her two cents to the equation as a senior economist on the president's Council of Economic Advisers

**W**HEN AMERICAN TAXPAYERS get their rebate checks in the mail this year, one of the folks they will have to thank is associate professor of economics Sita Slavov. As a senior economist to the president's Council of Economic Advisers, Slavov worked on the recent economic stimulus plan, learning much about the policy process along the way. "It's exciting to know that I'm contributing to public policy being informed by good economic thinking," she says.

As her first-ever sabbatical drew near, Slavov—an expert on tax and Social Security issues and a member of the Oxy faculty since 2002—was encouraged by colleagues to pursue a position with the president's council. She had worked with the current chairman, Edward Lazear, when she studied at Stanford and welcomed the chance to collaborate with him again. (She's on a leave of absence from the College for the 2007-08 academic year.)

In her current role, Slavov uses her research skills and expertise to advise the council chairman who, in turn, makes recommendations to President Bush. Her daily routine varies and is based on topics of interest to the chairman or president. Slavov's many years of academic research have prepared her well for long hours of summarizing theories, giving her own analysis, and translating complex economic jargon for non-experts.

"If something big is happening, you have to get it done," she says. "I have been here

until 10 p.m. some nights. I worked especially long hours when I was working on the *Economic Report of the President*." The 358-page report, released in February, is basically the economic year in review. Slavov wrote much of the chapter on tax policy.

When the report was published, Slavov got to experience what she names as one of the highlights of her assignment there—meeting the president. All those who worked on the report were invited to the Oval Office to have their pictures taken with President Bush. Equally memorable for her was attending a press conference at which the secretary of the Treasury, Henry Paulson, was discussing the recent economic stimulus package with Lazear.

Slavov normally teaches classes such as Economics of the Public Sector and Intermediate Microeconomics at Oxy, but she could have just as easily been teaching law. When she first arrived at William and Mary College in the early 1990s, she was convinced she wanted to study law. As fate would have it, an economics professor was assigned to be her adviser. "She encouraged me to try some intermediate economics courses, and I ended up loving it," Slavov says. "Microeconomics is more math driven, and I love math. It was exciting to me to apply math to questions of human behavior." The switch clearly paid off, as Slavov finished first in her class of 1,400 at William and Mary and went on to win accolades at Stanford.

This summer, Slavov will leave the Beltway behind and head back to the West

Coast. She will resume teaching this fall and looks forward to applying her D.C. experience to her classes. "It will give me a lot of good things to talk about in class," she says. "I will be able to give the students the insider info on how policies are actually made. Many factors go into how an administration takes a position on something, including analysis, research, and political strategy."

Her colleagues at Occidental are eager for Slavov's return. Economics department chair Giorgio Secondi calls her "an incredible member of the department" and points out that Slavov has been able to offer courses that have never been taught at Oxy before, including Economics of Information (modeled after a class that she took as an undergraduate). He knows her real-life D.C. education will further enhance her teaching. "Her role in Washington has given her a great understanding of policy-making and how the theory that we study can help solve practical problems," says Secondi. "Sita is tremendously focused and rigorous, and students rave about her. It's great to have her recognized outside of Oxy."

Despite D.C.'s dynamic draw, Slavov's heart remains in SoCal. She misses Oxy and her students and her husband, Slavi, an economist and professor at Pomona College. "I never want to run for office, and this experience has just confirmed it," she admits with a laugh. "I just don't see myself in that role as an elected official. You have to balance a lot of interests and not upset people. Academic research suits me better." ■

WHEN ANDRINA BIGELOW '96 LEFT CORPORATE AMERICA BEHIND  
TO TAKE THE REINS OF SEATTLE'S PREMIER CONFECTIONERY,  
NO ONE WAS MORE SURPRISED—OR PLEASED—THAN HER MOTHER,  
FRAN'S CHOCOLATES FOUNDER FRAN BIGELOW

Like  
DAUGHTER  
for  
CHOCOLATE

BY DAVID VOLK  
PHOTOS BY JOEL LEVIN



Photo courtesy Fran's Chocolates

"What Occidental did really well was prepare you to think through a problem," says Andrina Bigelow '96, *above*. Oxy also made her a better wordsmith: "In business it's extremely important to be able to communicate through writing." Her job also means her mother, Fran, *right*, now has more time to devote to her cookbooks.



ANDRINA BIGELOW '96 is standing on the precipice of chocolate greatness.

This September, the economics major will launch her first initiative as chief executive officer of Fran's Chocolates, one of the country's top gourmet chocolate companies. Opening one of the only retail stores in Seattle's new Four Seasons Hotel is a coup: The luxury hotel gives Fran's daily access to people who appreciate high quality products while allowing the company to respond to customer pleas for a downtown store. At the same time, the building is close enough to the Pike Place Market that it's in the ideal location for tourists to discover confections so sinful, they've made it onto the pages of *Gourmet* and *Chocolatier* magazines.

The best part is, Bigelow didn't even have to compete for such a prime piece of land. "We were thrilled they approached us," she says.

If she'd had to do battle for the spot, it's easy to see how she would have won it anyway. If her Oxy education, Cornell MBA, and corporate





After working on the East Coast as a brand manager with Mattel's Disney Group and Johnson & Johnson, Bigelow returned to the Pacific Northwest in 2006 with husband Mark and daughter Taylor in tow. Within a year, she found herself running Fran's.

experience hadn't been enough, she would have charmed them out of it.

"She gets the business done, but she does it in a very pleasant way. She's got a great big smile and she's always up. People want to be around somebody who's always up," Fran Bigelow says.

Yes, *that* Fran.

Sure, Andrina may be the boss's daughter, but there's no question she's the right person for the job. Up until recently, the real question might have been "Would she take it?"

As any foodie worth their weight in gray sea salt could tell you, Fran, an accountant, started the company after discovering a passion for fine chocolate during a trip to France in the early 1980s. ("I love to cook, but I really always wanted to do desserts more than anything else," she told a *Seattle Times* writer in 2003. "...It's the thing people take away from a meal. It's what they remember.") She was so inspired by the quality of European confections that she opened a small patisserie in Seattle's Madison Park neighborhood in 1982. As demand grew, Fran's opened two additional locations. The company got its first big national break when Williams-Sonoma added Fran's almond and macadamia nut caramel Gold Bars to its retail offerings in 1986. The chocolates are now available at hundreds of specialty retailers nationwide, including Neiman Marcus and Whole Foods.

Sitting at a table in the small, no-frills office she and her mom share, the younger Bigelow has less the air of a prodigal daughter than the confidence of an executive with the experience necessary to get the job done. She may have started washing dishes in her mom's patisserie at age 6 and graduated to running the register, but Fran's still surprised she returned to the company. "I thought she'd be successful at what she did I just didn't think she'd want to come and do what I was doing," the elder Bigelow says.

Andrina had a passion for food, but chocolate wasn't in her blood; numbers were. "I was always strong in analytics and very strong in math," she says.

Mother and daughter agreed on her need for a liberal arts college, but Fran favored a small town school. Andrina opted for Occidental's close-knit community feel because it was close to a large city just like the private school she attended growing up. It was a good fit: The College's small classroom size meant she had to get up and stand in front of her peers to do presentations,

which prepared her well for the business world. She even met her future husband, Mark Eskridge '96, while at Oxy.

It didn't take her long to go corporate. She took a position in brand management in Mattel's Disney Group because she enjoyed combining her skills in finance, planning, and analysis with the challenge of creating a vision for a major product line without much consumer research to rely on. After she and Eskridge earned MBAs at Cornell, she went back into brand management at Johnson & Johnson in Skillman, N.J., where she was involved in a successful effort to reposition KY lubricants from "a problem-solution focused brand" to "an intimacy enhancement brand"—a change, she says, that led to a substantial jump in sales. "Every company she's ever been at, she's been the number one person in her group," notes Eskridge, a senior manager for segment marketing at T-Mobile in Seattle.

After having a baby in business school (Taylor, now 5), Andrina so missed Seattle that she moved back to take a job managing family plans at T-Mobile in 2006. The move prompted her to get re-engaged in the family business at a time when Fran was looking to focus more on recipe development and cookbook writing (her 2004 collection, *Pure Chocolate: Divine Desserts and Sweets from the Creator of Fran's Chocolates*, remains in print today).

Just being close to the company, Andrina started getting more involved in the family firm as Fran looked forward to focusing on recipe development and cookbook writing. Eskridge recalls her asking, "My family's got this great project, why am I not putting my skill set to work here?"

Founded in 1982 as a two-person operation, privately held Fran's Chocolates (which reportedly sells around \$5 million in confections annually) boasts a workforce of more than 40. Along with a sampling of her wares, Bigelow is shown with Fran's co-workers Amy Eutizzi-Dixon, Kalan Skelly, and Katherine Kilder.

Rather than being envious of Andrina's CEO spot, brother Dylan is glad to have her on board. The company's self-described director of chocolate (a Culinary School of America graduate) says it helps that she isn't as focused on food as he is. What Andrina can do is plan, and that's the area where the company has the greatest need, the Bigelows agree. Until now, Fran's Chocolates has primarily focused on product development, but

*"She gets the business done, but she does it in a very pleasant way," Fran Bigelow says of Andrina. "She's got a great big smile and she's always up. People want to be around somebody who's always up."*

Fran and Dylan say they're looking to Andrina to help establish a strategic growth plan.

The opening of the Four Seasons store is just the start. Fran's wholesale business may be growing, but Andrina believes listening to local customers and developing a plan to meet their wants is the key to success in Seattle and throughout the Northwest. At the same time, balancing demand and the firm's tradition of small-batched, handcrafted truffles—whiskey are her favorites—means she and Dylan will eventually have to find a new production facility. "There's a lot of opportunity in retail growth just in the Pacific Northwest," she says. "We're at the point where in certain seasons we've maxed out our capacity."


"The job here turned out to be more challenging than she thought," says Fran. But she's not worried, she adds, because "Andrina's big-business experience gives her the overview to know how to take a smaller company and get it to the place where we're ready to step to the next level."

Just keep her away from the kitchen. She's passionate about eating, but not necessarily about cooking. "That's the running joke—that she doesn't know how to cook," Dylan says with a laugh. "She definitely cooks for Taylor, but *nothing* like Fran." □

David Volk is a freelance writer in Seattle.







Identity thieves, hackers,  
and cyber criminals beware:  
As chief of the California  
Office of Privacy Protection,  
**Joanne (Betz) McNabb '66**  
will go medieval on you

# PRIVACY PLEASE

BY SAMANTHA B. BONAR '90  
PHOTOS BY JIM BLOCK

**H**ERE ARE A FEW THINGS we can tell you about Joanne (Betz) McNabb '66: She gets her news from Jim Lehrer, Jon Stewart, and Stephen Colbert. She loves to knit. She has two stepsons and four grandchildren, and is a big fan of both the Beatles and opera (a passion she picked up at Oxy—prior to taking History of Civilization, “my knowledge of opera was Bugs Bunny in a horned helmet squawking ‘The Ride of the Valkyries,’” she says). But if you’re looking for her date of birth, her home address, or—God forbid—her Social Security number, you’d best keep moving along.

McNabb is not afraid to take the fight for privacy rights public. As chief of the California Office of Privacy Protection, she is the go-to person in the state for all privacy-related concerns. She has testified before Congress and advises the Department of Homeland Security on privacy issues.

“Half of my job is to educate consumers about what their rights and options are so that they can make better choices. The other half is educating businesses on recognizing and protecting privacy rights. I’m a cajoler, not a regulator,” says McNabb, who attended Occidental for 3½ years before getting married (she later completed her degree in English at Cal State Sacramento).

McNabb “cajoles” businesses and other organizations into protecting the personal information of California residents, including Social Security and credit card numbers, home addresses, and driver’s licenses. Her small office also fields about 5,000 calls and e-mails a year from individuals, organizations, and businesses seeking information and assistance. About 60 percent of those contacts concern identity theft. Through the agency’s website and seminars, she teaches Californians how to protect themselves and



what to do if their privacy is compromised, but she has no legal enforcement authority. She juggles all of these responsibilities with a yearly budget of \$800,000 and just eight staff members. With only two people manning the call center, McNabb sometimes takes calls herself.

McNabb was named to the then-new position of state privacy chief in 2001, having worked as a consumer advocate for former Gov. Jerry Brown. She also had more

than 20 years experience in public affairs and marketing in both the public and private sectors, including five years with an international marketing company in France.

Even though she likens Oxy to “a small, small town” where everyone knew your business, that’s not why McNabb decided to go into the privacy field. The aspiring scholar stumbled into government work after she realized there wouldn’t be a job for her teaching medieval literature (her master’s

field of study at UC Davis). “I was in Sacramento, so I figured I’d just go work for the state,” she recalls. Her first job was as a legislative analyst for the Department of Consumer Affairs, where she put the skills she honed as a comparative literature major at Oxy—researching and writing—to work. “I discovered a whole new world,” she says. “The role there was to advocate for consumers, which is similar to what I do now. To be able to educate people about how to advocate for themselves is very fulfilling.”

At the time she took the privacy agency job, McNabb actually knew very little about such issues, so she set about educating herself, attending seminars and reading books about terrorism, national security, and protecting civil liberties. She has since become a Certified Information Privacy Professional and is currently co-chair of the Government Working Group of the International Association of Privacy Professionals, whose more than 4,000 members hail from 32 countries.

Even with McNabb’s limited staff and budget, California remains at the forefront of privacy protection in the United States. The state Constitution gives each citizen an “inalienable right” to pursue and obtain privacy. McNabb’s office became the first of its kind in the nation in 2001, and the state Legislature has passed more than 80 privacy laws in the last decade, 31 of them dealing with identity theft. When data broker ChoicePoint in Georgia unwittingly sold information on 145,000 people to identity thieves three years ago, California was the only state with a law on the books that required the company to notify people that their data had been exposed (SB 1386, the state’s data breach disclosure law, went into effect in July 2003). California also passed a law in 2003 that prohibits the public posting of Social Security numbers on medical insurance cards and student IDs.

McNabb’s efforts have not gone undetected: A recent profile in the *San Francisco Chronicle* hailed her as “a hard worker, a quick study, and a person who is good at conducting difficult conversations.” She also snagged an award last year from the IAPP for most innovative small organization. In par-

According to a Facebook application on her page, the Beatles song McNabb most resembles is “Here Comes the Sun”—“optimistic and cheery.”



ticular, the award cited her creation of “best practices” for businesses, which address issues such as how to notify people when their data has been compromised. “A business may not always like a particular privacy-related law,” the award stated, “but the level of guidance and support given [by the California privacy office] is unmatched.”

Identity theft remains the focus of much of McNabb’s efforts. “The public is very concerned about it,” she says. In March

PTA. Unfortunately, most identity thieves get away with it because “there are no fingerprints, no witnesses,” she says. “A good deal of the time there aren’t any clues.”

One tip McNabb offers to protect against identity theft? “Never use your debit card to make purchases online.” (For other privacy tips, see sidebar, *right*.) If she could give one additional piece of advice to consumers about protecting their privacy, it would be to “question authority,” McNabb says. “If someone’s

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**“In its zeal to track down terrorists and protect us, the U.S. government is getting access to a lot of personal information that has been amassed in the private sector for marketing purposes,” McNabb says. “That’s a big concern.”**

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2007 she testified before the U.S. Senate about the problem. Most of her agency’s “recommended practices” documents for businesses and other organizations address the responsible handling of the personal information that is the target of identity thefts, particularly Social Security numbers (“the key to the vault for identity thieves,” McNabb says). Interestingly, universities account for the greatest number of security breaches—close to a third—in part because of decentralized information technology structures on campuses. (Two servers containing 28,000 names belonging to the Claremont University Consortium, for instance, were hacked into in December 2007—although the nature of the attack was believed to be related to “illicit game and movie files sharing.”)

McNabb conducts or participates in dozens of consumer workshops and seminars on identity theft and on privacy practices for business or government each year. In March, she conducted a special law enforcement workshop on investigating and prosecuting identity theft as part of the Cyber Safety California Summit in Burbank. The conference included participants from a broad range of industries, from Yahoo! and Microsoft to the Recording Industry Association of America and the California State

asking you for your personal information as part of a transaction, stop and ask why. Ask them how they are going to use it. Don’t be paranoid, be careful.”

Even as an employee of the state, McNabb remains wary about government peeking into people’s private lives. “I think that we need to be alert to the intrusiveness of various government actions, such as the privacy impact of various Department of Homeland Security programs,” she says. “In its zeal to track down terrorists and protect us, the government is getting access to a lot of personal information that has been amassed in the private sector for marketing purposes. That’s a big concern. I think our government owes us some straight talk about some of the procedures they’re adopting, and we need to ask tough questions. Some of the programs may not be the best use of our resources, and they have huge costs for how we live our lives.”

One of McNabb’s biggest concerns right now is the lack of control people have about what’s posted about them online: “People should have a right to remove their information,” she told the *Chronicle*. But don’t get her wrong—“I love the Internet,” she says. “I shop online regularly. It’s wonderful for research purposes.” She’s even on Facebook—her page set to private, of course. □



## PROTECT YOURSELF

Joanne McNabb answers some commonly asked privacy questions (for more information, visit the California Office of Privacy Protection’s website, [www.privacy.ca.gov](http://www.privacy.ca.gov)).

**Why do stores often ask for my ZIP code when I make a purchase? Do I have to give it?** If you’re paying by credit card, they’re probably using your ZIP code as a security check. (Other times they may be gathering information for marketing analysis.) So you don’t have to give it, but the store may not complete your transaction.

**Which is safer: shopping online, or placing an order over the phone?** There’s no difference in your exposure to identity theft. If the Web page in which you enter your credit card number and other information is secure (i.e., it has “https” in the address bar), then once your data arrives at the company it’s as secure as if you’d gone into the business and given the card to a clerk.

**How can I keep a charity from selling or sharing my personal information when I make a donation?** When you make a contribution to a charity, include a letter (or write it on your check) saying that you don’t want them to share or sell your information with others. It’s not a guarantee, but it can work.

**Are bank “protect your identity” plans worth the money?** Maybe not. According to the most recent nationwide survey by the Federal Trade Commission, 8.1 million Americans were victims of identity theft in 2005. That’s 3.6 percent of adults, which means that 96.4 percent of adults were not victims. And 59 percent of the victims had their existing credit card account used. That’s become a pretty easy situation to resolve in recent years, usually requiring a single phone call with maybe a follow-up letter.

# DON'T STOP THE *M*USIC

BY SAMANTHA B. BONAR '90  
& DICK ANDERSON  
PHOTOS BY KEVIN BURKE



Sarah Long '10, a sociology major from State College, Pa.; Lia Ballard '10, a Spanish major from Oakland; and Jacquie Adorni '11 of Kinnelon, N.J.

Allison Truscheit '08, a cognitive science major from Plano, Texas.



How did the 6-year-old Oxy Dance Team make the leap from halftime football shows to the national semifinals? It took gumption, a convincing audition tape—and a whole lot of bake sales in the Quad

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HEN THE 14 MEMBERS of the Oxy Dance Team set foot in the lobby of Disney's All-Star Music Resort in Orlando, Fla., for the first time over winter break, the crew was more conspicuous for what they didn't travel with: No team warm-up jackets. No fancy costumes. Not even a coach (although Sae Woon Jo, Oxy's coordinator of recreational sports, made the trip with his wife, Christine Kim, to Orlando). Despite all the things they didn't have, the team quickly found something they had never known at Oxy—not on the synthetic turf of Patterson Field, not at midcourt in Rush Gymnasium.

They felt a sense of belonging.

"When we perform at halftime, people are there to see the football players," says team captain Allison Truscheit '08. "We wanted to go somewhere for dancers. When we stepped into the hotel, it was like we were supposed to be there."

They may have had to travel 2,500 miles to get there, but when the Oxy squad made it to the semifinals of the Universal Dance Association/ESPN national dance team championship at Disney World on Jan. 18, it was a tribute to hours of training, gumption, and a convincing audition tape. "We were the only team there without sequins or glitter," says



Chloe Lee '11 of Belmont, Mass., and Emily Adney '09, a biology and French double major from Albany.



**Brittany Banbury '09**, a kinesiology major from Land O' Lakes, Fla.; **Jennifer Goth '10** of Mosman, Australia; and **Stacey McShane '08**, a critical theory and social justice major from West Sacramento.

Truscheit, a cognitive science major from Plano, Texas. Once accepted into the finals last October, the team had precious little time to raise \$10,000 for entrance fees, travel, and costumes (plain black shorts and shirts)—all while practicing a minimum of four hours a day, four days a week. They earned the money by holding bake sales and doing face-painting, with additional support from parents and family members, and got a final boost from dean of students Barbara Avery, whose office paid for the team's airfare.

Besides being the only one of the 39 squads at the competition from a school with no formal dance department, the Oxy Dance Team had the added pressure of being first to perform. (Their routine, set to the Who's "Love Rain O'er Me" and Fort Minor's "Remembrance Name," merged ballet and jazz techniques.) "It was very intimidating," Truscheit admits, "but we had

a lot of earnest passion, and the crowd loved it. We were so happy to be there."

However, the team realized that competitive dance is very different from performing at sporting events. Like competitive figure skating, certain technical feats must be incorporated into routines for a team to advance. "There are a lot more tricks," Truscheit says. "It's not just about the artistic choreography."

The team plans to start training earlier next fall with the goal of advancing to the finals, which will be broadcast on ESPN. "We went in with very little experience and were all really satisfied with how we did," says team member Sarah Long '10. "We are already looking forward hopefully to going back with a little more of an idea of what we need to do."

Next year, "We'll have a fighting chance," says Truscheit, who graduates in May but will return to

Ashley Young '10  
of Riverside, Conn.,  
and Alyssa Cuervo  
'11 of La Cañada.



Nicole Leung '11 of Ma  
On Shan, Hong Kong;  
Stephanie Tardif '10 of  
Ventura; and Rachel Deitch  
'09 of Highland Park, Ill.



coach the team this fall. "We're going to start recruiting dancers for Oxy and try to get a real dance program here. Maybe this could be the beginning of something."

Melissa Omphroy '04, who co-founded the team in 2001 with Amber Tsujioka '03, knows only too well the obstacles her successors have overcome. For their first performance at a basketball game, the original 10 members wore old practice jerseys on loan from the athletic department. "This truly was a team created by students, for students, and it succeeded because of hard work and dedication, funding from our own pockets, and a truly unique friendship," says Omphroy, who continued to coach the squad for 18 months after graduation.

Truscheit, who has 10 years' training as a gymnast, came to Occidental eager to pursue dancing and choreography. But although she has participated every spring in Dance Production—the entirely student-run revue, an Oxy tradition since the 1940s, that enlists the talents of nearly 100 undergraduates—she didn't join the dance team until she was a sophomore. "I originally thought it was like Laker Girls stuff," she says. She was won over by the ensemble's commitment to more athletic routines.

Truscheit recently got a taste of the realities of reality television when she went to an open audition for the Fox TV series "So You Think You Can Dance." After arriving at the Orpheum Theatre at 5:30 a.m., she didn't get into the building until about 11, and her group spent the next five hours sitting and waiting for an improvisational audition that gave each contestant about 10 seconds to make an impression on the judges. "About four out of five people who got through to the next round were chosen for comedy," she says.

She's already thinking ahead to next year—just as she is with the Oxy Dance Team. Auditions for underclassmen will be held sometime in April, and Truscheit admits to replaying the video of this year's winning contestants "countless times. We'll definitely have more confidence going into next year," she says. "We're going to have costumes, maybe even warm-up jackets." But she still draws the line at sequins. □



#### LORE OF THE DANCE

Patricia (McGrath) White '43 remembers better than most the history of modern dance at Oxy. In the 1940s and 1950s, she was the Oxy Dance program.

"In those days, no one had an M.A. program for dance, so they hired professionals to teach," explains White, who danced for the Lester Horton Dance Group ("the Martha Graham of the West Coast") prior to enrolling at Oxy. Continuing in the tradition from which she came, she christened her troupe the Occidental Dance Group.

"I started the Dance Production because I was just carrying on what I had been doing professionally," says White, who went on to earn her M.A. in physical education at Cal State L.A., where she taught dance for many years. "We did programs in that funny little barn across from the student union"—what is now Samuelson Pavilion. "We made quite a reputation locally, and we would sell out three or four nights in a row."

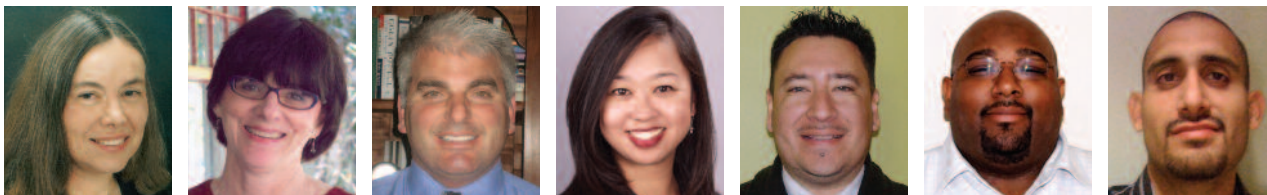
At first, White had a difficult time recruiting men for the productions, but she came up with an ingenious plan that worked. "I blackmailed some of the men who had absences in their physical education classes," she recalls with a laugh. "I told them they could work off their absences by being in the productions."

—COLLEEN SHARKEY

Exercise your right to vote! Use the tear-off ballot attached at right to vote for your representatives on the Board of Trustees and the Alumni Association Board of Governors.



FROM LEFT: Lois Carwile '45, Marilyn (Strauss) Carpenter '57, Enid (Arozena) Busser '58, Peggy Bernal '61, Dwain Deets '61, Sandy Wasson '66, Carl Ballton '69, and Gary Kaplan '71.



FROM LEFT: Valerie (Truesdell) Reese '73, Jill (Smiley) Asbjornsen '76, Steve Bogert '86, Judy Lam '87, Billy Vela '95, Andre Coleman '97, and Octavio Herrera '98.

# Remember When...

We asked this year's candidates for Alumni Trustee and Board of Governors to share their favorite college memories. Their answers provide a timeline to half a century of Oxy history

**T**HIS YEAR'S SLATE OF 16 CANDIDATES for the Alumni Board of Governors and Board of Trustees spans more than six decades. As we have in years past, we asked each candidate to share his or her favorite Oxy memory; their answers are excerpted below. For complete biographical information and to vote online by May 19, visit [www.oxy.edu/alumnielections](http://www.oxy.edu/alumnielections).

**Lois Carwile '45:** "On returning from a study assignment, we arrived at Dr. Elizabeth Lam's apartment to discuss our findings and discovered that Dr. Lam was locked out. I volunteered to climb in the unlocked window, but Dr. Lam athletically climbed in!"

**Marilyn (Strauss) Carpenter '57:** "Remember 10 o'clock curfew and 'minutes'? 'No shorts on campus'? How times have changed!"

**Enid (Arozena) Busser '58:** "Occasionally Dr. Austin Fife would take our French class to the Quad for conversation. It was a source of beauty and connection with nature and a place for fun and communication."

**Peggy Bernal '61:** "I have always been grateful for the considerable efforts of James

Gilmour, Oxy's placement director in 1961, who helped me find a job after graduation."

**Dwain Deets '61:** "Helping the Tigers defeat Redlands on a muddy field in torrential rains, gaining a share of the 1960 SCIAC football championship for Occidental."

**Sandy Wasson '66:** "Everyone thought of Ben Culley as a wise old man who somehow knew everything we had done, or planned to do. I later found out he was nowhere near as old as I had thought, and he hadn't known everything we did."

**Carl Ballton '69:** "The opportunity to be engaged intellectually with the issues of the late 1960s, a tumultuous period, and yet have the security of the College community was a unique experience that I value highly today."

**Gary Kaplan '71:** "Tommyburgers at 1 a.m. Listening to Ben Freedman talk about anything. Cliff Kroeber's lecture on primary vs. secondary sources given from the deep end of Taylor Pool. Who could pick just one?"

**Valerie (Truesdell) Reese '73:** "I treasure the time I, with little previous choral experience, spent with Howard Swan and the

College and Chapel choirs. Dr. Swan provided me with wonderful examples of how to teach, mixing humor with constructive criticism."

**Jill (Smiley) Asbjornsen '76:** "Nervously driving over to Oxy on my first day, meeting dorm friends, eating at Clancy's, and experiencing the wild bonfire that night."

**Stacy (Boyle) Wenzel '80:** "Some of the best times I enjoyed were on the biology field trips. There's something special about getting cold and/or wet with 15 other silly friends who were all told that it would be *lots* of fun to experience learning at the primal level."

**Steve Bogert '86:** "My relationships with the faculty, playing championship football and rugby, and jumping off Clancy's in an ape suit into my ATO brothers' arms."

**Judy Lam '87:** "My fondest memories involve friends from a myriad of diverse backgrounds, all different from mine. I learned a great deal from our interactions."

**Billy Vela '95:** "The memory of continuing my education outside of the classroom (such as Oxy Study Abroad in Mexico) is an experience I truly treasure."

**Andre Coleman '97:** "Hands down, the time spent as the Pauley Hall director during my senior year. We created an environment that was truly like home and embodied all that Oxy is about: community, diversity, connections, support, family, and fun."

**Octavio Herrera '98:** "Meeting my wife Amy '98 and beginning our relationship—although winning the intramural football championship one year is a close second." □