

OCCIDENTAL

WINTER 2008



BREAKING **IOWA OPEN**

Sen. Barack Obama '83 makes strides among the Hawkeyes with the tireless support of Sara El-Amine '07, Noah Glusenkamp '07, and Brian McGrane '06

OCCIDENTAL

OCCIDENTAL COLLEGE MAGAZINE

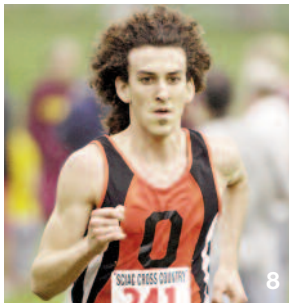
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Oxy Memories: The More, the Merrier

If it's not too late for your coffee-table book ("Collective Enterprise," Fall 2007) ...

Oxy Memory No. 1: In our sophomore year four of us—Pat McClatchey, Dotty Hosea, Sylvia Vanderzyl, and myself—had two dorm rooms in Erdman, luxuriously connected by a bathroom just for us. "Ceremonies" were conducted periodically in our private bathroom. Generally, the ceremonies involved flushing something down—often a letter from a guy, once beloved, but no longer. Sometimes we held the emotion-fraught paper above the toilet, lit it with a match, then dropped it, flaming, into the water. Sometimes, a few dramatic words were said (three of us were English majors). Then the handle was pressed, and *whoosh!*

Oxy Memory No. 2: In my freshman year, Dotty Hosea, Nancy Foster, and I occupied one of the rare triples in Orr Hall. Two beds (and three desks) were inside, but the third bed was outside on a "sleeping porch" with pull-down canvas curtain to fend off the elements. It was a super location for enjoying "serenades" by guys from Swan or Wylie suddenly appearing in the rose garden below. In an effort to be fair, we three occupants decided to rotate among the beds, switching from one to the other on the day the sheets came back from the laundry. Even the two inside beds had distinctions, one being quite hard, another sloping. We named the three beds the Matterhorn, the Monch, and the Eiger.

JOYCE (CONGER) ROBERTSON '55

Boulder, Colo.

It was 1973, at the end of our senior year, after finals but before graduation. My friend and fellow chemistry major/pre-med student Peter Van Houten '73 and I had been accepted to med school and had finished finals (in that order) and were feeling pretty good about things and life in general, but didn't know what to do that night in the way of celebration and entertainment.

We decided to have dinner at a nearby restaurant, after which Pete suggested that we attend the performance of *Oklahoma!* in



In spring 1986, a sundry group was working to revive the old *Fang* humor magazine. Greg Zide '86 took pictures of me to be the new "*Fang* Queen"—undoubtedly because I was the only woman on campus who owned opera gloves. Unfortunately, the renewed *Fang* never happened, but I've kept these outtakes from Greg all these years. I can't remember the name of the motorcycle guy—I believe he was class of '87 or '88.

SIRI INGWERSEN HOLMES '86, San Rafael

the Remsen Bird Hillside Theater. Up until this point in my life I had attended only a few musicals. With nothing else better to do, I agreed to go to see *Oklahoma!* with Pete.

It was a warm, clear, balmy night, and on arriving at the theater and selecting our essentially front-row-center seats under the beautiful night sky, I began to think that this had the potential for being the beginning of a unique, magical theater experience. I was not wrong. From the members of the live orchestra to the performers acting, singing, and dancing on stage—most of whom were presumably Oxy students, supplemented by professional performers—I was mesmerized. It was a unique, magical theater experience.

From that seminal evening on, I've been an avid aficionado of musical theater and have derived much pleasure from the genre.

MASSAD GREGORY JOSEPH '73

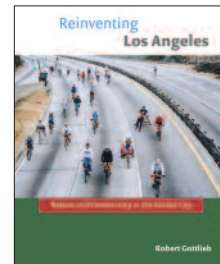
South Pasadena

Correction

Because of an editing error, Bill Bennett '53 was misidentified as deceased in the Fall 2007 magazine ("All in the Oxy Family"). Bennett good-naturedly called us with the news himself; we very much regret the error.

Bookshelf

REINVENTING LOS ANGELES: NATURE AND COMMUNITY IN THE GLOBAL CITY, by Robert Gottlieb (MIT Press; \$24.95). Gottlieb traces the emergence of Los Angeles as a global city in the 20th century and describes its continuing evolution today. He examines the powerful influences of immigration and economic globalization as they intersect with changes in the politics of water, transportation, and land use, and illustrates each of these core concerns with an account of grass-roots and activist responses. Among them: efforts to envision the concrete-bound, fenced-off Los Angeles River as a natural resource; Arroyo-fest, the closing of the Pasadena Freeway for a Sunday of walking and bike riding; and immigrants' initiatives to create urban gardens and connect with their countries of origin. Gottlieb is the Henry R. Luce Professor of Urban and Environmental Studies at Occidental.

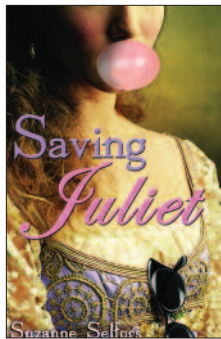


TOCQUEVILLE'S ROAD MAP: METHODOLOGY, LIBERALISM, REVOLUTION, AND DESPOTISM, by Roger Boesche (Lexington Books; \$70). One of the country's foremost Tocqueville scholars, Boesche has gathered together his writings on the French political thinker and historian (1805-1859) from the last quarter century. These nine essays focus on various specific aspects of Tocqueville's political thought, including the methodology that Tocqueville brought to his historical and political writings, his conviction that democracy and commerce at times work against each other, his assumptions about what constitutes a revolution, and his fear of a qualitatively new kind of despotism. Boesche joined the Occidental faculty in 1977 and is Arthur G. Coons Professor in the History of Ideas.

HOPE, by Dennis Phillips (Green Integer; \$14.95). A noted Los Angeles poet and author of *Sand* (2002), Phillips turns his talents to fiction in his first novel. *Hope* is a work of two intertwining stories: one of a monk lured to an isolated island, the other of a contemporary man who first imagines himself imprisoned on an unknown island and later finds himself in a real island paradise,

where “hope” is restored. What Phillips ultimately reveals through the intertwining themes of these at first seemingly unrelated adventures is that beyond the horrors and everyday despair of living there is always the possibility of redemption, hope, and the salve of love in human life. Phillips is adjunct assistant professor of English and comparative literary studies at Occidental.

TWO JULIETS, by **Suzanne Selfors '86** (*Walker/Bloomsbury*; \$16.95). Seventeen-year-old Mimi Wallingford has the life that most girls dream about—playing Juliet opposite teen heartthrob Troy Summer on Broadway in Shakespeare’s famous play. Unfortunately, she has no desire to be an actress, a fact her mother can’t seem to grasp. But when she and Troy are magically thrust into Shakespeare’s Verona, they experience the feud between the Capulets and Montagues firsthand. Mimi realizes that she and Juliet have more in common than Shakespeare’s script—they are both fighting for futures of their own choosing. Mimi feels compelled to help her and with Troy’s unexpected help, hopes to give Shakespeare’s most famous tragedy a happily-ever-after ending. *Saving Juliet* is the first teen novel by Selfors (*To Catch a Mermaid*). She lives on Bainbridge Island, Wash.



PARIS 1945—AN OSS FIELD PHOTO MISSION: THE CLARENCE INMAN PHOTO COLLECTION, written and edited by **Robert Inman '72** (*Blurb*; \$35). Clarence Inman was a staff photographer for a unit of the OSS in France during the final year of World War II. His collection of images—most of which laid buried in boxes for half a century—presents a universally familiar setting under very unusual circumstances, furnishing historical fascination as well as aesthetic allure. The subjects on the other side of his lens included celebrants in the streets, sailors and soldiers both victorious and vanquished, fabulous monuments, and classic streetscapes. “I am thankful that my father’s pride for his participation in World War II welled up just before he died in 1994 when he began to document some of his experiences,” Robert Inman

writes in his introduction. “It is that pride manifested through a wonderful collection of photographs that [is] the inspiration for this book.”

COMING OUT, COMING IN: NURTURING THE WELL-BEING AND INCLUSION OF GAY YOUTH IN MAINSTREAM SOCIETY, by **Linda Goldman**, with photos by **Kyna Shilling '07** (*Routledge*; \$29.95). *Coming Out, Coming In* describes the process of “coming in” to a welcoming and nurturing family, from both the teen’s and the parents’ perspective. Goldman draws on her personal and professional experience as a school guidance counselor, child and adolescent therapist, and parent to build a common language and a new paradigm for understanding sexual orientation and gender identity as a part of mainstream culture. Shilling took almost 100 photos that are included in the book, the large majority of which are portraits of Oxy students. Goldman is the mother of Jon Goldman '08.

FRIGATE MEN: LIFE ON COAST GUARD FRIGATE USS BISBEE, PF-46 DURING WORLD WAR II, by **John Badgley '43** (*New Vintage Press*; \$19.95). As a lieutenant (j.g.) in the U.S. Coast Guard during World War II,



Badgley kept a sketchbook of life aboard the *Bisbee*, a fighting Coast Guard man-o-war. In telling the story of a wartime journey halfway around the globe, Badgley’s nautical narrative comes to life through artifacts, photographs, hand-painted watercolors, and sketches. Badgley is a licensed California architect, lifelong sailor, marine enthusiast, historian, and ecologist.

ZEN RITUAL: STUDIES OF ZEN BUDDHIST THEORY IN PRACTICE, edited by **Steven Heine & Dale S. Wright** (*Oxford University Press*; \$26). Zen meditation is a ritualized practice supported by centuries-old ritual practices of East Asia, and this collection of articles by prominent Zen scholars covers a variety of rituals from the early Chan period to modern Japan, placing these practices in a larger historical and analytical perspective. Wright is David B. & Mary H. Gamble Professor of Religious Studies and Asian Studies at Occidental.

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November Surprise

What does Susan Prager's stepping down mean for Occidental?
An interim president, a national search for her successor—
and assurances that the College remains “vibrant and healthy”

ON NOV. 19, Susan Prager announced her resignation as president of Occidental College, effective Dec. 31, after 18 months in office.

“In a college or university that has a shared governance structure like Occidental, it is important that the president, the chair of the board, senior administrators, and the faculty leadership have complementary leadership styles and a strong working relationship,” Prager wrote in a campus e-mail that also was sent to alumni and parents. “It would not be in the long-term interests of Occidental for me to continue in my role as president without that strong compatibility.”

In a pair of meetings with the campus community on Nov. 20, Dennis A. Collins, chair of the Occidental Board of Trustees, called the news “a regrettable turn of events.” Both Collins and Prager emphasized that the College is and remains “vibrant and healthy,” as Prager puts it. “As I know from my own long history with the College, the unexpected has always brought out the best at Occidental,” says Collins, who served as Oxy’s director of admission and dean of students in the 1960s. “We are confident that Occidental will emerge stronger than ever.”

A nine-member task force that includes seven trustees; Movindri Reddy, Faculty Council president and associate professor of diplomacy and world affairs; and Dale Wright, David B. and Mary H. Gamble Professor in Religion, is interviewing a group of former college presidents and other high-

level administrators with the goal of installing a “highly talented, skilled, experienced person,” in Collins’s words, as interim president for an 18-month appointment beginning Jan. 1. Associated Students of Occidental College president Ryan Bowen ’08 and a small group of faculty and senior administrators also will be asked to weigh in before the interim president is named. (*An announcement was expected after this magazine went to press; for the latest news, visit www.oxy.edu.*)

More immediately, longtime faculty member Eric Frank has been appointed vice president for academic affairs and dean of the College, effective Jan. 1 (*page 56*). “We are delighted that Eric has agreed to take on this critical role,” Collins says of the noted Renaissance art historian, who has served as interim dean since July 2005. “This ensures that we will have someone with a deep understanding of the College and the kind of experience we need to help guide us through this period of transition.”

Early in 2008, the board plans to appoint a broadly representative committee to conduct “a full, comprehensive, national search” to identify the College’s 14th president, according to Collins. “Our job is to bring an outstanding new president to campus, and to let him or her lead for many years to come,” he says, noting that the job of college president “is among the most complex and demanding of any in the academy.”

In a Dec. 5 interview, Prager spoke of her admiration for Oxy’s faculty and students, and of her intent to return to campus as a tenured

professor of history after a yearlong leave (Prager was previously Arjay and Frances Fearing Miller Professor of Law at UCLA and became a tenured member of the Occidental faculty at the time of her appointment as president). “I am impressed by the way students support each other at Occidental,” she says. “The quality of a student’s growth here is truly extraordinary and that is, in large part, due to the graduate-like experiences they enjoy.”

Having worked to ensure that outstanding undergrads were recognized for their achievements on the national awards circuit, Prager adds that she will miss the day-to-day interaction with the student body. “Oxy students are open and friendly people who want to improve their campus and they have important contributions to make,” she says. Prager singles out former ASOC president Matt Kuzio ’07 “for helping me understand some of the things that needed to be attended to from a student perspective. He was a great collaborator, and we accomplished good things together.”

Among those collaborations were the realization of a new student honor code that addressed the need for open, fair discourse within Oxy’s diverse community; 24-hour access to the library five days a week; and new opportunities for gatherings to enhance the feel of the residential campus. “I always felt that I learned so much just from being in the presence of her leadership,” says Kuzio, who is now a teacher in New York’s public schools. “No matter what group she was in front of, she always struck me as honest and sincere and someone that I wanted to follow.”



In her Nov. 19 e-mail to the Oxy community, Prager expressed hope “that some of the ideas generated in our work together, as well as some of the relationships that I have developed with you and others who provide us with important support, will continue to contribute to an even stronger Occidental over the next decade.”

Photo by Max S. Gerber

During her first year in office, Prager invited every faculty member to meet with her individually—informal discussions that often lasted more than an hour. “I’ve tried to make the College a more faculty-centered place,” she says, “and I am optimistic that this emphasis will live on.”

“Susan refocused attention on the quality of the educational program we provide our students as a top College priority,” says economics professor Jim Whitney, who served as Faculty Council president during

Prager’s first year in office. “She extended herself to the faculty so that she could hear the voice of every educator here and to learn about the kind of research we were conducting,” adds Norman Bridge Distinguished Professor of Spanish Robert Ellis. “Susan wanted to hear about our research as scholars because she, herself, is a scholar and that is important to her. I thought that was remarkable.”

A dedicated historic preservationist, Prager says she will miss the often-spectacu-

lar view of Los Angeles sunsets in the president’s west-facing office on the top floor of Coons Administrative Center—a far-reaching vista that reminds her of the Occidental experience. “The combination of a phenomenal faculty, a great international city, parent and alumni support, and a compelling atmosphere allows Occidental students to reach farther than most of them could have ever imagined,” she says. ☐

Colleen Sharkey and Jim Tranquada contributed to this story.

Return Engagement

Patrick Olguin '83 traded music for computer science when he left Oxy after a year. Now, with kindred bandmate Henry Spurgeon '79, he's lending a hand to Tim Emmons and his student jazz ensemble

Photos by Kirby Lee



PATRICK OLGUIN '83 and Henry Spurgeon '79 both worked as freelance musicians in Los Angeles for almost three decades before they met—in a hot tub. “That’s where I make most of my business contacts,” Olguin jokes. “The Rose Bowl Aquatic Center is just lousy with musicians, because they’re free during the day.”

Five years after that fortuitous meeting in Pasadena, the pair, who play together in the six-person combo Lounge-o-Rama, returned to campus this fall as coaches for the Oxy Jazz Ensemble. Under the direction of Tim Emmons—an acoustic and electric bass player whose jazz and classical resume includes more than 100 film and TV scores, from “The Simpsons” to *The Incredibles*—the group consists of about a dozen students, most of them non-music majors. The ensemble’s goal is to learn basic jazz theory and



improve improvisational skills, while heightening campus-wide jazz awareness and appreciation through periodic performances.

When Emmons started in 2000, he inherited a group with just three trombones, one alto sax, and one drummer. Later that year the band received a grant from the Johnston-Fix Foundation via Harry Fix '86 that allowed the group to purchase essential equipment. The grant also provided funds to bring in clinicians to help improve the quali-

ty of the band’s performance and guest artists to inspire band members. This fall, Emmons recruited longtime friend Spurgeon to coach piano. Spurgeon, in turn, solicited Olguin’s help with trumpet. The pair sits in on the group’s Monday night rehearsals.

While coaching, Spurgeon stands behind one of the two piano players in the band. “Sometimes the charts are complicated,” he says. “I’ll whisper in their ear while the band is playing, and every now and then I’ll take a turn. Tim brings in people not only to coach but to give students a sound to listen to.”

Olguin agrees: “It’s kind of a confidence-builder when you have a strong player in the section who can lead.” During rehearsals he sits next to his “little protégée,” Sienna Beckman '11, a trumpet player and singer from Menlo Park, making suggestions, helping her read charts, and playing along.

A music major, Olguin reluctantly left Occidental after only one year (“my best year of college”) because Biola University offered him an athletic scholarship, and eventually graduated from Cal Poly Pomona with a degree in computer science. Today he is chief software engineer for L-3 Communications in Pasadena, dealing with spacecraft flight soft-



ABOVE LEFT: Oxy Jazz Ensemble director Tim Emmons plays along on electric bass during a rehearsal.

ABOVE: Spurgeon assists Brian Noori '10 at the piano.

LEFT: Olguin, *left*, takes a turn on the trombone alongside Cal State L.A. alumnus Ethan Minton.

ware for various NASA missions, including those implemented by JPL, such as the Mars Explorer project. His job is to look for problems in the software for “mission assurance.”

The fact that a musician ended up as a computer scientist is not as incongruous as it sounds, Olguin says: “There is a very heavy relationship between math and music. A lot of scientists and engineers are musicians. Music is just mathematics expressed by the right side of the brain.”

After years of working on the side as a freelance trumpet player and vocalist, Olguin founded his own group of JPL employees in 1999. The aptly named Big Band Theory has recorded a CD and plays local festivals as well as charity and private events. Four years ago he started Lounge-o-Rama, including Spurgeon on piano.

Like Olguin, Spurgeon only lasted one year at Oxy before transferring for financial reasons. He graduated from Boston's Berkeley School of Music with a degree in film scoring in 1980. He moved back to Los Angeles and found work as a freelance jazz and classical pianist and accordionist, often playing alongside Emmons. "Tim and I have known each other for many years," Spurgeon says. "How could I say no when a friend asked me?"

In the midst of a rehearsal, he continues, "There's only so much information an instructor can give. In jazz, when someone says improvise, there are 500 million choices. So I try to give them something simple to do so that they lock in with the drums and the bass and get into a groove. So much of jazz is just experience. So many people think that jazz is some kind of gift, but it's as hard work as learning classical music."

Though Olguin has only been coaching at Oxy for a couple of months, "The response has been amazing," he says. "It's immediate payback. I'm quite pleased that the College has decided to make an investment in something for non-music majors—because my main thing isn't music, but I still think it's real important."

"Patrick's such a nice guy and only wants to communicate the joy of music and the fun of it," says Spurgeon. "His suggestions are always positive—'Let's try this,' or 'Let's do it this way.' I don't think I've ever heard him phrase something in a negative way."

Olguin returns the compliment: "Henry's quiet wit and genuine humility put the kids at ease so they're not intimidated by his knowing just about everything there is about playing piano in a jazz setting. The students' marked progress in just a few weeks is a testament to his abilities as a mentor."

Before this mutual admiration society gets out of hand, one question remains: Who's the faster swimmer? "Oh, I'm way faster," Olguin declares. "Henry will be the first to tell you that, too."

—SAMANTHA BONAR '90



FROM LEFT: Chris Calkins '67, Anne Cannon '74, Gloria Duffy '75, Richard Leza '90, and Kenneth Sulzer '82.

Five Alumni Named to Board of Trustees

SINCE OUR LAST UPDATE (Spring 2006), the following individuals have been named to the Occidental Board of Trustees.

Chris Calkins '67 is president of Carltas Management, the corporate general partner of Carltas Co., a real estate development and floriculture management company. After majoring in English literature at Oxy, he served in the Navy before receiving his law degree from Boalt Hall. A former partner in what is now the law firm of Gray, Cary, Ware & Freidenrich, he is a director of Armstrong Garden Centers and the H.G. Fenton Co. He also was a founding director and former vice chairman of Scripps Bank until its acquisition by U.S. Bank in 2000. He and wife Diane live in Encinitas and have two children, Jennifer and Matthew.

Anne Cannon '74 is an independent financial adviser and certified public accountant. An anthropology major at Occidental, she transferred to the University of Pennsylvania's Wharton School, where she received her degree in economics and accounting. She returned to Oxy to finish her degree and graduated with the Class of 2006. She has been an accountant for PriceWaterhouseCoopers, a financial analyst for Mercantile Bank & Trust and CoreStates Bank in Baltimore, chief financial officer of Parkbiddle Co., a merchant bank/real estate development firm, and a litigation consultant for the Hong Kong office of the New York law firm of Cleary, Gottlieb. She also was a partner in a Hong Kong-based art gallery selling contemporary Vietnamese art. A resident of Irvine, she married John Enders '74 on Oct. 28, 2007. She has a son, Joshua.

Gloria Duffy '75 is president and CEO of the San Francisco-based Commonwealth Club, the nation's oldest and largest public affairs forum. An independent studies major at Occidental, she earned a doctorate in

political science at Columbia University. A former U.S. deputy assistant secretary of defense and disarmament negotiator, she is the recipient of the Secretary of Defense Medal for Outstanding Public Service. A past member of Occidental's Alumni Board of Governors, she is chair of the U.S. Civilian Research and Development Foundation, and is a member of the board of trustees of Dominican University of California. She also is a partner of the McCloud Book Gallery, an independent bookstore and art gallery. She and husband Rod Diridon Sr. live in Santa Clara and have two children, Rod Jr. and Mary Diridon.

Richard Leza '90 is a founding partner, director, and portfolio manager at GWA Capital Partners, an activist hedge fund based in Pasadena. An economics major at Occidental, he received his MBA from Stanford in 1995. Leza is president of the Alumni Board of Governors, having served as vice president of regions and vice president of alumni organizations. He chaired the Alumni Association for the Los Angeles region for four years, and has been a board member of the Occidental Latino Alumni Association (OCLAA). He lives in Sierra Madre with wife Jennifer and daughters Liliana and Marcela.

Kenneth Sulzer '82 is an attorney and partner in the Los Angeles law firm of Seyfarth, Shaw, Fairweather & Geraldson. A political science major and economics minor at Occidental, he went on to receive his law degree at Harvard. A specialist in labor and employment law and litigation, he is a frequent lecturer and author on legal topics that include wage/hour class action litigation, and recent developments in employment law and employee privacy. A former BOG member, he has co-chaired reunion committees four times. He lives in Los Angeles with his wife, Lisa.

Fall Sports Wrap-up

Sasaki Strikes First; Cross Country Teams Double Up

In the final game of the regular season, hard-playing striker Jesi Sasaki '11 ended up with ribs so badly bruised that at first it was feared they might be broken. "We weren't sure she would make it, but she just got on with it," women's soccer coach Colm McFeely says of Sasaki's gutsy performance in the SCIAC postseason tournament. Although the Tigers lost to Cal Lutheran on penalty kicks after double overtime, it was a breakthrough season—for the team, which advanced to the postseason for the first time, and Sasaki, *right*, who became the first freshman to be named conference Player of the Year in the history of SCIAC women's soccer.

"She deserves it," McFeely says of his No. 1 recruit, a Honolulu native who scored seven goals and tallied four assists in helping lead the Tigers to a 9-3 conference record (11-5-1 overall), good for second place. "She's a real team player, a leader by example, and a real nice kid, too." Classmate Corrine Winkler tied Sasaki for the team lead for goals, also earning First-Team All-SCIAC honors. Joining the freshman pair with Second Team recognition were senior goalie Melissa Warner and sophomores Elise Devereux and Marci Kang.

The play of the women's soccer team was just one of many fall highlights for Oxy athletics. For the first time in a decade both the men's and women's cross country teams captured SCIAC titles in the same season. The men were led by senior captain and 2007 SCIAC Athlete of the Year Kevin Chaves, who also earned West Region Runner of the Year honors in Portland, Ore. The Tigers went on to the NCAA Division III Championships, finishing 18th in the nation. Head coach Rob Bartlett was named West Region Coach of the Year, while Chaves (7th) and Alex Ramon (15th) garnered All-America recognition. Also earning First Team honors were Galen Smith '08, Keith Blumenfeld '09, and David Martinez '09 for the men and Maddie Weissman '10, Rachel Keylon '09, Denali Halsey '10, and Grace Peck '10 on the women's side. Earning Second Team All-SCIAC honors were freshman RJ Infantino and senior Caitlin Croall.

Despite early injuries to key players, the Tigers football team extended its regular-season streak to 32 wins before dropping their first SCIAC game in four years during week six, finishing 7-2 overall (5-2 conference). Sophomore Alex Groh was named an AFCA All-American with a Division III-leading average of 45.9 yards per punt. Seniors Rocky Ciasulli, James Sabo, and Chris Kyles were named First-Team SCIAC along with Jason Haller '09 on the First Team All-SCIAC, as Daniel Tromello '08, Victor Lopez '08, Tom Gonzalez '09, Brett Henderson '09, Tim Creamer '10, and Neil Martin '10 landed on the Second Team.

The men's water polo, men's soccer, and women's volleyball programs continued to improve this fall. The junior polo duo of Andrew Valdes and Cameron Brahmst were 1-2 in goals scored with 68 and 67, respectively, leading the team to 299 goals, the most offensive production in school history. Both players earned Second Team All-SCIAC honors. The Tigers finished with 5-5 in SCIAC play (14-13 overall), placing them seventh among Division III schools.

Photo by Tracy Maple



Photo by Kirby Lee



Twin wins for Oxy's cross country squads.

Rounding out the fall season accolades are a trio of soccer seniors. John Minger and Tad Garrett earned Second Team All-SCIAC recognition, while Ben Torgersen, another defensive leader, was honored with the Brine Award of Distinction for his excellence on the field, in the classroom, and as a part of the Occidental community. The Tigers put up a 7-9-1 overall record, finishing 6-7-1 in SCIAC play for fifth place, just one spot out of contention for the inaugural SCIAC postseason tournament.

Faculty & Student Awards

Anthropologists Hail Chin; Statwick Studies Yucca

Occidental faculty and students continued their award-winning ways this fall, capturing two national awards for teaching excellence and sophisticated undergraduate research.

Elizabeth Chin, professor of critical theory and social justice, was honored by the American Anthropological Association with its Award for Excellence in Undergraduate Teaching in Washington, D.C., Nov. 28.

Chin was recognized for her role as an educator and mentor to students both inside and outside the classroom, according to the association. She has led student groups on two study trips to Cuba and one to Haiti, developed a project to teach anthropological methods to fifth-graders, designed the curriculum for a gang intervention and prevention program, and founded a Haitian folkloric dance performance group at Occidental.

"It's really great to have my teaching be honored and valued," says Chin, a 14-year member of the faculty. Although her courses have been described as "no cakewalk," students rave about her challenging and intellectually stimulating teaching style.

Joseph Statwick '08, a biology major from Wheaton, Ill., was awarded a prestigious Environmental Protection Agency fellowship to study genetic diversity among populations of *Hesperoyucca whipplei* (commonly known as yucca) in the Los Angeles Basin. "I'm excited to have the opportunity and funding to be able to do a research project of this magnitude," Statwick says of the \$41,000 award.

Working with associate professor of biology Beth Braker, Statwick plans to study factors threatening the survival of local native plants, such as the encroachment of non-native grasses, pollution, and suburban sprawl. "Specifically, I want to address how genetic diversity in yucca has been affected by both air pollution and habitat loss, and how these two factors might interact," he says.

For the last two years Statwick has worked with Braker on tropical rainforest reforestation and ecology in Costa Rica. "Joe has the right blend of field and lab skills to undertake this project," Braker says. "I'm thrilled to have the opportunity to support him in this important work."



Trustee Dave Berkus '62, former editor of *The Occidental*, reviews his volume of the newspaper at the dedication of the Ahmanson Reading Room in Clapp Library Oct. 16. The back issues are among the volumes housed in the fully restored reading room and adjacent spaces, made possible by a lead gift of \$1 million from The Ahmanson Foundation.

Teaching & Research Grants White Endowment, Stauffer Challenge Bring Aid to Oxy

An alumni gift and a challenge grant will provide a major boost for two of the hallmarks of an Oxy education—outstanding teaching and undergraduate research. Linda and Tod White '59 have established a \$1-million endowment for the College's four-year-old Center for Teaching Excellence, while a \$1-million challenge grant from the John Stauffer Charitable Trust will help create a permanent endowment to support chemistry students participating in Oxy's Summer Research Program.

"Linda and I are extremely happy to be supporting the College's outstanding faculty and its commitment to enhancing Oxy's reputation for excellent teaching," says White, a member of the Occidental Board of Trustees. The endowment, which will produce \$50,000 per year in funding, will allow center director and Elbridge Amos Stuart Professor of Economics Robby Moore to offer more programs to support faculty.

"I'm excited about this opportunity to develop new programs to enhance student learning, in collaboration with the recently established Teaching Innovation Committee," says Moore, a 30-year member of the faculty and past winner of the Graham L. Sterling Award, one of Oxy's highest faculty honors.

Among the programs Moore has already established through the CTE, "Talking About Teaching" events and lunches have been well attended, while the First Year Faculty Learning Community gives new professors an outlet to discuss topics such as teaching with technology and active learning techniques.

Two new initiatives that are in the works are the direct result of the Whites' gift. Teachers' Roundtable will allow faculty to visit one another's classrooms and discuss teaching pedagogy. Another idea under consideration is to establish student/faculty dinners, with the hope that they will become a tradition that fosters openness and communication.

The \$1-million Stauffer challenge grant will serve as a springboard to raise a total of \$3.5 million—an amount sufficient to support as many as 23 students conducting research in all aspects of the chemical sciences, including biochemistry and analytical, inorganic, organic, and physical chemistry.

Given the Stauffer grant and a current endowment of \$398,300, the College has agreed to raise the remaining \$2.1 million by June 2011. "Years ago, thanks to the vision and commitment of faculty, Occidental established the foundation for this endowment," says Chris Craney, professor of chemistry and director of Oxy's Undergraduate Research Program. "The Stauffer challenge offers a way to leverage our resources to benefit future generations of students."

Occidental in Brief

Eleven seniors were initiated into Occidental's California Delta Chapter of Phi Beta Kappa on Nov. 28 in recognition of their exceptional academic performance during their first three years at Oxy. The new Phi Betes are: Tervanda Ayrapetyan (a politics major from North Hollywood), Tessa Basford (psychology; Kasson, Minn.), Caitlin Croall (history; Newcastle), Julia Decker (Asian studies; St. Louis Park, Minn.), Kendra Dority (English and comparative literary studies; Simi Valley), James Gillan (economics and mathematics; Concord), Hannah McDowell (theater; Portland, Ore.), Alison Reed (ECLS; Salt Lake City), Riley Steiner (biology and diplomacy and world affairs; Spokane, Wash.), Ben Torgersen (philosophy and politics; Spring, Texas), and Joshua Williams (physics; Humboldt, Ariz.). □

World-renowned violinist Hilary Hahn has an Oxy connection. Three of her cousins are alumnae: Margie (Armfield) Rivas '97, Patty Armfield '00, and Ellie Armfield '02. "I've been hearing about Occidental since I was 12, so it's fun to actually be here," Hahn said in a question-and-answer session the day before her Oct. 20 recital on campus. Thorne Hall was filled for her performance, her only Southern California recital this season.

Photo by Don Milici



Brian Newhall '83, men's basketball coach and tennis coordinator, joins former Oxy tennis stand-out Ian McKinnon '89 and his family (including wife Sonnet, daughter Ashley, and son William) for the dedication of the recently renovated and newly named McKinnon Family Tennis Center Oct. 15.

FIRED UP, READY TO GO



For Barack Obama '83, the road to the White House begins in Iowa—and Brian McGrane '06, Sara El-Amine '07, and Noah Gluskamp '07 are among the true believers working in the heartland to make it happen



OPPOSITE PAGE: Sara El-Amine '07 works on a campaign sign at Obama for America's Cedar Falls, Iowa, office. **LEFT:** Brian McGrane '06 discusses campaign issues in the kitchen of a prospective voter in Coralville, Iowa. **BELOW:** "This is your chance to make your mark on history," Obama told a packed house at Grinnell College Dec. 4.



BY WILLIAM COCKE ★ PHOTOS BY DAVE WEAVER

IF BARACK OBAMA '83 WINS the Iowa presidential caucus over national frontrunner Hillary Clinton and fellow Democratic hopeful John Edwards, pundits will likely say the turning point came on Nov. 10—the night of the Jefferson Jackson Day dinner in Des Moines. By most accounts the Illinois senator delivered his most electrifying speech since the 2004 Democratic National Convention keynote address that shot him to fame. "I don't want to pit Red America against Blue America," he exhorted. "I want to be president of the United States of America."

"It was the most exhilarating political event I've ever witnessed," says Obama for America deputy field organizer Sara El-Amine '07, who was there along with fellow staffers Brian McGrane '06 and Noah Glusenkamp '07. "We all had red T-shirts and these incredibly well-organized chants that were like call-and-response:

"FIRED UP!
"READY TO GO!"
"It's used as a show of who has the most support, and we rocked their socks off," she adds. "There was no comparison. And it spelled out a lot of momentum for us."

El-Amine, McGrane, and Glusenkamp are among the hordes of campaign workers who descend on Iowa every four years for the opening salvo of the presidential primary season. They are the true believers, the frontline troops. They are also young and idealistic, willing to work investment banker hours for McDonald's worker pay.

Arriving from all over the country, they're more than happy to freeze their fannies off going door-to-door in tundra-like temperatures. And in Iowa, on Jan. 3, they might just have the most important jobs in the country. "I have not worked this hard since I worked on my senior comps at Oxy," McGrane says.

In the weeks leading up to the Iowa caucus, the stakes for the three leading

Democratic candidates couldn't be higher. The New Hampshire primary follows a scant five days later, and a compressed primary schedule for the other big states has only heightened expectations in the Hawkeye State. Having a strong, well-run organization can mean the difference between a win and a loss and whether a campaign has the momentum—and money—to keep going.

"I think this is going to be a real transformative election ... one that changes the course of history," says Peter Dreier, the Dr. E.P. Clapp Distinguished Professor of Politics at Occidental and a veteran of Robert F. Kennedy's 1968 presidential campaign. "Young people are going to have a much bigger impact on this election than they have on any since the late '60s or early '70s. There's a sense of 'It's our time' among people in their 20s and 30s, and that's trickled down to people 18 to 25."

The absence of an incumbent in the race and the sense that the nomination in



both parties is up for grabs has translated into a higher than average number of recent college graduates on the candidates' payrolls. "Historically, much of a campaign's human and fiscal resources went toward personal contact with potential voters," notes Larry Sabato, director of the Center for Politics and professor of politics at the University of Virginia. "In the age of e-mail, Facebook, and text messaging, this trend has diminished in some parts of the country, but that is not the case during the Iowa caucus. Young, engaged campaign staff and volunteers are essential for success in Iowa, and the presidential campaigns that are best able to utilize these assets are much more successful."

In September, McGrane gave up graduate school at the University of Hawaii, shipping his car back to the mainland and driving out to cooler climes. "I was studying the thermal properties of rocks on Mars," the Oxy geology major says. "I decided it would definitely make a difference if I went and contributed to the Obama campaign, so I came to Iowa instead."

As a deputy field organizer in Iowa City, "The most important part of my day is from



"It's about time we had an Occidental alum in the White House," says McGrane. "And the only way we can do it is to win Iowa."

4 to 9 p.m. during weekdays, from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. on Saturdays, and from noon to 8 p.m. on Sundays," McGrane says. "Eight hours each day on the weekends, I'm in contact with voters. We prefer to be in touch with people in person so we can make a connection."

Glusenka, a religious studies major, discovered he had a talent for organization when he cajoled students to attend an Obama rally on the Oxy campus in February. By going door-to-door in Pauley Hall, he was

able to get about 100 students to turn out, a good showing for the TV cameras. He decided to volunteer for the campaign.

"If I have the ability to motivate my peers to do this kind of thing, this is probably what I need to be doing right now," he thought at the time. The Obama people thought so, too, and he was eventually hired. Now he is a deputy field organizer in Knoxville, one of two staffers in Marion County, Iowa. "It's our responsibility to turn out people in 17 different precincts and to develop the teams in those precincts so that people know one another, so they know how to do the caucus and that they've got good communication at that level when they show up on caucus night."

Glusenka—a native Midwesterner and son of a pastor—traveled all over the state in the summer, working on the campaign's "faith outreach" initiative. "We set up

these faith forums where we opened up the space for people to talk about what does it mean to be a person of faith who's a voter," he explains. "We were very inclusive."

More recently, he has been coordinating 17-year-olds at five area high schools, going to government classes and teaching students how to caucus. (Seventeen-year-olds who will turn 18 by the general election are allowed to caucus.) "They're called the Barack Stars," says Glusenka, who has three high school interns under his wing as well.

El-Amine, who is based in Cedar Falls, works with 15 precincts. Like McGrane and Glusenka (with whom she quickly connected once the three migrated to Iowa), she's knocking on a lot of doors. "People are lovely; they've invited me in for hot apple cider," says the diplomacy and world affairs major from Duxbury, Mass. "Iowans are impeccably informed. They know their

H O P A
Iowa.BarackObama.com



A native Midwesterner and preacher's kid, Noah Glusenkamp '07 conducted "faith forums" across Iowa all summer. Now he's working with high school-age "Barack Stars."



ABOVE: Obama glad-hands a Grinnell College crowd.
LEFT: "Every last voter we can get in touch with might be somebody extra who's going to go to the caucus and help us," says McGrane, *standing*.

BELOW: A policy class at Oxy "got me to thinking where I could intersect policy at the highest level," says El-Amine (with Obama at a rally at the University of Northern Iowa). "And, honestly, making sure the right person gets elected as the next president of the United States is the highest calling right now."



Photo courtesy Sara El-Amine '07

issues, they care, and right now they understand that they are the most important people in the nation. They have the power to change the world."

Sabato notes that this dynamic is particularly strong in Iowa. "Voters and caucus participants are often impressed by the level of political knowledge and savvy possessed by young campaigners, and see them as more than just a living, breathing campaign ad," he says. "Whether it's a personal connection or simply the impact of successive contacts, there is a noticeable result. Practically all campaigns make use of young people, but in Iowa they are typically able to exert a greater—and more visible—influence."

There is another dynamic, of course, going on with these Oxy grads: Obama attended their school (for two years, before graduating from Columbia University). Though their contact with him is limited, the

moments when their paths intersect are to be savored. Glusenkamp remembers the time in the Des Moines office copy room when Obama suddenly appeared, taking a few minutes' refuge before giving a speech. "I got to talk to him alone for a minute, and told him about the Oxy event," he recalls. During the speech, Obama gave Glusenkamp a shout-out, and took time to praise all his "underpaid and unappreciated" staff. "That's all I could really want," says Glusenkamp.

At the Jefferson Jackson Day dinner, El-Amine ran into the candidate and his wife, Michelle. "I said, 'I'm an Occidental student and we just love you over there,'" she recalls. "And he said 'Go Tigers!'"

And even though McGrane hasn't met Obama yet, he still feels a special bond. "It's funny, I went to Oxy, and I went to the University of Hawaii where his parents met," he says. "I like to joke that Barack and

I have a cosmic connection. We've been to all the same places. There's sort of a kinship that I feel with him that I wouldn't feel with any other candidate. That's just coincidence, of course—I'd support him on his principles and his issues even if he hadn't gone to Oxy." □

Freelance writer William Cocke profiled filmmaker John McDonald '71 ("Chasing Ghosts") in the Spring 2007 issue.

The Walking Wounded

BY COLLEEN SHARKEY
PHOTO BY MAX S. GERBER



In her photographs of freshly inked tattoos on Marines stationed in the Mojave Desert, art professor Mary Beth Heffernan documents the "grim currency" on a soldier's skin



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ELTS AND OOZE from veins are of as much interest to artist Mary Beth Heffernan as the elaborate tattoos that decorate her recent subjects' bodies. The red irritation bordering freshly needled skin represents an immediacy that bound her to a group of Marines from the base at Twentynine Palms who allowed her to photograph their fresh tattoos that often bear the names of fallen comrades. Heffernan made her home in a tent in the desert from February to May 2006, delving far beneath the skin and the ink that scars the soldiers like chiseled letters on a tombstone.

LEFT: Owen McNamara was 20 when, on his second tour in Iraq, 10 of his fellow Marines were killed in a booby-trapped patrol base where they were attending a promotion ceremony. During his first tour in Iraq he, too, was injured and earned the Purple Heart, which he inscribed as a tattoo on his upper left arm.

TOP: A member of the 2/7 Echo Company, Jesse Markel remembers the 2/7 Fox casualties because his birthday fell a day after the Dec. 1, 2005, blast.





TOP: In lieu of a traditional exhibit of framed photographs, Heffernan elected to have her images be mobile—to make an impact on viewers at the gallery and beyond.

ABOVE: Visitors to Heffernan’s exhibit at the Pasadena City College Art Gallery in November take poster-size versions home with them.

“These tattoos are promissory notes—a grim currency—to the soldiers themselves,” says Heffernan, an assistant professor of art history and the visual arts at Occidental. “They announce mourning but also tell people that they, too, have been wounded—and they will be paying this back for the rest of their lives. And they want us to know that too.”

Heffernan’s recent photography exhibition of the tattoos at Pasadena City College is representative of her lengthy and complex fascination with the human body and skin in particular—how it functions, how it is represented in the media and how it serves as a kind of canvas for each individual. She sees skin as “an intensified site where nature and culture meet.”

As part of the High Desert Test Sites 5 art festival in May 2006, Heffernan and other artists were asked to interpret the desert landscape. Many artists chose to sculpt their understanding of the dry hardscape, but she could not separate the people who occupy the Mojave from the area itself.

“I have been rock climbing and camping at Joshua Tree since the 1980s, but whenever I would go there, I couldn’t escape the looming presence of the Marine base just over the hill,” Heffernan says. “The desert is spare and beautiful but, for me, it is highly scripted—and it makes my view of the space very complicated. I was haunted by what was happening on the other side of that hill.”

Heffernan always has been fascinated by religious iconography and she relates the tattoo memorials to the story of St. Veronica wiping the face of Jesus as he was led to his crucifixion at Calvary. It is said that the impression of Jesus’s face was preserved on her veil, which became a church relic and is stored at St. Peter’s Basilica in the Vatican (though some have questioned its authenticity). “As an artist, that motif is compelling—the gift of one’s image and the request to never be forgotten,” she says.

At first, Heffernan wanted to do monoprints of the tattoos—blotting them, freshly inked, onto paper—as she had done for a previous project. In the art world, this kind of impression is called an indexical link, and Heffernan explains it as a lipstick stain or coffee ring that serves as proof of something’s—or in the case of the tattoos, someone’s—existence.

But she quickly learned two very important things about tattooing: Blotting shouldn’t be possible, and blood-borne pathogens can live in paper for up to 30 days. A skilled tattoo artist in Twentynine Palms told her that good tattoos won’t transfer onto paper, so the one she was able to transfer must have been overly saturated. Wanting to avoid subpar tattoos—and disease—Heffernan settled on photographing the inky tributes. “I wanted to capture the body directly responding to the needle—the oozing, the welting, the moment when the Marine and his skin were expressing their grief.”

The very act of receiving a tattoo—a ritual wound—literally and figuratively opened the Marines up and made them willing to share their very personal stories, Heffernan notes. She did photograph one Marine’s tattoo that was completely healed and she felt that, as the wound had closed, he too had become

closed to talking about his experience and the military “brothers” he had lost.

“What is intriguing about the photographs in *Soldier’s Skin* is the banality of the subject matter in juxtaposition with the bruised and bleeding skin of the soldier who has just received the tattoo,” says Jennie Klein, contributing editor of *Art Papers* magazine. “There is something unbearably poignant and vulnerable about Heffernan’s version of warrior masculinity.”

While braving the elements in the Mojave, including a snowstorm or two, Heffernan spent a lot of time reflecting on her project and empathizing with her subjects, approximately 30 Marines. She began to wonder about the soldiers’ families and friends and groups that support them, what she calls the “networks of concern.” Since the Pasadena City College exhibit ended, Heffernan has received a number of calls and e-mails telling her how her photos intensified some of these networks and personal relation-

Heffernan sees skin as “an intensified site where nature and culture meet.”

ships. She purposely designed the exhibit to be mobile by printing thousands of copies of her photos in poster size to be given away to every gallery visitor.

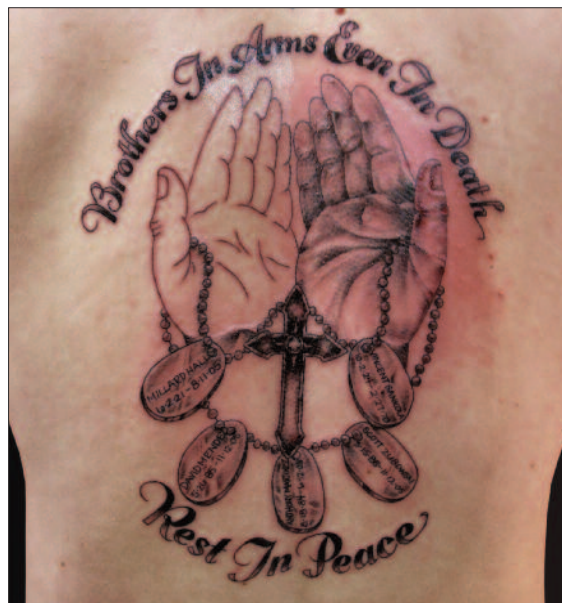
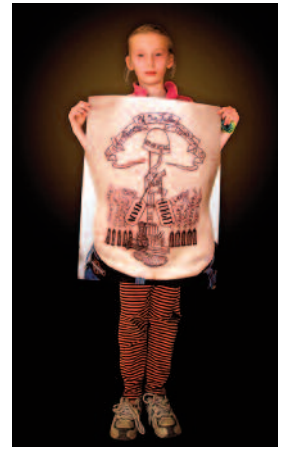
Brian Tucker, director of the PCC Art Gallery, notes that Heffernan’s exhibit was one of the best-attended shows in the gallery’s history. “Much of the power of the show comes from her decision to present them as stacks of posters rather than framed art prints,” he says. “Both the sculptural presence of the blocks of posters and the question of whether or not to claim ownership of one or more of these images dramatically enhance the viewer’s role as a self-conscious participant in the exhibition.”

Heffernan—who has taught sculpture and photography at Occidental since 2002—recently took her students on a camping field trip to the Mojave, where they were tasked with using parachutes to heighten their understanding of the natural landscape, create shelter, relate them to the body, and demonstrate movement. “It was nice to be able to share that landscape with my students,” she says. “We are invited to bring our research to bear on our teaching.”

“I tried in my exhibition to avoid being pro-war or against it. I am satisfied that the pieces don’t neatly perform the work of either group; it’s that messiness that attracted me, that uneasy zone of meaning,” Heffernan says. “This work makes you think about your investment in the war. I wasn’t interested in a

memorial or a protest or a celebration. I just wanted to take a look at how these young men are memorializing the people closest to them, how they are handling dangerous situations and how they are forming their ideas of what it means to be a man, an American, a patriot.”

Heffernan will likely expand this project to soldiers returning from Iraq. She wonders how veterans will be viewed. “If after World War II the soldier’s body represented an American masculine ideal, a metaphor for the strength of our nation and economy, I wonder what kind of body politic and metaphor of nation our current returning soldiers will suggest?” □



TOP: Maddy, a young girl who attended the High Desert Test Sites 5 exhibition with her family in May 2006, holds the poster of Owen McNamara.

ABOVE: Terrell Cook was shot while leaping between rooftops during his tour in Iraq. His body armor saved his life, and his tattoo (which reads “You’re Still Alive”) is inscribed in reverse—so that he is reminded of his brush with death when he sees himself in the mirror.

LEFT: Joshua Hall’s dog tag tattoo memorializes his fallen Marine brothers alongside his grandfather and uncle, who also died at war.

THE SHADOWS KNOW



LEFT: Stacie Roshon '08 looks on as KTLA entertainment reporter Sam Rubin '82 prepares his celebrity report for the morning news Nov. 16. In Rubin's estimation, Roshon "got it." BELOW: Joshua Williams '08 listens as Jet Propulsion Laboratory mission engineer Mark Garcia '87 describes his work on the Mars *Phoenix* mission, a spacecraft scheduled to land on the Red Planet in May. Williams, a physics major, said the shadowing experience opened his eyes to new career options. RIGHT: Akiko Hayata Arias '04 of investment management firm Payden & Rygel shows Jamie Thalman '10 how she trades foreign currencies using an electronic platform. Thalman now understands better what goes into stock market trading: "It's real people doing real things every day."

By trailing alumni and other professionals over a day's work, the student participants in Oxy's *Walk In My Shoes* program often find vocational nirvana—or eliminate potential careers



BY SAMANTHA BONAR '90
PHOTOS BY KIRBY LEE & KEVIN BURKE



AND YOU THOUGHT 9 A.M. classes were bad. Shadowing foreign currency traders Lyndsey Allison '06 and Akiko Hayata Arias '04 at investment management firm Payden & Rygel meant Jamie Thalman '10 had to set his alarm clock for the wee hours of the morning. Thalman arrived at the downtown Los Angeles firm at 5:30 a.m., when Allison and Arias start their day. "We're on New York time," Arias explains. "Being on the trading floor, it's really fun, but it's also very high stress. You're watching the market 24/7." On the plus side, she said the day goes by quickly, and they're off at 3 or 4 p.m.

Thalman, a prospective diplomacy and world affairs major from Cleveland, observed Allison and Arias—who each sported three computer screens on their desks with streaming Bloomberg news, instant messaging,

equity information and an electronic trading platform—putting through trades on accounts. He even booked a trade himself ("nerve-wracking," he admits). Overall, the experience "demystified" what goes into trading. "It's not just this magic stock market," he says. "I like to see the humanity behind it. It's real people doing real things every day. That appeals to me."

They may not be as cuddly as dogs or as cute as little kids, but Occidental students are just as eager to visit the workplace for a day. Luckily, students are given the opportunity to shadow professionals on the job through the Career Development Center's Walk In My Shoes program. "Unless you do a Walk In My Shoes-type program, it's really hard to know what exactly a trader does," says Arias.

Approaching its 10th year, WIMS enables sophomores, juniors, and seniors to trail Los Angeles-based alumni and other professionals

for six to eight hours to learn what they do, how they do it, and why. "It's a low-level time commitment with a high-level impact," says CDC director Valerie Savior '85, who coordinates the WIMS program. The idea is to give participants an insider's view of the professions they may be interested in pursuing to help them make sound career and graduate school decisions. The program also takes advantage of Southern California's remarkably diverse economy. This year students can choose from industries ranging from accounting to veterinary medicine, with fashion, international affairs, and manufacturing in-between.

Previous alumni participants have included Michael John '89, who has shown undergrads how he runs his own video game company, and KABC-TV special projects producer Julia Seifer '85, who has given students insight into what a broadcast news

RIGHT: Allison Riemer '10, center, hangs out with Community Build program director Marva Smith, left, and founder Brenda Shockley '68 in Leimert Park. **BELOW:** Payden & Rygel's Akiko Hayata Arias '04, left, and Lyndsey Allison '06 teach Jamie Thalman '10 the tricks of the investment trade.



job is like. Half a dozen students have gotten a peek into forensic science shadowing Carl Matthies '94, a DNA analyst in a crime lab. Three students have been inspired to pursue immigration law after spending time with Meredith Brown '85.

A few students have traveled a little farther afield. For Jeff Pecaro '08, a religious studies major from McLean, Va., that meant venturing up the coast to tail shark specialist John O'Sullivan at the Monterey Bay Aquarium in November. Last year, a student drove to Sacramento to shadow Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger's public relations manager. Next spring, Sam Kang '01 of the Greenlining Institute, a public policy think tank that advocates for minority communities, plans to fly a student up to Northern California for a day at his agency. "The experience helps inspire students or helps them eliminate potential careers," says Savior.

About 100 students participate in the fall and spring semesters. This fall 77 applied for 52 slots. More than 60 professionals take part each year, nearly two-thirds of them Oxy alumni. The application process includes mandatory information sessions, a

15-minute interview, resume workshops, an application, a participation essay, pre-site training, and a post-site luncheon.

"Coming into my shadow day, I had little to no experience or knowledge about the broadcasting world," says Stacie Roshon '08, a sociology major from Eagle Point, Ore. Early one November morning, she worked alongside veteran KTLA entertainment reporter Sam Rubin '82, gathering all the latest celebrity dish. Roshon arrived at his office at 5:30 a.m. and left around 10:30 a.m., having spent most of her time on the live set with the morning show cast or watching Rubin working behind the scenes of his entertainment reports.

"During my day at KTLA, I learned about the production team behind a television show and the way an entertainment reporter would prepare for his day," she says. That included poring over the Hollywood trades, entertainment magazines, and the Internet for "hot" stories, then putting them together in a sequence for the show.

"I was shocked that he was able to keep it all together the way he did," Roshon says. "Seeing Sam work, being in his element the way he was, and the way he seemed to completely enjoy what he did, definitely reinforced my interest in broadcasting."

"I'm happy to do it," Rubin says of his participation in WIMS. "The program is also beneficial to alumni, because it gives you a chance to see your job through someone else's eyes. One thing you look for when you're hiring, whether an intern or something else, is if people 'get it' or not, and Stacie got it. You get a sense as to whether people are interested and willing to work

and have the skill set to work. A lot of people don't get it, and it's always gratifying to meet someone who does."

Allison Riemer '10, an urban and environmental planning major from Half Moon Bay, headed to South Los Angeles to spend time with Brenda Shockley '68 and Marva Smith at Community Build, a nonprofit community development corporation established in July 1992 by Shockley in the aftermath of the L.A. riots. To date, 20,000 children have been through the program, whose goals include getting at-risk youth on a college-bound track starting in the sixth grade. Riemer spent her first hour or so at Community Build talking with Shockley, then traveled to the group's nearby Youth Center with program director Smith, where they spent the rest of the day.

"It was great to talk to Brenda and hear about her experiences at Oxy," says Riemer, who is considering pursuing a law degree or master's in social work. "I may contact her in the future to learn more about how she uses her law degree in her work with Community Build. I really enjoyed my time with Marva as well. I would feel comfortable contacting her in the future if I had any more questions or just wanted to stay in touch."

Shockley, a Los Angeles native, attended Oxy on a full scholarship through the Rockefeller Foundation. She credits her experience at Oxy with helping her decide

WALK IN MY SHOES is always looking for new professional participants. Please contact the Career Development Center at 323-259-2623 or careers@oxy.edu.

what kind of career she wanted to pursue, particularly her experience working with Upward Bound on campus as a junior and senior. “I apply the concepts of that experience to Community Build—you took youth where you found them and took them wherever they needed to go,” she recalls. “That experience at Oxy was the beginning of my recognizing that I wanted a career in service. It also made me realize that I wanted to work in a nonprofit.”

Joshua Williams '08's shadowing experience at the Jet Propulsion Laboratory in La Cañada opened his eyes to new worlds. He followed Mark Garcia '87, a deputy mission manager who is working on the Mars Phoenix mission, a spacecraft that is currently hurtling toward the Red Planet and slated to land in May. “Basically I decide when you can go places, how to get there and what you can do along the way,” Garcia explains. “It's way fun, but it's a lot of responsibility. You've got a \$450-million machine up there.”

Williams, a physics major from Humboldt, Ariz., accompanied Garcia to two meetings about the project, including one that walked through the procedure for a 24-hour test the facility would be running later that week to perfect the mission's entry, descent, and landing—some of the mission's most challenging aspects. “There's a lot of detail here for Joshua to absorb,” says Garcia, who also majored in physics and has a master's in aeronautical engineering from Stanford. He also took Williams to see the JPL museum of space flight, to visit a “test bed” containing duplicates of flight hardware, and to check out the Mars Rover mission support area.

“I didn't realize how complicated it was, but I feel like I took in a lot of it,” says Williams, who is also considering going into nuclear or electrical engineering. “It opened up more possibilities for me. Most physics majors become professors or physicists. It's kind of reassuring to see what Mark's doing with his degree—there are a lot of options to choose from.”

Garcia, who has worked at JPL since his sophomore year at Oxy, also offered some insight into the state of the industry, which has hit some snags. “In the aerospace industry there are lots of ups and downs, and we're in kind of a down right now,” he says.

“Yet we're recruiting. There's always room for the best and brightest who are coming out of college right now.”

Does WIMS ever lead to job offers? “We hope things like that happen, but it's not the goal of the program,” Savior says. However, things have worked out that way for a number of students. Michael Winchell '07, a fund administrator at Western Asset Management, shadowed Shannon Stewart Jr. '05 during his senior year. Jenna Valentine '04 walked in the shoes of Sacha Klein '94, then director of the Association of Community Human Service Agencies, as a senior. When a coordinator position opened weeks later, Klein called the career center to invite Valentine to interview. Valentine worked there for two years before moving to the Bay Area.

The program has also had long-term impacts in other ways. In spring 2004, Shauna Cahill '06 asked to shadow in Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger's Sacramento office. She is currently a second-year law student at Suffolk University Law School in Boston and clerking for a litigation firm. “My WIMS experience encouraged me to continue striving for a political career,” Cahill says.

That same year, Rachael Williams '04 shadowed Dr. Kimberly Shriner '80 at Huntington Hospital in Pasadena. “Not only was Dr. Shriner an inspiration, she was also a resource for me during my application to medical school,” says Williams, now a third-year student at the Boston University School of Medicine. “The Walk In My Shoes experience was truly a pivotal moment in my decision to become a doctor.” □

BELOW: Roshon bones up on the latest Hollywood scoop by reading *Daily Variety* in the KTLA newsroom.

BOTTOM: Riemer talks with students at Community Build's Youth Center in South Los Angeles.



IN THE COMPANY OF BEN

Ben Coombs '59 was a pioneer in the financial planning community nearly 35 years ago. Now he's a mentor to a new generation of "rats"

BY MATT DASILVA
PHOTO BY MIKE RUBENSTEIN

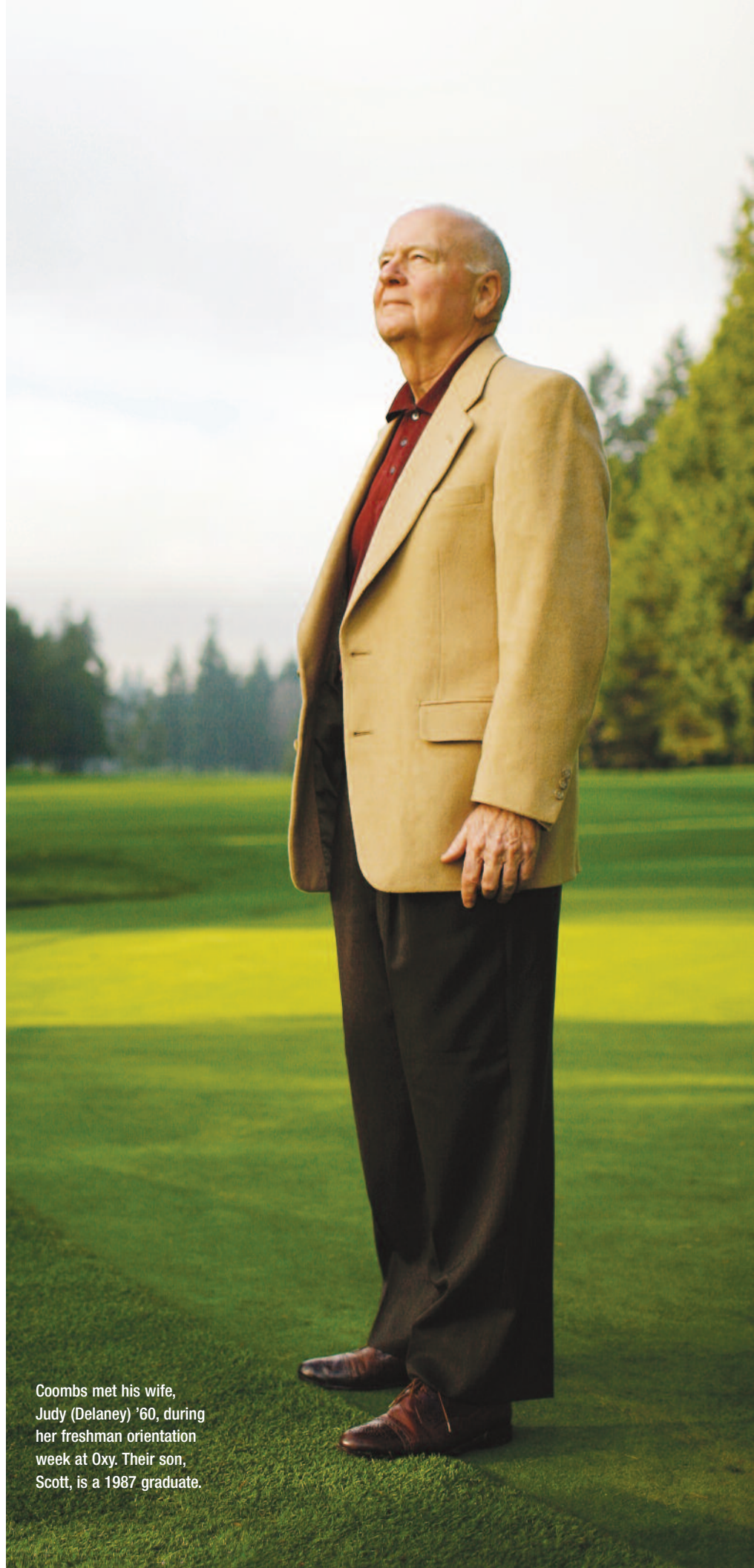
IT STARTED OUT LIKE A BAD JOKE: *Two financial planners are at a convention...*

It was July 24, 2003. The speaker was Paul Fain, son of late industry pioneer P. Kemp Fain Jr., who had just inherited a financial planning firm after his father died. Fain spoke of his father's colleagues as the "rats in the barn," his guide in a time of professional uncertainty. If you want to know where the food is, Fain explained, follow the rats.

Ben Coombs '59 was one of the rats.

Coombs, who alongside the elder Fain was among the first class to earn the certified financial planner (CFP) designation in 1973, listened to his good friend's son and thought, "Why should only Paul have that advantage? Why not have a group of all of us 'old timers' helping young planners?"

Aaron Coates had a different perspective. "I was one of two people, maybe, under the age of 40 in that room. It was a little



Coombs met his wife, Judy (Delaney) '60, during her freshman orientation week at Oxy. Their son, Scott, is a 1987 graduate.

discouraging for me,” says the 34-year-old financial planner from Elkhart, Ill. “But I listened to this presentation and thought, whoever these people he called ‘rats in the barn’ are, there needs to be a way for younger people to get ahold of them, and work with them. There were plenty of younger people in the profession—they just weren’t engaged.”

The instant Paul Fain dubbed him a “rat,” Coombs cultivated the Rat Pack, a mentoring group that requires members to be 50 or older, have 15 years’ experience in financial planning, and complete five acts of mentoring (speeches at colleges, one-on-one consultation with an aspiring planner, or writing articles).

On the other side of the equation was Coates. He wanted a rat. He wanted other young planners to have rats. So he flipped every rule of the Rat Pack, and formed the NexGen group. You could only be so old and boast so much experience to be a member, and instead of five acts of mentoring, you had to complete five acts of honoring. He wrote their names and numbers on a bunch of blue index cards and distributed them at a Rat Pack meeting.

“Most of them got calls from somebody they read an article about. Some of their bosses were probably shocked too,” Coates says. “Then, it just mushroomed.” The two groups combined to form Coach Match, a Web initiative Coombs calls “the eHarmony of mentoring,” in which an interested protégé is electronically matched with a mentor based on answers to a questionnaire.

Coates, unsurprisingly, was matched with Coombs, who despite “restylement” (a term he uses after selling his interest in Petra Financial Advisors to cofounder David Forbes and relocating with his wife, Judy Delaney Coombs ’60, from Woodland Hills to Longview, Wash.) remains active as ever in promoting the profession. Last January, *Financial Planning* magazine named him one of eight “Movers and Shakers” in the industry—a group that includes Coates.

“In my mind, selfishly, I get to call Ben Coombs,” Coates says, “and he’s my mentor.”

Thirty-odd years ago, Coombs could have used a rat. All dressed up with no place to work, he wanted to be like his father, a Bay Area life insurance agent and one of the first chartered life underwriters in the

United States. The boy would often visit his dad at the office, and when they left together for an ice cream or haircut, strangers would greet them at every turn.

Coombs thought he wanted that. It took eight years of toiling in the insurance industry for him to realize, however, that the ends did not justify the means—that selling a product prohibited him from truthfully addressing the financial needs of his clients. “I always felt like I was an answer in search of a question,” he says.

In 1971, Coombs found his answer. He was going to be a financial planner. But in an era when most people would rather stuff their money under a mattress than subject it to record-high income tax rates due to inflation and astronomical energy costs, the profession lacked definition. There were no rats in the barn, just a bunch of confused farmers.

A psychology major at Oxy, Coombs worked on the yearbook staff and played golf for the Tigers. “My liberal arts education didn’t make me any better as a financial planner,” he says, “but it made me a lot better as a citizen of the world.”

Coombs’s first foray into financial planning failed. “We knew how to spell financial planning, but nobody knew how to do it,” he says. “I had no role models. My only experience was in life insurance. I knew what I did not want to do, but I didn’t know how to do what I did want to do. Frighteningly, I didn’t know what I could do to change that.”

Broke, he became a regional sales manager for a company that sold real estate limited partnerships and tax-sheltered annuities to California schoolteachers. Dealing firsthand with the financial products people use to implement a financial plan, Coombs felt like he had gained enough perspective in three years there to give this phantom profession another try. Colleagues with whom he graduated as a member of the College of

Financial Planning’s inaugural class in 1973 were doing it and succeeding at it. Why couldn’t he?

In 1976, Coombs started a private practice as a financial planner, Colin B. Coombs and Associates. He took the schoolteachers with him as clients. In uncertain economic times, they turned to Coombs as a man of trust and confidence. “Everyone had a financial toothache,” he says. “They were looking for someone to take away the pain.”


By 1987, Coombs’s clientele had come to include mid- to high-level corporate executives. He partnered with Forbes, a journeyman forward in the National Hockey League from 1973 to 1979 and an intelligent but inexperienced planner whom Coombs had first hired as an intern earlier in the decade. Together, they founded Petra Financial in Woodland Hills, specializing in asset management.

By then, Coombs was a household name in the profession. He served as chair of the Institute of Certified Financial Planners, one of the two organizations that subsequently merged to form the current Financial Planning Association, and was on the board of governors for the Certified Financial Planner Board of Standards.

As ICFP president from 1985 to 1986, Coombs started a residency program, a boot camp for new financial planners to “learn some street smarts.” He felt compelled to improve the “reproductive ability” of a profession he helped pioneer as a member of the original class of 42 graduates. According to an April 2007 report by the CFP Board of Standards, there were nearly 55,000 planners with CFP designation in the United States alone, and more than 100,000 worldwide.

Mission accomplished. In 2005, he won the FPA’s P. Kemp Fain Jr. Award for service to the profession, an honor he holds in high esteem. He was one of *them*.

“This was something they did that was so far beyond practical,” Coates says of the profession’s founders. “When you’ve gone through creating a profession and convincing people of the validity of it, and you’ve literally spent your life doing that, you think at some point you’d be tired.”

But Ben Coombs never tires. He still knows where the food is. 

Matt DaSilva is a freelance writer in Baltimore.

As thousands of acres burned across Southern California,
many alumni homes were threatened, but most were spared.
Rancho Bernardo residents John Goodwin '68
and Linda (Larsen) Goodwin '71 weren't so lucky

In an e-mail to family and friends, daughter Tress Goodwin (*opposite page*, with parents John and Linda, talking to a German TV news crew) described the feeling of losing the family home. "Each day gets better, with less tearful moments and more optimism for what lies ahead."





After the Fire

BY ANDY FAUGHT

PHOTOS BY MAX S. GERBER

IT TOOK AS LITTLE as a quarter-hour for John Goodwin '68 and Linda (Larsen) Goodwin '71's lives to be transformed into a foot-high pile of ashes. In the weeks after the couple lost their Rancho Bernardo home to the worst of Southern California's recent wildfires, the memory lives on, as if in a recurring bad dream. "You kind of look at each other and say, 'You mean it's still true?'" says Linda.

Several other Occidental alumni avoided disaster in fires that burned across a seven-county swath for nearly three weeks in October and November. The Goodwins' Aguamiel Road neighborhood was among the hardest hit, with newspapers across the country running front-page pictures of daughter Tress sifting through remains of the family's two-story home.

When it was over, the Witch Fire—named for nearby Witch Creek Canyon and started by downed power lines—had scorched 195,000 acres, destroyed 640 homes, and

damaged 250 others. Other blazes threatened Carol (Findelsen) Millspaugh '66 in nearby Carmel Valley and Mary (Nelson) Smith '73 and Ron Smith '75 in the Orange County community of Silverado. In each case, loss, fear, and sadness were tempered by an outpouring of support from family, friends, and strangers—many with an Oxy connection. "They've made it possible to get through this with some sense of grace," John says.

All told, the various wildfires destroyed more than 2,000 homes and consumed 500,000 acres—an area more than half the size of Rhode Island. They were among the worst in California history, forcing 640,000 evacuations and causing more than \$1 billion in damage.

The Goodwins, both elementary school teachers in the Poway Unified School District, had little time to consider their circumstances when the fire erupted Sunday, Oct. 21. They went to bed that night smelling smoke, but the blaze seemed a distant threat.

They were awakened at 5:15 the next morning by a phone call from a 16-year-old neighbor. Flames were advancing toward their back yard and were already consuming homes on a nearby hill.

Linda gathered important papers and her computer hard drive. She grabbed pieces of art that she and John had picked up in travels to China and Africa. Still, "in my mind, I never thought this was going to be it," she says. Out back, John was calling for a hammer. A neighbor's deck was on fire and he needed to knock down a fence to attack flames with a garden hose. On the roof stood Tress, armed with her own hose in the face of 60-mph Santa Ana winds. She'd only been home 12 hours from Stanford Medical School before being pressed into action. "I harbored fantasies of actually saving the house," John says. "I was able to put bushes out. I grew up in L.A. and have been through fires."

This time he wouldn't be so fortunate. Less than an hour after the Goodwins' rude



FAR LEFT: Tress Goodwin surveys the ashen remains and destruction where her parents' Rancho Bernardo home, *left*, had stood just days before. "We will rebuild," says her mother, Linda (Larsen) Goodwin '71. **BELOW:** Carol Millspaugh, pastor at Mission Hills United Methodist Church, escaped the flames ("Ash was falling here like snowflakes, only not as appealing") and encountered a thriving human spirit.

awakening, firefighters ordered them to leave in no uncertain terms: "Get the hell out!" Their home of 27 years was doomed. So were many homes in the upper-middle class neighborhood. The Goodwin residence was reduced to ashes in less than half an hour, John says, along with countless memories.

"Unfortunately, I did not get the wedding photos, and the videos of the kids walking and crawling," Linda laments. "Those are the hard things." Gone were thousands of the family's books, "and probably some old books from Oxy," she adds. Son Todd, a high school history teacher in Stockton, monitored the situation helplessly from afar. His baseball card collection was gone.

There have been small bright spots. John and Tress used homemade ash sifters to find two diamond rings that belonged to Linda's mother and grandmother. The family is considering organizing shards of dishes and other material into a keepsake mosaic, something not uncommon among families who have lost their homes to fire.

After the blaze, John and Linda retreated to their cabin at Hume Lake in the Sequoia National Forest. "I probably wrote 70 thank-you notes up there," Linda says. "We have been absolutely overcome by the generosity of people. We've gotten gift cards from people we don't even know."

Near Del Mar, Carol Millspaugh got her first glimpse of trouble as she drove to the grocery store Oct. 21. "The sky was not looking good," she recalls. Millspaugh and her husband, Dick, monitored the news before going to bed at their Carmel Creek Road condo. The situation hadn't improved by morning, and voluntary evacuations were under way.

"We didn't want to wait for it to become mandatory, so we started getting a few things ready," says Millspaugh, pastor at Mission Hills United Methodist Church in San Diego. "Within a very short time, it was mandatory to leave." The couple packed both of their cars with insurance and legal papers, photo albums, medicine, a change of clothes, and Ellie, their 3-year-old cat. The Millspaughs weren't entirely unprepared. Since Hurricane Katrina struck the Gulf Coast in 2005, they've carried flashlights and first aid kits in the trunks of their cars.

"You can't count on the government to take care of you," she says.

Outside, thick ash created an otherworldly "snowstorm," says Millspaugh. "It all seemed pretty unreal." By 7 a.m. Oct. 22, the Millspaughs arrived at a friend's La Jolla home, where other fleeing couples also had sought refuge. Carol and Dick spent three nights away from home as the Witch Fire burned to within four miles of their neighborhood—a not-so-insurmountable distance given the windy and dry conditions. "We joked that we'd go down to the beach and



Mary (Nelson) Smith '73 stands next to her Orange County home. She and husband Ron Smith '75 were two of the lucky ones, averting disaster by about 300 yards. As firefighters concentrated their efforts on the two homes at the end of the Smiths' cul sac, "Ron and one other neighbor determined to stay," she recalls. "When embers started falling from the sky, I decided that it was time to go."

get in the water if it got too close," Millspaugh says. "We weren't entirely kidding. It was a very unnerving time."

As tragedies so often do, the Witch Fire united Millspaugh's congregation in a common purpose. The church rallied to the aid of six low-income families who lost their homes. Donations flooded in and brought forth clothes, kitchen supplies, and toys.

From a pastor's perspective, the tragedy spurred examinations of faith and service. "One woman asked why this happened to her co-worker," Millspaugh says. "I told her as far as I know there's no answer to the why, but that it's important to change the question to how. How, in this circumstance, can we be part of God's compassion and presence? With the why question, you just keep coming up against a wall. We can respond to how. How can I be helpful given this situation? That frees up people tremendously."

Millspaugh traces her spiritual grounding to Franklyn D. Josselyn, emeritus professor of religion. An English major at Oxy, Millspaugh studied under Josselyn and found her true calling after her mentor dispelled one important myth: "I didn't even know women could be ordained." She enrolled at Union Theological Seminary (Josselyn's alma mater), where Millspaugh earned her master's in divinity. "It never dawned on me that I would become the minister of a congregation. It's been wonderful."

Farther north in Orange County, the arson-started Santiago Fire was snuffed out just 300 yards short of Mary and Ron Smith's home. The couple lives in a small housing development called Santiago Canyon Estates, which butts against the foothills of the Cleveland National Forest. Though fire is a constant threat in the area, "this was the closest" during the couple's five years in the neighborhood, Mary says.

Oct. 22 started auspiciously enough. Mary, a children's librarian in the Orange County Public Library system, drove to work under blue skies. The situation deteri-



orated quickly, and by lunchtime she was back home grabbing possessions.

"I had in mind basic things we needed: passports, the important papers, enough clothes to go to work for a couple days. Then I started getting photo albums and pictures my mother drew that couldn't be replaced. Then I got kind of overwhelmed and thought, 'This is just stuff.' I had more room in my car, but I figured, 'Well, I'll trust that everything will be all right.'"

With firefighters stretched thin across Southern California, Ron, a captain in the Costa Mesa Police Department, stayed behind and stomped out embers with a neighbor. Neighborhood planning appears to have helped their cause. A homeowners association rule requires there to be 200 feet of fire-resistant ground cover around residences.

The Smiths—whose son, Eric, is a junior cognitive science major at Oxy—were never forced to evacuate. It was enough of a close call, though, for Mary to double-check her surroundings. "I had an impulse to walk in and out of every room to reassure myself that it was all still there."

When it was over, the Smiths and their neighbors hosted a reception for firefighters. The experience has Mary thinking ahead—just in case. "The things I put in a box that were important, the papers, maybe I should not refile them and keep them handy."

The Goodwins, meanwhile, are now settling into a Rancho Bernardo condo they're renting until their home can be rebuilt. Friends held a "fire shower" for the couple, who registered for housewares at Crate & Barrel, Linens-N-Things, and Macy's. The transition frequently reminds the Goodwins that normalcy could be a while in coming. "It's rather disorienting not to have the little details of life in each of the cupboards and drawers you expect them," John says.

While the Goodwins admit to moments of "overwhelming sadness," both are resolute. "You just learn to go on and see the silver linings," Linda says. "We're going to go into retirement with new carpeting, new plumbing and a new house. I've lost weight—and we don't have any more termites." □

Former Occidental staff writer Andy Faught now lives in Fresno.

In the coming years, Frank envisions open discussions involving College resources, curricular and co-curricular programs, and ways in which Oxy may further engage the city of Los Angeles.



Photo by Dennis Davis

The Art of the Dean

Before he went off to college, Eric Frank never strayed far from home. Then he discovered his life's passion during a semester abroad in Italy

ERIC FRANK IS A DOCTOR, but not the kind that his parents had in mind. They wanted him to be evaluating human patients, not dissecting Italian Renaissance Art. It is, however, within that past familial struggle that Frank finds the inspiration that fuels his dedication to Occidental—a 21-year relationship with no signs of slowing down.

“I believe in the transformative power of a liberal arts education because I’ve seen it work for 20 years,” Frank says. “What makes Occidental distinctive is its location in a world-class city, its diversity, its multitude of opportunities in terms of internships and field trips and, perhaps most importantly, the intimate texture of the undergraduate experience here. Oxy is a national treasure that is, in a way, a hidden gem—and it’s our job to increase its visibility.”

On Jan. 1, Frank will assume his new yet comfortably familiar job as dean of the College. Frank has served three consecutive terms as interim dean but now will hold this permanent position until at least July 2010. “I don’t see the president’s resignation as a transition that will affect the character of the experience for students, faculty, and the administration on the ground at all,” he says. “I feel, in my new, permanent position, that I can be more far reaching in setting and reaching goals and I am very optimistic. It is my mandate and my promise.”

Frank sees great opportunity in the coming years, especially for young faculty. He believes that when there is administrative change, there are also opportunities for institutional change. He hopes for “an open, intellectual, noisy, and productive discussion about the future.”

His respect for this sort of dialogue comes from his own liberal arts background. A native of Queens, N.Y., Frank grew up on Long Island. His parents were proud of moving up in the world, to a suburban neighborhood that Frank describes as “populated by cookie-cutter homes so typical of new housing on Long Island at the time.” Frank was, admittedly, isolated from the larger world in this prescribed environment.

As a sophomore at Dartmouth College in Hanover, N.H., Frank took a big step for a kid who never traveled anywhere—jumping the pond and enrolling in a Dartmouth foreign study program in Florence, Italy. That journey led Frank to identify his passion, and it didn’t include a stethoscope. “Serendipitously, an art history class was also offered on this program that included an internship with a fresco restorer,” he recalls. “The internship was amazing and it touched something in me that was very stimulating.”

After completing his Ph.D at New York University’s Institute of Fine Arts, Frank went on to win the prestigious Rome Prize from the American Academy in Rome. This fellowship is designed for emerging artists and scholars who are eager to develop their aptitudes in a residential environment. It was there that he became convinced of the deep value of a liberal arts education and gained experience that would help him craft his leadership skills.

Frank is particularly excited about two College self-studies that are related to Occidental’s reaccreditation process in the next few years. The first study is an institutional conversation about the school’s governance, while the second explores the nature of Occidental as a residential college in Los Angeles. “As an institution, we have been slow in conducting long-term planning because we’ve been distracted by financial and leadership issues,” he says. “These are behind us now—we are financially sound and we have a lot of goodwill and energy to move forward.”

As the College moves forward, so goes Frank. “The river that I’ve navigated has been a bending and unpredictable one, but the ride has been rational in retrospect,” he says. “I think you need to follow where you’re being pushed by your passion and your life’s path will all make sense looking back.”—COLLEEN SHARKEY